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## Up-coming Sunday Services

### Sunday Services 10:30 am via zoom

With the continuing CoViD-19 pandemic and the threat of the omicron variant we continue with zoom only services. The Sunday Services Committee is 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.

### Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> *Deconstructing White Privilege*

We will be looking at our new eighth principle and what we need to do to increase our anti-racist awareness and action. As one step in this direction, we will be watching the Robin DiAngelo talk, “Deconstructing White Privilege”. This service relates to our new Principle #8 – *“Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions”*

*Service Leader:* Joan McFarland

*Tech:* Myron Hedderson

### Mar. 6<sup>th</sup> *International Women’s Day*

The Canadian UU Women’s Association encourages all congregations to hold a service marking International Women’s Day. Over the past year, the CUUWA has been looking at the five waves of feminism: suffrage, 60’s activism, intersectionality, social media, and dismantling structures. In this service, we hope to inspire conversations about International Women’s Day and Feminism in the future.

This service relates to our Principle #6 – *“The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all”*

*Service Leader:* Joanne Elder-Gomes *Tech:* Myron Hedderson

### March 13<sup>th</sup> *Sharing Our Faith: National Service*

*“Celebration and Contemplation: The Path of the 8th Principle”*

UU’s have been on the forefront of social change and justice seeking for hundreds of years. In November 2021 congregation of the Canadian Unitarian Council committed ourselves to dismantling racism. Be a part of our celebrating this commitment.

*Service Leader:* Glenna Hanley

*Tech:* TBA

### March 20<sup>th</sup> *SPRING BEGINS*

New Seed/is faithful. /It roots deepest /in the places /that are /most empty.

This Sunday, let us Welcome Spring in word, thought, prayer, song and deed. “In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free. In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season.”

Let us sow some seeds together. *Service Leader:* Jane Loughborough

*Tech:* Myron Hedderson

This service relates to our Living Tradition which instructs us to listen to the spiritual teachings of earth based traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

### March 27<sup>th</sup> *Poetry of the Norse World*

The Norse world produced wonderful poetry of great power, and while much has been lost to us, some has survived. This talk will explore the two types of poetry that characterised the Viking Age, and the intricate ways in which poems influenced Norse culture.

*Guest Speaker:* Dr. Janet Mullin

*Service Leader:* Heather Lunergan

*Tech:* TBA

This service relates to our Living Tradition of listening to the wisdom from world religions which inspire us in our ethical and spiritual life.

### April 3<sup>rd</sup> *“A Cruel Paradise” (Book Title)*

A personal history of emigrating from an economically depressed country to Canada. *Guest Speaker:* John Van-Abbema

*Service Leader:* Haifa Miller

*Tech:* TBA

This service relates to our principle #6: The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.



## Why “tock-tick” does not sound right to your ears

Ever wondered why we say tick-tock, not tock-tick, or ding-dong, not dong-ding; King Kong, not Kong King? Turns out it is one of the unwritten rules of English that native speakers know without knowing.

The rule, explains a BBC article, is: “If there are three words then the order has to go I, A, O.

If there are two words then the first is I and the second is either A or O. Mish-mash, chit-chat, dilly-dally, shilly-shally, tip top, hip-hop, flip-flop, tic tac, sing song, ding-dong, King Kong, ping pong.”

There’s another unwritten rule at work in the name Little Red Riding Hood says the article.

“Adjectives in English absolutely have to be in this order: opinion-size-age-shape-colour-origin-material-purpose noun. So, you can have a lovely little old rectangular green French silver whittling knife. But if you mess with that word order in the slightest, you’ll sound like a maniac.”

That explains why we say “little green men”, but “Big Bad Wolf” sounds like a gross violation of the “opinion (bad) - size (big) – noun (wolf) order. It won’t though, if you recall the first rule about the I-A-O order.

That rule seems inviolable: “All four of a horse’s feet make exactly the same sound. But we always, always say clip-clop, never clop-clip”.

This rule even has a technical name, if you care to know it – the rule of ablaut reduplication –

But then life is simpler knowing that we know the rule without knowing it!

If the word sequence sounds wrong, it is probably wrong!

Submitted by  
Sheila Moore



## A Wonderful co-incident...

The Sunday Services Committee sent an invitation to the St. Johnsbury, Vermont UU church to Zoom in to Al Sharp’s Service about Paul Robeson. Several people did. We also received this amazing e-mail from Stephen Finner of Barre, Vermont:

“Hello. I just learned of this service from the UU con-

gregation of St. Johnsbury where I served as minister of music 2002 – 2015. We have connections. I met professor Sharp at least one Canadian Unitarian Council meeting or regional meeting where I guest conducted the conference choir probably close to 30 years ago. The second connection is that Paul Robeson and my mother were members of the same New York City Communist party cell in the late twenties and the early 30’s. He was a dinner guest at our house once when I was 4 years old and of course had no idea who he was. Of course, his wonderful autobiography “Here I stand”, published by the UUA Beacon Press is on my bookshelf and I’m sure also professor Sharp’s.”

