

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda
2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0



R.E. Class and Service held at 10:30
(followed by refreshments)

Sunday Services December 2016

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Dec. 4	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Unplugging the Christmas Machine: What do we truly value about Christmas?</i> A child-friendly, intergenerational service. There will be a potluck dinner after the service.	Bobbye & Bill Baylis and Ray Stone
Dec. 11	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Icelanders and the Larger Hope</i> Liberal religion flows through many streams into Canadian Unitarianism and Universalism. Some Icelandic immigrants in the late nineteenth century brought an enthusiasm for universal salvation to their new home.	Toni Janik
6 pm Wed. Dec. 14	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Blue Christmas Service</i> Christmas cannot be merry for all, but peace, comfort, and stillness are still blessings.	Bill Baylis
Dec. 18	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Winter Tales</i> Rev. Fran shares a series of readings about winter-time. This is a child friendly intergenerational service.	Lorie Lyons
5 pm Sat. Dec. 24	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i> A special family-friendly service with plenty of music. Bring joyous voices!	Baylis Family
Dec. 25	Rev. Fran Dearman	<i>Fireside Stories</i> An intimate gathering on Christmas morning. Rev. Fran shares a story from Alaska about winter weather.	Carabel Ringrose
Jan. 1	Bill Baylis	<i>Looking Back and Forward</i> A time for reflection and plans for life's trajectory. An intimate child-friendly service. All are invited to share thoughts and hopes.	Carabel Ringrose

Congregational Meeting

Vote on the 2017 Budget & the Search Committee
December 11, 2016
Immediately after the Service
(with time to grab a cup of coffee or tea)

From the Board, December 2016

Steve Brennan, Bobbye Baylis, Cathy Dewhurst, Stuart Miller, John van Abbema and Linda Upcott were selected by the Board to serve on the search committee. Each has special skills that the board thought important in creating a survey, coordinating the results, interviewing the candidates and finding the right person. It will take a great deal of time, energy and working together to complete the task.

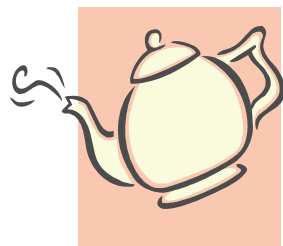
The congregation will have a chance to confirm the search committee on a vote at the budget meeting on Dec. 11th. Their work will begin after Rev. Keith Kron's visit on Jan. 14th and 15th. Rev. Kron will have meetings with members of the Board and the search committee to help both groups understand the process and to start the search. Thank you to all who agreed to do this very important job.

The Board is going to need your help during the search. Current rules for search committees state that it would be a conflict of interest for anyone to sit on the administrative board and the search committee at the same time. As we need to keep the church going while the search is going on, we ask that you could help us by taking a position on the Board, even if it is only for a short time. If you cannot attend some meetings a short report to a Board member could do. Please consider volunteering as we need you.

To honor two passed members, Sheron Campbell and Joan Meuser, the Board suggested that the congregation bring a Poinsettia on the first or second Sunday in December. These two members sold Poinsettias to the congregation every year and bought supplies for the Food Bank with the profits. This year we are just asking if you could bring one to decorate the church and then take it home. It would be a small but meaningful way to remember them.

I want to wish everyone a very and happy and healthy Holiday season and thank you for all your help this year. If we work together and help one another we will make next year and all the years that follow great.

John Upcott, President



Tea with the Minister

Join Rev. Fran and whoever else shows up to enjoy afternoon tea and conversation on Wednesday, December 14, from 1:30—3 pm. This treat is a regular occurrence on the second Wednesday of the month.

Finance Committee

The Congregational Meeting to set the 2017 Budget is on December 11 after the service. The Budget has been developed with input from the Finance Committee and the Board as well as from our contract with our Interim Minister, the Rev. Fran Dearman. This meeting is important not only for its discussion of the Budget but also because we will be selecting the members of the Search Committee.

Special thanks to all of you who have already submitted your pledge of support for 2017. Our ability to plan for the future depends on you!
Bobby Baylis, Trustee

Charitable Donations

Just a reminder that if you wish to make a donation to the church in order to receive an income tax receipt for 2016, please do so by December 31st at the latest. In order to be compliant with Canada Revenue Agency, which gives us our charitable status, donations must be made by then. Thank you for your consideration.
Helen Moore, Treasurer

Christmas Families

Thank you for your numerous and generous donations for the Children's Aid Society Christmas Families. On Sunday, November 6, when I first announced the Christmas Families, seven donations were immediately made that day. How wonderful that you responded so quickly and generously.

Based on the decision of the congregation several years ago, we always ask for families where there is the greatest need. This year Linda and John Upcott are shopping for two young families: a mother with two young children and a mother with three young children. Each year there is sufficient money to purchase grocery gift cards to accompany the gifts.

Last year there were sufficient donations to sponsor three families. The Children's Aid Society volunteer who picks up the gifts always comments how thankful CAS is that such a small church gives so generously.

