



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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## Up-coming Sunday Services

Sunday Services 10:30 am at 874 York Street

Information about our Sunday Services will continue to be sent out by e-mail each week.

**Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>** “*What Does It Mean To Be a Unitarian?*” Is it because you think the Trinity is “reduce, reuse and recycle”? Is it because you are unsure about the gender of God? Or is it because your idea of dressing up is wearing a little black dress, pearls and Birkenstocks? Join in sharing your ideas about what it means to call yourself a Unitarian/Universalist.

*Service Leader:* Sheila Moore

**Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>** “*We Matter*” An Indigenous and youth-led national non-profit organization committed to Indigenous youth empowerment and life promotion. Gage is an Indigenous bisexual advocate, of Maliseet and Mi’kmaq descent, working with We Matter as an Ambassador of Hope.

*Speaker:* Gage Perley

*Service Leader:* Najat Abdou-McFarland

**Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>** “*Tomlinson Lake Hike to Freedom*” – Experience the final few kilometres of North America’s northernmost route of the Underground Railroad.

*Speaker:* Joe Gee

*Service Leader:* Robin Stanley

**Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>** *Topic:* When we examine them closely what do the stories we hear and repeat tell us about who we are and about what and how we communicate.

*Speaker:* Lorna Drew

*Service Leader:* Haifa Miller



## Joys and Concerns

from the Caring Circle

A great joy: Bill and Eileen Knight’s 63<sup>rd</sup> anniversary was August 22/21, the day they attended our outdoor service. They were married in Hart House in Toronto by the Unitarian Minister, Rev. Chidsey. Congratulations, Eileen and Bill and Also their very long association with the Unitarian Fellowship Of Fredericton.

A group of 12 participated in the Pride parade in August. Congratulations to Elisabeth Elder-Gomes and her partner Aaron who welcomed their first baby, Sage, on July 11.

Amber and Kurtis are looking forward to welcoming a new arrival in 2022

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@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca) or 454-0441. We haven’t had a lot of requests for help, but we could use more volunteers or committee members. Volunteers are needed to:

Offer drives

Make and/or deliver food

Visit or make phone calls

Attend committee meetings with your enthusiasm and ideas.

The caring circle has a Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/247416469728195>

If you have any postings for Joys and Concerns in Touchstone, send to:

[janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:janetcra@nbnet.nb.ca)



## Notice of a Congregational Meeting

Saturday, October 2 at 2 PM at the UFF

Dear Members,

On November 27, 2021, the CUC will be holding a vote on the recently proposed 8th principle, an addition to the seven principles of our faith. Two delegates from our congregation will be present at that meeting. They will vote either to approve, to not approve, or to postpone indefinitely, the adoption of the 8th principle.

The 8th principle reads as follows:

We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote: “Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions.”

In the June 2021 issue of Touchstone, you will find an article on the history of the 8th Principle, written by Glenna Hanley. In this article, Glenna describes the events surrounding the vote to accept the 8th principle at the 2021 CUC AGM and its revocation the next day.

The CUC appointed a study group to examine the proposed 8th principle. The group prepared a report entitled, Dismantling Racism, Final Report, May 2021.

In addition, the CUC is hosting a number of forums to discuss the 8th principle. These forums will be held on the following dates. Details are available on the CUC’s events calendar.

September 19  
October 3  
October 17  
November 17

At our congregational meeting we will discuss whether to approve, not approve or to postpone indefinitely, adoption of the 8th principle. The meeting will be held at the UFF, 874 York Street, on Saturday, October 2 at 2 PM. All members wishing to attend this meeting are requested to read the report of the CUC study group before attending the meeting. You can follow the link below, to read the report.

<https://cuc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/CUC-Dismantling-Racism-Final-Report.2021-05.pdf>

Sincerely,  
Decima Mitchell, President of the Board  
The Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton



## Who Are We?

Well, the trouble begins with the name, doesn’t it? Unitarianism. And that’s only the beginning. When was the last time someone learned you were a Unitarian, and asked: “So, what’s that?”

Following are a few quotes from Canadian Unitarian ministers that might help you when you get that question right out of the blue!

