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## Up-coming Sunday Services

We will continue to provide Sunday Services by ZOOM and the Sunday Services Committee is so grateful for the wonderful guest speakers from both inside and outside our Fellowship during this difficult time. Watch for the ZOOM information each week which will be sent to the congregational email list. Contact the chair of the membership committee, [Membership@UFF.ca](mailto:Membership@UFF.ca), to be added to the mailing list.

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** Guest speaker Dr. Janet Mullin will speak on “*Medieval Christianity and the women problem*”. Dr. Mullin teaches at both STU and UNB, and has been exploring the writings of Christine de Pisan, a contemporary of Julian of Norwich.

*Service Leader:* Heather Lunegan

**March 14<sup>th</sup>** “*The Vernal Equinox*” - At 6:37 am on Saturday, March 20, this year the sun will appear to pass through the point in the sky where the plane of the ecliptic intersects with the plane of the celestial equator and it will be the vernal equinox. In the northern hemisphere this is considered the start of Spring and, after a long Winter, northern cultures found various ways to celebrate the return of warmth and the bounty of the Earth. Originally scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> last year, this service was the first to be cancelled by the pandemic lockdown and before we figured out how to gather as an electronic community. We will look at a number of festivals which are associated with this season.

*Service Leader and Presenter:* Tony Fitzgerald

**March 21<sup>st</sup>** Guest speaker, Carl Duivenvoorden, will

speak on Earth Sustainability.

*Service Leader:* Sheila Moore

### March 28<sup>th</sup> “Books We Love”

“*Who Has Seen the Wind?*” By WO Mitchell and “*Emily of New Moon*” by L.M. Montgomery.

L M Montgomery’s Emily trilogy is one of the very few novels to focus on the coming-of-age of a woman writer. The bildungsroman is the name for novels about male writers’ coming of age, an example is David Copperfield. When women too wrote about women writing, the genre became known as kuntzlerroman. Montgomery’s work is an early example of this.

*Speaker:* Lorna Drew

*Who Has Seen the Wind?* by W. O. Mitchell.

Many interpreters of the Bible believe the wind to be symbolic of God

This thought provoking book presents the struggle of a boy living in Saskatchewan and trying to understand the ultimate meaning of the cycle of life... a story of a boy and the wind.

*Speaker:* Sharon van Abbema

*Service Leader:* Haifa Miller



## The Reverend Linda Thompson

Our service on Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup> will be led by the Rev. Linda Thompson. She has visited our congregation a number of times and has helped us in many, many ways. The following is a bit of a bio about this extraordinary woman... to help you get to know her!

I’ve been a Unitarian Universalist since 1983, and I have a profound love and appreciation for our faith and its potential. Even though I know, firsthand, that congregational life has challenges, I believe that it can support and affirm people so that they are better able to live lives of meaning. We have much to offer our larger communities. Supporting ministers and lay leaders in their work fostering health and vitality in congregations is work that I believe in.

Before beginning work with the Canadian Unitarian Council, in 2002, I served as Canadian Consultant to the Canadian congregations of the St. Lawrence District of

the UUA, and as Supervisor of Aquatics for the City of Burlington, Ontario, Parks and Recreation Department. Additionally, I have been an Organizational Development Consultant and a Part-time Instructor at Mohawk College in Hamilton. Additionally, I have served on the Provincial Board of the Life Saving Society of Canada, and have chaired and served on many committees of that society.

After completing my MDiv at Meadville-Lombard Theological School in Chicago, I was ordained in 2013. My ministerial studies have also included an Internship at the Amherst Unitarian Church (near Buffalo) and at the CUC. Additionally, I completed a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at St. Joseph's Healthcare Centre in Hamilton, working primarily in one of the hospital's Acute Mental Health Units.

Growing up I never thought I'd be a minister. I never thought it was an option for women, and once I became a teen, and drifted from the church of my childhood, it seemed 'unlikely'. I thought teaching would be my career, but as has been said, 'Life is what happens when you are busy making other plans'.

Outside of church (there is a life outside of church) my interests and activities include: camping, gardening, downhill skiing, history, amateur naturalism, reading, music (I am a very novice mandolin player), swimming, cooking and general people watching. My long-time spouse, Gary and I have two adult daughters, two fine son-in-laws, and one absolutely beautiful grandson!



## The Caring Circle Joys and Concerns

Thoughts for us all as we approach a year after our initial COVID shutdown.

Thoughts for Michelle Swan for her brother, Adam who is unwell.

Sending love to Betty Ponder who is in hospital at the DECH

Welcome to Joni from Massachusetts and Frank and Graci from Mexico who have been joining our services and/or Tea and Conversation.

Thanks to Lorna Drew for her poems and poodle art. We had great fun distributing Valentines this month.

Thanks to Joan McFarland for her wonderful gift to STU which will provide scholarships for many years.

A joy is the excellent Sunday services we having on line with thanks to our Sunday Service Committee

Tea and Conversation is Tuesdays at 1:30. It helps us feel less isolated in this difficult time And gives us a chance to

get together.