Even though we plan to have the gifts on display on December 4, donations for Christmas families will continue to be received until December 31st. Donations are income tax receiptable.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity to those in need.
Helen Moore

Important Dates

Dec. 1 7 pm
Choir Rehearsal

Dec. 2 7 pm
Christmas Tree Trimming

Dec. 4 Noon
Holiday Potluck, "Mitten & Scarf Tree"

Dec. 7 7 pm
Book Club: *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George

Dec. 8 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Dec. 11 Noon
Congregational Meeting:
Budget & Search Comm.

Dec. 14 1:30 pm
Tea with the Minister

Dec. 14 6 pm
"Blue Christmas" & Soup

Dec. 15 7 pm
Choir Rehearsal

Dec. 18 9:30 am
Sunday Services Meeting

Dec. 18 noon
Social Resp. Comm. Meeting

Dec. 24 5 pm
Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 27 9 pm
January Newsletter Reports

Interim Minister Rev. Fran 's Column

Christmas 2016

For those who enjoy celebrating the Christmas traditions prevalent at this time of the winter, please refer to the U-Tube Flash Mob showing several Niagra choirs singing in the Welland Mall Food Court. It has delighted over 48 Million people world-wide.

Welcome December: dark nights, bright lights, a time for visiting with relatives and friends. A boisterous time, a quiet time, for rest and renewal at the turning of the year. The Christmas tree goes up at Olinda on Friday December 2nd.

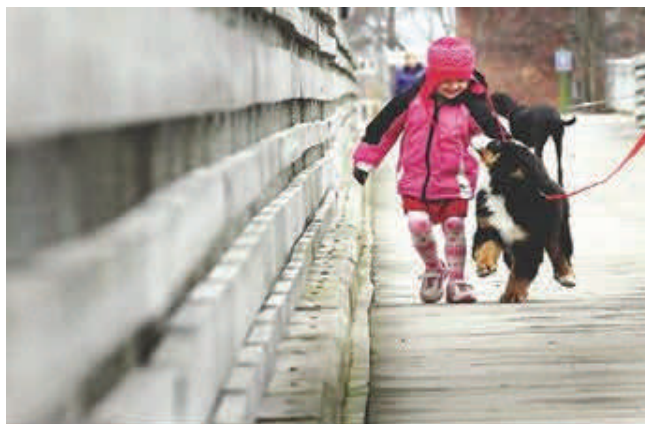
December invites opportunities for generosity. I am warmed by that trait in humanity, that we are moved to sharing when the wind blows cold. John and Linda Upcott have been gathering together contributions for two hampers of gifts for local families. In addition, mittens and toques and winter woollies will be gratefully received as ornaments for the Christmas tree, and will be conveyed to Hiatus House in Windsor following the second Sunday of December.

I love this time of year—the singing and the ornaments and the red velvet bows. I love the series of services that, each in their own way, engages the solstice holiday season. From our seven events and services this month, I expect folks might wish to pick and choose.

Some will feel no need to attend the Blue Christmas service on Wednesday December 14th; but others, perhaps those of us who have experienced some loss this past year, might choose to attend. We'll light a candle of mindfulness, join in a simple service to acknowledge that not all of us feel entirely holly-jolly this time of year, then share a simple meal of soup and bread.

I'm sure you all know your own intention, and where you want to be, weather permitting. Please, let us all drive safely this holiday season, and take good care. December brings many challenges to us all, not least the weather and the visa statement!

December brings joy, also—a pregnant darkness into which spring will grow. May this last month of the year bring you quiet joys, lively joys, depth of joy. May the coming year bring new beginnings, and a deeper understanding of days gone by, as new dawns beckon.



Unconditional Love In The Wintertime Photo courtesy of Frederickton Gleaner

AFTER THE UNITARIAN TALK

*As a young lad I loved to shout
Words exaggerated, vicious
To convince all who heard me out
That my voice meant deeds not wishes.
Though attention was delicious
It bought me much too little stock.
I hold my tongue, washing the dishes
After the Unitarian Talk.*

*No longer young, I learned to doubt.
A kind crow has only wishes
And little else to crow about.
Since I'm not now ambitious
And much more surreptitious
I listen but I never mock.
I hold my tongue washing the dishes
After the Unitarian Talk.*

*I joined the Fellowship, I heard out
Good talk and better wishes
But at my age knew that to flout
Big words was meretricious.
Unnecessary work. Thus it is
My voice is mum and my jaws lock
I hold my tongue, washing the dishes
After the Unitarian Talk.*

*Sunday starts with hopes and wishes
First we gallop and then we walk.
I hold my tongue, washing the dishes
After the Unitarian Talk.*



Fred Cogswell, Prolific Canadian Poet,
Unitarian, Professor Emeritus UNB.

Accolades, Recognition and a Thank You

At Christmas, our memories are of good times with family, friends and the gifts we have given and received in years past. We have been delighted with the wonder of children enthralled with the season, with the appreciation of strangers expressing their gratitude for any kindness we may have shown them; and, even with Mother Nature herself as she lays down to rest under a blanket of snow. Common to all of us are the pleasures of food and drink, the warmth of social interaction and the mellowness of music and song.