**Rev. Norm Horofker:** I wish everyone knew that Unitarianism is a faith tradition that is totally unlike any other. We do not define ourselves by a limiting set of beliefs. We affirm that people of good will, regardless of individual spiritual and religious orientation, can have their lives enriched, as we work to heal the world and learn from each other –building relationships across cultural, social, economic and religious boundaries.

**Rev. Brian Kiely:** Ours is a faith built on principles, on values, not creed. Our Seven Principles are guidelines for living. They don’t offer answers, but rather suggest things you might consider as you are forming or reviewing your life and belief decisions.

**Rev. Debra Thorne:** I wish that everyone knew that our diversity is our strength. If the people of the world are ever going to live in mutual respect of our diversity, then some people, somewhere, need to be practicing how to do this. Unitarians are working on this in every congregation, every week. We are learning how to listen with respect. We are learning how to love with understanding. We are learning to draw the circle of “us” wider and wider. We are practicing how to live in the healthy and necessary tensions of a diverse community.

**Rev. Wayne Walder:** Our Unitarian faith is not easy, yet if we want to live life deeply and suck the marrow out of it, we must try simultaneously to reflect on the life we live while living it.

Submitted by:  
Sheila Moore



## Sapiens

### A brief History of Mankind

Yuval Noah Harari

You may not consider 498 pages brief, but Harari covers 150,000 years from our Hunter Gatherer Age, through the Cognitive Revolution to the Agricultural Revolution, the Scientific Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the Informational Revolution and the present Biotechnical Revolution. He says for the first half of our existence we were part of animal life, but the Cognitive Revolution came as we

developed more significant communication skills helping us to cooperate and make decisions more effectively. Gossip was an important part of this as it taught us more about other individuals, whether to trust them and whether to value their decisions.

His approach is not very positive. Hunter Gatherers fitted in best with the rest of our world. Agriculture started destruction, though he claims wheat controlled us, not the other way round. The future will see computer-type machines able to create themselves and humans, having reached immortality, meaning total resistance to death from age or disease, will be terrified of death from violence.

He also jumps to some rash conclusions. For example, Medieval peasants were happier than the present rich because they believed in Christianity. However, the style is lively and entertaining. The ideas are often very interesting and the book certainly makes one think!

Sheila Andrew



## Vote Housing

- a national grassroots advocacy campaign

First Unitarian Church of Hamilton has written to our congregation encouraging us to support the national, non-partisan, grassroots advocacy campaign Vote Housing, to end homelessness and make housing safe and affordable in Canada. The Social Responsibility Committee of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton asks members and friends to look at the website [votehousing.ca](http://votehousing.ca) to consider a pledge to Vote Housing in the upcoming federal election. One copy of Vote Housing's 2021 Federal Election Platform is in the library. The Platform is also on the website.

Submitted by:  
Jane Loughborough  
with approval by Joan McFarland  
for Social Responsibility Committee



## CUC Report

Around the CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council) these days the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle on anti-racism is still a hot topic, although things have slowed down during July and August.

Just to recap what I wrote in this newsletter in June, the CUC is proposing we add an 8<sup>th</sup> principle to the seven existing principles. The objective is to address and “dismantle” racism and oppression in all forms.

The CUC has proposed a process for Canadian UUs to follow locally and nationally before a vote is taken at a special meeting on Nov. 27.

I am grateful that President Decima Mitchell and our board, assisted by Social Responsibility chairs Joan

McFarland and Robin Stanley, are taking on the task of developing our own process before virtually ‘sending’ our chosen two delegates to vote in the national Nov. 27 meeting.

As a member of the CUC board I don't plan to discuss my own views on the topic. I feel my role as board member is to listen to our members and absorb what they think and feel about this 8<sup>th</sup> principle.

Stay tuned to your usual congregational email for further information on this process. We may think we are not racists but if you dig deeply into this topic you may be surprised at how often, unconsciously, we exhibit racist behaviour against our fellow BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Colour) Canadians and immigrant BIPOC.

### New On line Youth Group

The CUC is creating a new forum for youth, aged 12 to 19, and called Mycelium Youth Network of Canada.

The first gathering takes place on Sept 25 at 3 pm Atlantic and lasts for two hours. The event is free.

Plans are to hold three to four gatherings per year. A safe and private server called Discord will be used.

People involved in creating this online venue are Casey Stainsby, youth and young adult coordinator on the CUC staff, and the two youth observers on the board (called YOBS), Linnea Granberg and Eric James.