The Caring Circle is available to help in any way we can with a phone call or virtual visit or delivery of any items. Please get in touch with Janet Crawford [janetcra@nbn.net.nb.ca](mailto:janetcra@nbn.net.nb.ca) or 454-0441 We haven't had a lot of requests for help, but we could use more volunteers or committee members.



## CUC 2021 AGM and Conference

The Canadian Unitarian Council will hold its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, May 8, and everyone is welcome to attend. The UFF board has reaffirmed two delegates, Myron Hedderson and Jenn Carpenter-Gleim for their second year of a two-year commitment to represent UFF at the annual meeting. Only Myron and Jenn can vote on resolutions and other business but any member can register to attend the meeting, all of it virtual because of the pandemic.

The meeting begins at 2 pm AT and lasts about three and a half hours. There is no cost to register. Everyone who wants to attend must register. Registration opens March 15. Find more information on the CUC web site [cuc.ca](http://cuc.ca). Click on "Events" to find all the AGM information.

Members are also invited to attend the national conference which will take place the following weekend, Friday, May 14 to Sunday May 16. The theme is Sustaining Our Light. "Now more than ever we need to be grounded in connection, in hope, and in love. We all need to tend to our spirits and our relationships so we can continue to tend to our world," says the CUC on its website. The conference will also be virtual. More information on workshops, a national service and other events will be available soon on a separate conference website. There will be a sliding scale registration fee that makes the conference available to everyone. You can check the [cuc.ca](http://cuc.ca) website to find a link to the conference web site in the coming weeks.

Submitted by Glenna Hanley  
CUC board member and UFF liaison



## CU\*UWA Marks International Women's Day

For International Women's Day, 2021, the Canadian Unitarian and/or Universalist Women's Association (CU\*UWA) invites you to take part in our Worship service and to reflect on the theme at home. We have prepared a package of materials on the theme of Sacred Space for worship, study, reflection, and inspiration. The CU\*UWA invites all Unitarian\*Universalists and congregations across

Canada to celebrate International Women's Day on March 7 or March 8, 2021.

March 8 is International Women's Day, and the CU\*UWA will be holding an IWD Service on March 7, 2021, at 5 pm ET, 2 pm, PT, on Zoom. (6 pm AST)



## CU\*UWA International Women's Day service

The Canadian Unitarian\*Universalist Women's Association will be holding an International Women's Day Service on March 7, 2021, at 6pm Atlantic time.

5 pm Eastern, 2 pm Pacific time, on [Zoom](#), Meeting ID: 833 8133 3212, Passcode: IWD

This will be a service in four movements, each one inviting us to bring (virtually) to the service an image of a woman (local, national, archetypal, or Goddess) as we do when we bring a flower to the bouquet or water to a common bowl at Flower and Water Communion.

We will look at how we may be Emerging from Shelter ... Stronger Together .... Daring Sacred Space a) Dreaming b) Demystifying c) Decolonizing d) Devoting

We will explore the uncovering of injustices that the pandemic forced / invited us to confront, exploring how we can decolonize our minds and lives and move from dream to devotion: study and action to change the world. Here are some details:

**Dreaming:** What is the world feminists dreamed of in previous generations? What has happened to that world? What kind of space can we create for ourselves and for all beings?

**Demystifying:** early in pandemic, the misogynist Nova Scotia killer; Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, other examples of outrageous violence against women that goes on with a shrug. We will each share our story of violence and abuse of power.

**Decolonizing:** The pandemic broke open BIPOC voices in Canada as well protesting injustice, allowing us to see our (speaking as white) settler privilege and acknowledge the continental colonization / enslavement story that confronts the European discovery/development narrative. We will each name a local Indigenous woman elder.

**Devoting:** As we emerge from shelter (metaphorically even if we don't leave the house), how do we end our isolation? Stronger Together! We will be invited to name a goddess (drawing heavily on participants' learning in the Cakes for the Queen of Heaven as well as our own personal exploration) that we will carry with us for strength and wisdom.

Please join us and participate as much as you are willing,

able, and comfortable doing.

We have also prepared this package of materials on the theme to encourage you to reflect on the theme and act on social justice issues related to the pandemic and to the metaphorical and real place occupied by women and queers. This material includes a special section dedicated to our sacred shelter creative project, links to websites, music, and books related to feminist and collaborative space, thoughts on sacred space from some of our Council members, and more.

We hope this material inspires you to explore your own relationship to space and time, to make shelter safer for all, to emerge from shelter stronger together, and to dare to engage in dreaming, demystifying, decolonizing, and devoting sacred space individually and collectively.

You are welcome to read, download, and/or share the worship and study package, available on the [CUUWA.org](#) website. All materials in this package were generously donated by artists and writers and may be used if credit is given to them. Please let the CU\*UWA know how they are being used by emailing [eldergomes@yahoo.com](mailto:eldergomes@yahoo.com), so we can pass that information to the creators.

