



The Newsletter of the Unitarian Fellowship of Fredericton

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Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Web Site: <http://www.uff.ca> Email: office@uff.ca

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Up-coming Sunday Services

Sunday Services 10:30 am at 874 York Street

We are very pleased to be able to provide Hybrid services now. With the wonderful technical help from a few of our members we are able to have both Zoom and in-house services. The Sunday Services are being recorded for viewing later, however, the sharing of Joys and Concerns will not be recorded for reasons of confidentiality.

Oct. 31st The Wheel of the Pagan Year At sunset on the 31st of October begins Samhain, the Celtic Pagan New Year. Tony has some experience with Reclaiming Paganism as practiced by the GFAW and will take us on a brief trip round the Wheel of the Year with a look at the four cross-quarter days or “fire festivals” and the four “lesser sabbats” which compose the solar calendar and how these ancient observations have influenced Christian practices.

Service Leader: Tony Fitzgerald

Nov. 7th An educator’s approach to creating a space for young people to think about history critically and deconstruct their experiences with it. This is a discussion about historical narratives, and how these impact how youth view history and how it works in their lives, including the discourse of commemoration.

Guest Speaker: James Rowinski

Service Leader: Haifa Miller

Nov. 14th “Who Do You Say We Are?” – We will hear a sermon given by Rev. Melora Lynngood (with a bit of editing) of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria in 2014. A very thought provoking look at names and labels and what they mean.

Service Leaders: Ken and Sheila Moore

Nov. 21th *A Celebration of Our Generosity*

Join the Pledge Committee as we celebrate our community’s generosity on this annual “Pledge Sunday”. Look for your pledge form early in November, consider your level of support, and fill in your pledge form and return it to the Treasurer before Nov. 20. Then join our members and friends for a service of gratitude featuring stories, readings, and anecdotes.

Various Speakers

Nov. 28th Coincidences? Even the strangest events do not seem to happen in isolation or by chance. Please bring your own stories of unusual experiences and unexpected connections that have special meaning for you.

Service Leader: Joanne Elder-Gomes

Dec. 5th As Part of our recognition of Human Rights Day on December 10th, UFF has invited the Acting Director of the Atlantic Human Rights Centre (AHRC), Dr. Shannonbrooke Murphy, to speak with us about the work of the Centre. At St. Thomas University, Dr. Murphy holds the Endowed Chair in Human Rights and is an Assistant Professor of Human Rights.



New Lay Chaplain: Deadline for Applications

In the [October issue of Touchstone](#) on page 4, we announced the start of a search for a new Lay Chaplain to replace Deby Nash who completes her six year term at the end of June 2022. This article is to advise that the deadline for the submission of applications is November 14th this year. See the [October issue of Touchstone](#) for details.

Tony Fitzgerald

Chair, Lay Chaplaincy Committee



Musical Request Service

The Sunday December 19th service at UFF is going to feature Advent, Christmas and Yule music. What are your favourite Christmas carols to sing at a Sunday service? Do you have a favourite piece of choral music for Advent or Christmas that you would like to hear? Are you familiar with Benjamin Britten's Ceremony of Carols?

We won't be signing choruses from Handel's MESSIAH but we will be singing (with masks on) with piano accompaniment, listening to CD's and perhaps using DVD's to bring you special Advent/Christmas music. Tell us about your favourite Advent or Christmas season music so we can include it on December 19th.

Send your requests to janeloughborough@gmail.com or leave a message for Jane at 506-459-0913

Sunday Services Committee



“Shared Spaces” at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery

The Beaverbrook Art Gallery “Shared Spaces” campaign has been a big success. Thanks to members of UFF, BAG members and many other contributors, the J. T. Clark Family Foundation's challenge to raise \$50,000 before the end of September has been met; in fact exceeded. Including the J. T. Clark Family Foundation's contribution, the “Shared Spaces” campaign brought in just over \$111,000.

The Beaverbrook can now start engaging with Indigenous Elders, youth and artists throughout NB to learn how best to support those communities through work at the Gallery. This is a three year commitment to Indigenous programming at BAG.

Thanks to all at UFF who contributed to this important initiative.

The Social Responsibility Committee



Joys and Concerns from the Caring Circle

Caring for Glenna's brother Tom Hanley who is gravely ill in hospital. Thinking of Carol Ann, Tom Jr, Chantal and Tyler and all of Tom's family. Tom is a past president at UFF and has made many valuable contributions in the past.

Congratulations to Sharon and John Van Abbema on their move to St. Anne's Court

The Caring Circle is thrilled to announce a skills sharing initiative to help create community.

Wishing Amanda a very quick recovery from a broken foot.

Congratulations to Kevin Wyllie who has a new job with Kier's Marketing.

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 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.