One person who helps make this happen at our Olinda UU community is our hospitality convener, Mariette Preyde. Mariette has been a member of Olinda since 1996 and took on the role from Dorothy Brown and Donna Upcott. With help from Helen Moore and many others, our coffee hours and potluck events are the constant highlights of our church social happenings. Thank you Mariette, from all of us.

John van Abbema, Editor

Olinda Book Club

This group of congregants and friends gathers once a month (1st Wednesday) at the home of book club members, the Church, or other arranged venues.

During the meeting a selected book, author, or theme previously selected by each member in turn is discussed. The ‘fun-loving’ group is into another year of reading, learning and socializing.

Everyone is welcome – *Contact Chairperson Pat Haynes, or Stuart Miller.*

Book for the Month of December 2016

Title: *The Little Paris Bookshop*, by Nina George

Date: Wed., 07 December, 2016; 7 pm

Leader: Leona Crowder, Crowder Residence

Summary:

Monsieur Perdu is a literary apothecary. From his floating bookstore in a barge on the Seine, he prescribes novels for the hardships of life. Using his intuitive feel for the exact book a reader needs, Perdu mends broken hearts and souls.

An international best seller filled with warmth and adventure, the Little Paris Bookshop is a love letter to books, meant for anyone who believes in the power of stories to shape people's lives.

Book for Month – January 2017:

Title: *The Burning Room*, by Michael Connelly

Date: Wed., 04 January, 2017; 7 pm

Leader: John Haynes

Location: Haynes Residence

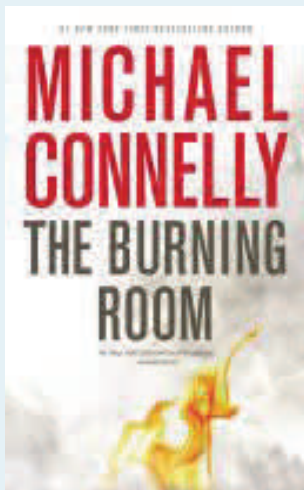
Summary:

In the LAPD's Open-Unsolved Unit, not many murder victims die almost a decade after the crime. So when a man succumbs to complications from being shot by a stray bullet nine years earlier, Bosch catches a case in which the body is still fresh, but all other evidence is virtually non-existent.

Bosch is one of the most popular and enduring figures in American crime fiction.

- Chicago Tribune

The finest crime series written, by an American Author – Washington Post



Caring Committee Report , December 2016

Merry Christmas one and all...Happy holiday season.
May your dreams and hopes come true this year, as we celebrate this holiday with friends and family.

A big hello to Arn and Marion Thompson in Erie Glen Manor. They enjoyed a Remembrance Day service this past month with a good number of the residents at the Manor. We remember Albertina Bell also at Erie Glen. Tina shared some Leamington memories with me as we visited with each other this past month. Laverne continues to care for Ron as he convalesces from his latest visit with Doctors.

Christmas..a time for caring and sharing and remembering. May we all take time and make the effort to let others know that we care throughout this busy season. The best gift we can give, is to be present for the ones we love.

Sharon van Abbema

WE ARE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU

If you did not read our Nominating Committee message in the October Newsletter, please do.

Here is a list of the open positions:

Vice President
Secretary
Trustees: Finance
Lifespan Religious Education
Membership/Publicity

You are needed!

Steve, Cathy & Carol

Committee Members

Eunice Goyette
June Blacker
Linda Upcott
Sharon van Abbema

Property Committee Report, December 2016

There is no property report this month as a number of projects are in the working stage. Work on the windows and door replacements were started the second week of November and should be completed by the end of the month. The work is progressing well. A full update and report will be provided in the next newsletter.

The Louise Foulds Library

Just a reminder that we do have a church library that contains many books of great interest. When borrowing any book from the library, please sign your name on the sheet provided on the table under the front window.

Happy Reading! Thank you.
Pat Haynes.

Social Responsibility Committee

There are interesting films in your future! The sermon for January 29 will largely consist of a 30-minute film on Haiti produced by the group "Hearts Together for Haiti." The speaker introducing the film will be Glen Jackson who spoke at Olinda in 2013 on his experiences in Haiti. On February 12 after church we will be treated with an inspiring film on dance performed by patients with Parkinson's Disease. Ray and Laurie Stone attended a function in Detroit at which this film was screened and were very impressed, so Ray acquired the DVD for presentation at Olinda.

Mariette Preyde has organized the speaker for the March 26 service preceding the International Dinner. Wilma Lamb, who is in charge of the refugee activity by the Leamington Mennonites, will talk about the refugee experience.

Thanks to the generosity of three members of the committee, there is another \$100 in the KIVA fund, so Bill made another micro-loan. It is to a woman in Cambodia, to help purchase a tractor & plow.

Bobbye Baylis, Secretary of the Committee