Jo-Anne Elder-Gomes  
Chair, CU\*UWA



## The Consolations of Philosophy

Alain De Botton

This well-written and interesting book aims to help readers through some of the problems of life by examining the lives and teachings of six philosophers. Obviously this can not be detailed analysis in 244 pages, but it provides some useful approaches and greater understanding of the philosophers as humans.

The first section suggests Socrates as an example of how to deal with unpopularity. His search for logical truth by questioning was seen as an attack on government and religion by the Athenian authorities and a 500 jury of citizens who chose to be there and were paid for this. Socrates would not back down from his views because he knew he was correct and that in time he would be popular with many.

Consolations for not having enough money are provided by Epicurus, which seems odd when we learn he taught the importance of sensual pleasure. However to him this meant appreciating small things and simple food. Friendship, freedom and an analytical life were more important and fame and power were neither natural nor necessary.

Consolations for frustration were suggested by Seneca and the Stoics. We must take a philosophical and temperate approach to disaster, avoiding negative reactions that

make things worse. Nature inevitably has random changes and we can not change this. Anger is a kind of madness and anxiety prevents enjoyment of the present positive. So he was able to accept Emperor Nero's demand that he kill himself. Nero accused him of trying to remove him from power, with no evidence to support this.

The discussion then moves from classical times to the late sixteenth century and the French philosopher Michel de Montaigne teaching how to find consolation for inadequacy. He thought we should stop using our minds so much. Animals were much happier than we were and we should not have confidence in reason. We are ultimately still adequate in our own way and true wisdom includes accommodation with our baser selves. We should be modest about the role of intelligence and high culture. Did Aristotle gain anything from great erudition- freedom from human ills, relief from misfortune? The wisest man said one thing that he did know was that he knew nothing. Friendship is the essential component of happiness and a virtuous ordinary life, striving for wisdom but never far from folly is achievement enough.

Arthur Schopenhauer, 1788-1868 is discussed as providing consolation for a broken heart. He certainly had enough problems in his own life to need this. He sees marriage as formed to create the best possible children for the progress of the human race but not necessarily leading to a long loving relationship. Love can interfere with what is truly important and pain can be turned into knowledge, providing objectivity to look beyond our own problems to the lot of mankind and conduct oneself as a knower not a sufferer.

The last philosopher discussed is Friedrich Nietzsche, writing around the time of the rise of Fascism in Germany. He is said to provide consolation for difficulties and his life certainly had many of those. Basically his answer was that difficulties should be welcomed by those seeking fulfillment and pain. They should be recognised as an inevitable step on the way to reaching anything good. He loved climbing mountains and saw this as an example of his beliefs and deplored Christianity for its sanctification of weakness.

The book closes with these words: "Not everything that makes us feel better is good for us. Not everything that hurts may be bad." The author does not say the reader needs to accept any of these philosophical views, only that they were one person's consolation. It is certainly interesting. Let me know if you want to borrow my copy,

Sheila Andrew



## CUC Upcoming Events

### David Campt Workshop, Parts I and II

Saturdays, March 6 and 13, at 3 pm Atlantic Time  
More information is available at

[https://cuc.ca/events/workshop1-david-campt/  
1615039200/1615046400/](https://cuc.ca/events/workshop1-david-campt/1615039200/1615046400/)

### Experifailurephenomenon:

#### Online Innovation in Religious Education

Wednesday, March 24, at 4:30 pm Atlantic Time  
More information is available at

[https://cuc.ca/events/experifailurephenomenon/  
1616599800/1616605200/](https://cuc.ca/events/experifailurephenomenon/1616599800/1616605200/)

## Our Regular Events:

### Connect and Deepen

Sundays, February 28 and March 14 and 28 at 5 pm Atlantic Time

More information is available at

[https://cuc.ca/events/connect-deepen-feb-april-2020/  
1614528000/1614533400/](https://cuc.ca/events/connect-deepen-feb-april-2020/1614528000/1614533400/)

### Leaders Roundtables

Saturday, March 27 at 4:00 p.m. Atlantic Time  
More information is available at

[https://cuc.ca/events/leaders-roundtables-2021/  
1614438000/1614443400/](https://cuc.ca/events/leaders-roundtables-2021/1614438000/1614443400/)

### Gathered Here

Monday, March 8 at 9:00 pm Atlantic Time  
More information is available at

[https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-february-and-  
april-2021/1613052000/1613057400/](https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-february-and-april-2021/1613052000/1613057400/)

**Save the date:** Our online National Conference happens **May 14–16**. More information about registration is coming soon.

*– If you are reading a paper copy of this newsletter the easiest way to find links to these events is to go on the CUC website at [cuc.ca](https://cuc.ca) and click on "Events". You will find links to all of these events.*

Glenna Hanley

CUC board member and UFF liaison

This space wants your material!  
Please send articles to [touchstone@uff.ca](mailto:touchstone@uff.ca)