Other committee members are. Nancy Beltrandi, Deby Nash, Myron Hedderson, Decima Mitchell and Robin Stanley.

Janet Crawford



Report from the UFF Board

The UFF held a regular board Meeting on October 17, 2021.

At this meeting, the Board welcomed its newest member, Amanda Duffie, who assumed the role of AVP, Finance and Facilities. Amanda has much experience with office management and with bookkeeping software. Board member Tracy Gleim then moved into the position of VP, Communications and Outreach.

Treasurer Heather Lunergan has begun using the accounting software program approved for purchase at a previous board meeting.

VP, Finance and Facilities Glenna Henley reported that the new heat pump is due to be installed on October 26. This is one of the purchases approved by the membership at the AGM, as part of our retrofit of the building to increase energy efficiency. New doors and windows will be arriving shortly, with an installation date to be determined.

A Committee consisting of Amanda, Glenna and Heather will prepare the fundraising pledge campaign for November.

An 8th Principle Discussion was held at the UFF on October 16. Twelve members attended. Decima moderated and Robin Stanley agreed to collect members' responses, which she agreed to then forward to the CUC.

Mandatory financial reports to the province and to the CRA will be prepared and sent by Treasurer Heather Lunergan, assisted by VP Finance and Facility Glenna Henley and AVP Finance and Facility Amanda Duffie.

Glenna will complete the application form to the West Bequest and will circulate it to Board members for commentary. We are requesting a grant in support of our retrofit. The potential to reduce our energy use footprint is very much in keeping with our principle of "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

The Board responded to a question from the Membership Committee. A request to become a member came from someone living outside of Fredericton. Long-standing practice is that new members sign a hard copy membership book. The Board decided that people could become members through the signature of a proxy who is a member of the Congregation or via electronic signature.

Decima Mitchell
President of the UFF Board



Upcoming Board Meeting Dates.

Members of the congregation are invited to attend the meetings.

2021-2022 UFF Board Meetings will be held on Sundays, starting at 1:00 PM.

January, February, March and April meetings will be conducted via Zoom, using the same site as the Sunday Service Zoom meeting.

All other meetings will take place in the Sanctuary of the UFF building.

November 14	March 20
December 5	April 10
January 16	May 15
February 20	June 5

BUDGET MEETING: January 30
UFF AGM: June 19



Caring Committee: Building Community

On Oct. 19, the Caring Committee held a brainstorming meeting on Zoom in order to decide what we might do

to build community. What we came up with is a sort of barter system. People would put out a list of skills, or offerings, that might appeal to others in exchange for an item on someone else's wish list. For example, I would offer to read aloud in exchange for help with computer issues. In addition, perhaps we could compile a list of plumbers, carpenters, electricians, anyone doing lawn cleanup and snow removal, painters etc. whose work has been found satisfactory by other members of the Fellowship. The idea is to help each other in whatever way we can.

Amongst ourselves, we came up with the following offerings:

Lorna Drew: editing/proofreading, song or poem for special occasions, reading, visiting, phoning

Janet Crawford: photography, food, visiting

Decima Mitchell: painting, sewing, minor carpentry, chauffeuring

Robin Stanley: apple pies, reading, visiting

Nancy Beltrandi: soup

With the help of the Fellowship and friends, we should be able to come up with a fairly extensive list. If you would like to add to the list, please contact one of us with both your wish list, and what you have to offer.

Lorna Drew
for The Caring Committee



Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers Fundraiser

Linda Sprague is a member of Fredericton's Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers group (part of the Stephen Lewis Foundation). She is again selling Christmas wreaths in support of grandmothers in Africa who are raising orphaned children whose parents have died from AIDS. Over the last 12 years GHG in Fredericton have raised over \$250,000 with fundraising efforts such as this. If you would like to order a 12 inch two-sided undecorated wreath, please email Linda Sprague (spraguela39@gmail.com) before Nov. 20. Wreaths cost \$13 each and can be paid for by cheque (Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers) or cash at the time of delivery.

Also, this year only, Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers 2022 Calendars are hot off the press! This fundraising initiative was over a year in the making. These fun calendars, available for \$15.00, feature photos from the early to mid 1900's and current colourful photos of our very own members, contrasting how women's activities have changed. They will make great Christmas gifts.

If you are interested in purchasing both wreaths and cal-

endars, You can write a single cheque for both to Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers,.. Both the wreaths and calendars will be available at 29 Fleet Court in Garden Place Saturday, Nov. 27. If needed, she will deliver.



Dismantling Racism action and other Initiatives announced by CUC

***Editor's Note:** This article contained hypertext links which do not work particularly well in a printed document. The probability is that if you can get to a website at all, you can go to the online version of Touchstone, find this article and use the links from there. A caution, though, is that the editor finds links to the CUC web site particularly prone to "link rot". We apologize for the inconvenience.*

The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) will be busy engaging members on three new initiatives that will address anti-racism, a bylaw review and alternative ways to address decision-making. The details from CUC Executive Director Vyda Ng are described here.