Submitted by  
Sheila Moore



## Report from the President

### Board Meeting of January 16, 2022

At the January 16 Board Meeting, we continued our policy of reading passages from our Covenant of Right Relations. Joan was this month’s reader. All seven members of the UFF Board were present for this meeting.

Our Treasurer, Heather Lunergan, presented a draft budget for 2022, in preparation for the January 30 Budget Meeting of the Membership. The draft budget was reviewed item by item. Despite having spent almost \$20,000 to this point on approved retrofits to the building, the UFF finds itself in very good financial shape, thanks to generous support from members of the UFF.

The Board has been working to develop a safety policy for the UFF over the past few meetings. At this meeting, we decided to strike an ad hoc Safety Policy Committee, to continue with the work of crafting a policy.

The Lay Chaplain Search Committee presented me as a candidate for the Board’s approval. I handed over the Chair position to Joan while my candidacy was discussed and returned to the Zoom meeting in a few minutes to discover that the Board had approved me as a candidate. The next step was to ask the membership to approve my candidacy, which was done at the January 30 Budget Meeting.

The 2021-2022 Board is small, with only seven members. On occasion we have not had a quorum of six members at our Board Meetings. At this meeting, a motion was approved, to ask the Membership, at the January 30 Budget Meeting, to approve a change to our by-laws. At the Budget Meeting, the Membership approved a change from a quorum requiring six Board Members, to quorum requiring  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Board. This now means that a quorum of the Board is five persons.

Submitted by Decima Mitchell



## Upcoming CUC Events

March - April 21, 2022

**Editor's note\***: This article has a lot of links to the web. These links are long and ugly and never intended for the human eye and useless on dead trees. If you want to check them out, go to the online version of Touchstone <http://uff.ca/touchstone/2022-03.pdf> and use the link from there.

Information about all the upcoming CUC events can be found on our [Events page](#) on the [CUC website](#). Where it says below registration and information "here" you may have to go to the [cuc.ca](http://cuc.ca) website – Events- Events Calendar to get that information.

### Leaders' Roundtables

#### Roundtable with CUC Board and Staff

Saturday, March 26, 2022 1pm AT (90 mins)

Topic TBC. Join us on [Zoom](#)

#### Connect and Deepen

Sundays, March 13 and 27, and April 10, 2022 @ 5:00 pm AT (1.5 hours)

Connect and Deepen is a regular small group ministry. We gather, virtually, for meaningful discussion, connection and reflection. If you are not connected to a local congregation, or just want the opportunity to explore spiritual topics within a guided small group, we encourage you to join us.

More information and registration is available [here](#).(CUC.CA-Events-Events Calendar)

**Rising Together: UU Youth and Emerging Adults of Colour** Saturdays, March 5 and April 2, 2022 @ 5:30 pm AT (90 minutes) Join us for Rising Together – a welcoming space especially for Black, Indigenous and other people of colour (BIPOC) Unitarian Universalist youth and emerging young adults (ages 14-24). Led by Camellia Jahanshahi, a youth advisor of colour at the Unitarian Church of Montreal, this group gathers monthly for themed worship, discussions, and workshop-style activities. Join us for a chance to meet other BIPOC Unitarian Universalists across Canada and nurture our community with the aim of affirming each other and ensuring we have a confident voice in the broader UU community. More information and registration is available [here](#).

#### Gathered Here

Monday, March 14, 2022 @ 9:00 pm AT (1.25 hours)

Thursday, April 14, 2022 @ 3:00 pm AT (1.25 hours)

Gathered Here is a monthly online check-in for Canadian Unitarian Universalist young adults. Join other UU 18-35 year-olds on Zoom (a video-conferencing platform) 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. Each

month we are joined by a member of the Young Adult Pastoral Care Team.

More information and registration is available [here](#).

#### Célébrons ensemble

Le troisième mercredi du mois à 14h HE les mois impairs (janvier, mars, mai) et à 20h HE les mois pairs (février, avril, juin). 75 minutes

Le mercredi 16 mars 2022 15h00 AT (75 minutes)

Le mercredi 20 avril 2022 21h00 AT (75 minutes)

Célébrons ensemble est une célébration UU mensuelle en français pour les jeunes adultes (18 à 35 ans) canadien-ne-s UU. Célébrons ensemble est semblable à Gathered Here. Il est important de noter que c'est un espace français inclusif. Ça veut dire que la célébration se déroule en français (et c'est important de respecter cela), mais que nous accueillons tout le monde, à tous les niveaux de français! Pour plus d'information: [ici](#).

#### UU IBPOC Space

Saturdays, March 19 and April 16, 2022 @ 1 pm AT (1.5 hours)

Taking place on the third Saturday of each month, this is 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. Meets on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Join on [Zoom](#).