The deadline to register is Sunday, Sept 19. Find the registration form at [cuc.ca/events/mycelium](http://cuc.ca/events/mycelium)

For more information go on the CUC.ca web site, under “Events”, or contact Casey at [casey@cuc.ca](mailto:casey@cuc.ca)

If you know of any youth between 12 and 19 who might like to join please let them know about this opportunity to connect and network with other youth across Canada.

### CUC Marks 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The CUC came into existence by a vote of about 50 Unitarian Universalists on May 14, 1961.

You are invited to take part in a number of events the weekend of Nov 26 to Nov. 28 to celebrate the journey the CUC and its member congregations have been on over the last 60 years.


Friday will start with each region holding its own regional gathering (ours is the Eastern Region Gathering) followed on Saturday with the special meeting where delegates vote on the 8<sup>th</sup> principle.

On Sunday there will be a special national Sunday service.

Find the details in the latest newsletter at [cuc.ca/enews-aug-2021](http://cuc.ca/enews-aug-2021)

Submitted by Glenna Hanley  
*UFF CUC liaison*  
*CUC Eastern region board member*

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## 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Third Age Centre!

To mark this milestone anniversary we invite you to attend a half day conference the afternoon of October 1st, 2021 “The International Day of Older Persons” on the topic of **Combating AGEISM** Prejudice and discrimination on the grounds of a person’s age



The centre’s mission is to empower older adults to maintain healthy, independent, active lifestyles through public education on seniors’ issues. There will be two thought-provoking presentations, opportunities for questions and a panel discussion.

**Location:** Journey Church, 131 Duncan Lane, Fredericton, NB

**Date and time:** Friday October 1st, 2021  
from 1 pm to 5 pm  
Doors open at 12 noon

**Registration fee:** Centre members \$20  
Non-members \$25  
Donations would be greatly appreciated.

### Guest speakers

**Dr. Janice Keefe** Professor and Chair of Family Studies and Gerontology at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, NS. Her presentation will focus on “**Exposing our Ageist Society and What We Can Do About It**”

**Dr. Deborah van den Hoonaard** Sociologist and Professor Emerita STU Fredericton, NB. Her presentation will be on “**Learning to be Old: Ageism in Everyday Life**”

For further information and to register please contact the Third Age Centre at [3rdage@stu.ca](mailto:3rdage@stu.ca) or by phone at **452-0526**.

*Committee:* Penny Pacey(chair); Nancy Wiggins; Anne Doyle; Madeleine Gaudet; Pat Kilfillin; Mariet van Groenewoud

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## Shared Spaces

### a new Beaverbrook Art Gallery program

The Beaverbrook Art Gallery (BAG) is committed to working with its Indigenous partners to develop new opportunities for learning, sharing and showcasing Indigenous culture and resilience. BAG is excited to present a new Gallery program, Shared Spaces, highlighting Indigenous art and artists of the region. This is made possible through a challenge grant of \$50,000 offered by the J. T. Clark Foundation. In order to receive the grant, the Gallery must meet the J. T. Clark Foundation’s challenge by raising matching funds of \$50,000 by the end of September 2021.

The additional funding will expand Indigenous programming over the next three years to showcase programming such as:

1. a dedicated Indigenous Curator
2. expanded artist-in-residence and elder-in-residence programs
3. specific and expanded educational programs and tours relating to Indigenous art supporting school curricula across New Brunswick, including bilingual, animated, interpretive online videos for youth.

With the J. T. Clark’s marching grant, we can double our donations from now through September 30, 2021. At the BAG website, donations are through Canada Helps. On the Fund line chose Shared Spaces, the fourth option.

The Social Responsibility Committee

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## And on the lighter side...

A guy saves up for years and can finally afford a Mercedes with all the options. He wants to take care of it in every possible way so he goes to a priest and says, “Father, will you say a blessing over my Mercedes?” The priest says, “I’m sorry, I don’t understand- - what’s a Mercedes?”

So, he goes to a rabbi. Same thing: “I’m sorry- - what’s a Mercedes?”

So, then he goes to a UU minister and says “Would you be willing to say a blessing over my Mercedes?” and the UU minister says, “I’m sorry, I don’t understand- - what’s a blessing?”

Submitted by:  
Sheila Moore

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