During the last few months, the CUC Board has committed to three initiatives, and would like to share them with you.

1. **Approval and adoption of the [recommendations from the Dismantling Racism Study Group](#):** At its August meeting, the CUC approved the recommendations (pp 20-22 in the report) from the Study Group and committed to developing a plan for their implementation, including human and financial resource implications. The Board anticipates bringing a budget to the May 14, 2022 Annual General Meeting which will include these expenses.
2. **Bylaw review:** The last CUC bylaw review was in 2012, which engaged congregations in a 2-year consultation. These bylaws were approved by delegates at the 2013 Annual General Meeting, and several changes have been made to them since ([2020 version link below](#)). The Board will begin a review in 2022, which will include processes for changing/amending the by-laws and Principles.
 - (a) Our Principles were last reviewed during a 5-year consultation process between 2003 - 2008, which concluded with a [final report](#) presented to the 2008 Annual General Meeting. At that time, there was strong affirmation of the Principles, and no clear call to rewrite them.
3. **Decision-making Exploration:** a team led by young adults will undertake an exploration of decision-making options to be used by the CUC. The mandate is "To

explore viable decision-making processes for the CUC to use on a national level that are collaborative and inclusive, and that can realistically be used throughout the year as needed, and in annual general and special meetings of the CUC. The discoveries of the team may also be useful to congregations."

The team will be led by young adults with their unique perspectives and experiences, as they are the current and future leaders of our faith community. We believe in their ability to think nimbly, pose provocative questions, imagine creative solutions, and challenge us all to consider alternate possibilities. The team will present a report to the May 14, 2022 AGM, with a final report and recommendations by November 2022.

Submitted by Glenna Hanley
Board member of the Canadian Unitarian Council
UFF's liaison to the CUC



Aramaic Lord's Prayer

Dr. Douglas-Klotz is noted for "Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus," in which he offers various translations of The Lord's Prayer from the Bible's King James V version. This is just a selection:

Our Father who art in heaven: O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, you create all that moves in light.

Hallowed be thy name: Focus your light within us — make it useful: as the rays of a beacon show the way.

Thy kingdom come: Unite our "I can" to yours, so that we walk as kings and queens with every creature.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven:
Create in me a divine cooperation — from many selves, one voice, one action.

Give us this day our daily bread: Grant what we need each day in bread and insight.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors: Forgive our hidden past, the secret shames, as we consistently forgive what others hide.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: Deceived neither by the outer nor the inner — free us to walk your path with joy.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen: From you is born all ruling will, the power and life to do, the song that beautifies all from age to age it renews. Amen.

You can find the rest of his translations on line at <http://www.songofhome.com/Klotz.htm>.

As you know, Aramaic was the language Jesus spoke. Thanks to Robin Stanley for suggesting consideration of

the translations. The rest of Klotz's site has a lot to add to this small selection.

Sheila Andrew



Erratum: Orange Shirt Day



I must learn to check my facts when recalling material from memory for written articles, especially if the article deals with Truth and Reconciliation. In the October issue of Touchstone in the article titled "October" I gave a story of the origin of Orange Shirt Day which was recalled from memory and was more than a little inaccurate. Imagine how I listened aghast as the story was told repeatedly in the special coverage of Truth and Reconciliation Day on CBC radio.

The orange shirt was not just an attempt to anonymize First Nations children in residential schools. It was the very individual depersonalization of a little girl, Phyllis Webstad from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation. She was so proud of that shirt and it was taken from her that first day at school and she never wore it again. It is far

more terrible, in my mind, than the story I recalled.

That these stories happened and similar stories continue in our country is a national blight for which we must all atone.

Tony Fitzgerald



And on the lighter side...

What type of fruit must get married in a church?
A cantaloupe.

I told my son, "Look the church has locked up the doors and turned off their lights". He said "What's that got to do with anything?"

Its Pastor bedtime!

The Unitarian Universalist was out in his boat fishing when suddenly the Lock Ness Monster rose up out of the lake and attacked his boat. The Lock Ness Monster grabbed the bow of the boat in its huge mouth, flipped the Unitarian Universalist way up into the air, and opened its mouth wide, prepared to catch the guy in its mouth and eat him.

As the Unitarian Universalist fell towards that huge mouth filled with sharp teeth, without thinking he said, "Oh my God, help me!" Suddenly time froze. As the guy hung there in mid-air, a huge voice boomed out, "I thought you didn't believe in a personal God on whom you could call in times of crisis!"

"Hey, give me a break, God," said the Unitarian Universalist. "A minute ago I didn't believe in the Lock Ness Monster, either."

Submitted by
Sheila Moore

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