#### The MyceliUUm Youth Network of Canada,

Saturday, March 26, 2022 at 3 pm AT (2 hours) For Junior Youth and Youth (ages 12-19) and their Adult Advisors (25+) The MyceliUUm is a large virtual gathering of any UU youth (14-19) and junior youth (12-13) in Canada who would like to attend, as well as their adult supporters (youth advisors, religious educators). These gatherings will occur 3-4 times each year, and last two hours each. The first half of the gathering will be devoted to a special activity such as community building games, worship, or leadership skills development. The second portion of the gathering will be an opportunity for youth to discuss issues that affect them and organize around these issues. This third gathering will focus on themes of decolonization and reconciliation. We will be joined by special guest Sharon Jinkerson Brass, who is one of the CUC's Elders in Residence. The MyceliUUm Youth Network includes an ongoing virtual community space using [Discord](#). Our Discord server is a private, moderated space that has been designed according to the CUC's [Online Youth Safety Policy](#). If you have any questions or concerns about the MyceliUUm Discord, please contact [youth@cuc.ca](mailto:youth@cuc.ca). More information and registration is available [here](#).

#### Youth Advisor Training

Sundays March 27 / April 3 / April 10 @ 5 pm AT (5 hours)

Pulling together a youth advising team for a congregation takes intentionality, balance, and creativity. Adapting to

the changing, dynamic needs of our youth is a central principle of any effective youth program that we can offer, and because of this belief organizers highly suggest congregations send teams of youth and adults to this training. During this workshop, we'll have an opportunity to:

- look at the foundations of good programming;
- reflect on the role of advisors in a youth group;
- consider what youth empowerment means;
- examine the characteristics of a healthy youth group;
- consider the importance of youth group in the congregation; and lastly,
- discuss the challenges that face youth, including challenges that the pandemic has placed on our congregations.

More information and registration is available [here](#). Registration is open until March 20.

### **Unitarian Universalist Theology: A Renaissance Module**

Thursdays: March 31, April 14, April 28, May 12,  
May 26, June 9  
from 2pm to 4pm AT

Explore several key theologians and theologians from Unitarian, Universalist and Unitarian Universalist heritages, as well as influences from global traditions. Participants engage with the views presented and offer their own considered viewpoints. This program invites religious educators, lay and professional leaders into a deeper knowledge of our liberal religious heritage and a more profound understanding of their own beliefs, thereby equipping them to help others on theological journeys.

Registration is now open to all, including US participants. All registration closes on March 18.

More information and registration is available [here](#).

### **Inclusivity Forum Session III – Welcoming People of All Classes**

Wednesday, April 6 @ 8 pm AT (2 hours)

This forum will focus on people's experiences of classism in UU groups/congregations and how our organizational cultures can shift to be more aware of how we privilege those with more socio-economic wealth over those who have less. The materials provided to registrants in advance will introduce the basics of class and classism, along with stories from those with lived experience. During the forum, the CUC's [Responsibility Covenant](#) will be used to promote safety for all in attendance by helping those with relative privilege to keep personal discomfort in check

without projecting. A caucus group will be available for those who feel they experience classism, should they prefer to discuss together.

Please **register [here](#)** by **MARCH 23** to receive your pre-package materials.

Submitted by Glenna Hanley



## **Joys and Concerns**

A very joyful event, the arrival of a new baby girl to Amber and Kurtis As Amber said: Zoë Marjorie Norma Langevin is earth side. Weighing in at 8lb 7oz, making her way via C section at 7:13pm on Feb 13th 2022. She's perfect in every way. Welcome to the world baby girl!

Meanwhile, Tony Fitzgerald's sister, Sandra, who was in palliative care at Thomas Hall, Fredericton Parkland campus of Shannex, died on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The obituary may be found at [bishopsfuneralhome.com](#). Farewell from the world: grandmother, mother, aunt, sister, daughter, friend; each in turn to the many she knew and who knew her. Rest in peace, at last.



## **Free Help with Income Tax Filing**

**for People on modest incomes.**

The Canada Revenue Agency provides income tax filing support to communities. The CRA provides the support for income tax volunteers who want to do income tax for free to those on modest incomes. Modest incomes are under \$35,000 for 1 person; under \$45,000 for 2, + an additional \$2,500 more for each additional person. The program is called Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP). These CVITP volunteers are in churches, such as, The Salvation Army Church 531 St Marys St, Fredericton, NB. Tell: 455-3243, Brunswick Street Baptist Church 161 York St, Fredericton, NB. Tell: 458-8348, as well as other places such as the public library, senior centres, UNB, and so on. The volunteer coordinating the program in Fredericton is Arthur Hudlin. He has the schedule of times and dates when the volunteers are accessible at each location. During covid: Anyone can drop off their papers at The Salvation Army on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning March 2, 2022.

Helen Chernoff ([chernoffhelen@gmail.com](mailto:chernoffhelen@gmail.com)) is one of the volunteers who does taxes, and Haifa Miller ([hmiller@nbn.net.nb.ca](mailto:hmiller@nbn.net.nb.ca)) is a helper with the CVITP clinics. If you or a friend may benefit from this service, contact us and we can help you get in touch with a centre near you.

Submitted by Haifa Miller

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