

# The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda](#)  
2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0  
Toni Janik & Bobbye Baylis, Editors



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

## Sunday Services May 2020

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Apr. 26	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Essential</i> - the tricky question of what meets our most basic needs leads to the deeper question of what those needs are.	
May 3	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Hold</i> - In times of uncertainty, it is difficult to stay still... and yet, the wisdom of practices such as meditation is that we can sometimes do a whole lot when we do less.	
May 10	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>The Time to Plant a Tree</i> - Today, we benefit from the fruits of seeds that were planted before us - by parents, ancestors, founders. This opens much room for reflection... and opens up the question - what can we plant today?	
May 17	Rev. Norm Horofker (UU Church of Halifax)	<i>Cross-Canada Sunday Service</i> - The host congregation for our national Conference, the Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax, is presenting a live worship service for all of us across Canada. As it spans several time zones, we'll be able to join at 12:30PM our time (Eastern). A link will be provided.	
May 24	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>The Special Time</i> - Different times in history have been remembered by memorable names... sometimes, they only tell part of the story - other times they tell many stories at once.	
May 31	Guest	TBA	

\*There will be no services at the church until further notice because of the requirement for Social Distancing due to COVID-19. Services will be available at the usual time via Zoom. You will receive notifications by email and/or telephone. The website, [uuOlinda.org](http://uuOlinda.org), will be kept up-to-date regarding services and meetings.

Rev. Rod is publishing his reflections on the website. You can access them by going to [UUOlinda.org](http://UUOlinda.org) and clicking on the appropriate Recent Post (upper right-hand corner.) His reflections are also being mailed to those who prefer to read written materials, thanks to Helen Moore.

## Vice-President Introduction

### Brent Campbell - VP Introduction

While many of you in the church already know me, there are likely some who may not. Being as I am new to the Church Board, I would like to take some time to give you a little bit more background on myself. Recently I became an “official” member of the church, as I was asked to serve as Vice President, but I have attended for many years, although there may have been some years my attendance was somewhat sparse. My family has been members of the church for many years, going as far back as being descendants of the original founding members. Or so I am told. My grandparents (Jack and Ruth Whittle), my mother (Sheron (Whittle) Campbell) and sister (Mireya Campbell) were and still are members of the church. There are likely even more from the past as well. If you go to Graceland cemetery you can find an entire line of Whittle tombstones.

As for myself, I live in Kingsville. I work for an automotive components supplier in Windsor which has plants in several regions. As mentioned, while being a new member, I attended services, participated in functions for many years and was volunteered to help out in many capacities (Mom was good at doing things like that). For several years now, Mireya and I have hosted a wine and food pairing event that is offered in the aUUction. Many a time the Christmas tree in the sanctuary was brought in and I helped to set it up. I also helped with picnic table set-up for the June picnics at Seacliff and Lakeside Parks. Mom was always very active with church functions and activities, volunteering to help and serving on the board in various positions. When I was approached to sit on the board, I saw it as an opportunity to carry on her legacy and to give back something to the church and congregation that she cared deeply about.

I look forward to working with the rest of the board and getting to know the newer members of the congregation.

Brent Campbell  
Vice President, UU Church of Olinda

## Clergy Connection

Our Church continues to stay connected during these unusual times. I am very grateful for all the volunteers who have been contributing to keeping our community thriving.

One way we've done this is by continuing to worship together... even when apart. We are the church, beyond the walls of our building. Whether you participate by reading a reflection printout from post mail, e-mail, or a YouTube recording, or by viewing the web-page version, or joining on Zoom on Sunday morning, we're finding **creative options** for us to experience church together.

You may have seen reports of concerns about **meeting security** using Zoom – we have a number of measures in place to reduce the risk of disruptive visitors while making our virtual space as welcoming as possible. A number of you have also been assisting in technical support, to monitor our virtual space.

I have also re-introduced a version of the **Café Drop-in** on Wednesdays. It is currently one hour, but it may be expanded if I see the need. And, as always, you can also make an appointment with me. Just e-mail, phone, or text me, and we can find a time and medium that works for both of us.

One way that has helped our church stay connected is our phone tree – we had this set up several years ago for emergencies, and it has come in especially handy at this time. We are now building on this resource to give us another tool for emergencies – a Congregational **Emergency Contacts** list. We will be sending a separate form where you can provide up to two emergency contacts, such as a relative or a trusted friend, whom we could contact in case of a health crisis or another situation when you might not be able to connect with them.

Being part of the Emergency Contact list is voluntary and I heartily encourage you to consider the advantage of having us as a backup, should the need arise. Like many things, it is a good practice to have this in place at any time, but it is especially important at a time like this. This list would only be accessed by me, as Minister, as well as a designate, such as the Board President, and the chair of the Membership Committee.

Remember to keep **vigilant for scams** by phone or e-mail. Watch out for anyone claiming to be me, or someone from the church, asking for an “urgent” favour. And never offer your passwords, credit card numbers, or personal information to any links claiming to come from us. Your pledge or fund-raising contributions can simply be sent by post to the church or to our acting Treasurer Helen Moore.

And I am excited to announce the **Cross-Canada Sunday Service** on **May 17 at 12:30 PM Eastern**. This will be a virtual service with the rest of the country and will take the place of our usual Sunday service. I will send the Zoom link on the previous Saturday, as usual.

In solidarity, Rod

## Important Dates

No in-person meetings are planned; all meetings noted below are virtual meetings, utilizing Zoom technology.

If that should change, a revised schedule will be published.

**Apr. 27 7:30 pm**  
Lifespan RE Meeting

**May 3 Noon**  
Sunday Services Meeting

**May 6 10 am**  
Membership Committee Meeting

**May 7 7 pm**  
Pandemic Task Force Meeting

**May 14 7 pm**  
Board of Trustees Meeting

**May 16 Noon**  
CUC AGM

**May 17 12:30 pm**  
Canada-Wide UU Service

**May 26**  
June Newsletter Reports Due

**May 31**  
Deadline for Bakeless Bake Sale donations

## From The Board

On March 12, 2020 – approximately 5 weeks ago – COVID 19 came into the awareness of a good majority of us when the Ministry of Education announced that the school March Break would be extended for two additional weeks beyond the one week closure. In turn, on March 15, 2020, the Olinda Executive Committee of the Board and backed by the whole Board of Directors, decided that there would be no in-person services for the following three weeks. This decision was made on the basis that the majority of the congregants were in the high risk category for contacting the major symptoms of the virus. Since that time, the federal, provincial and municipal governments have reinforced the no in-person gatherings, extending it currently through to May 12, 2020 when it will next be reviewed.

Over the last five weeks many people and committees within Olinda UU Church have donated extra time and energy to being present in serving the congregation to:

- Provide the safe processes that have allowed the various services of the church to continue during the Pandemic;
- Provide the ongoing pastoral support and ministerial services during the Pandemic to the congregational members on both a regular and an emergency basis as needed;
- Provide the ongoing governance process in this unprecedented time of the Pandemic to ensure the church's day by day viability; and
- Provide the visionary planning and guidance to ensure that the church will come through this Pandemic, transformed, ready and able to embrace the future.

At this time I am taking this opportunity to thank as many of these people and committees as space will allow. So THANK YOU to:

- The NEWLY elected Board of Directors who stepped into their roles on March 12, 2020, hitting the ground running to immediately meet the challenge of the COVID-19 virus;
- The FORMER Board of Directors who have made themselves present and available to assist in both the transition and the training of the new members;
- The Executive Committee of the Board who, with the full support of the whole board, took the lead in day to day governance decisions needed as the COVID-19 Pandemic swiftly impacted the church in the first four weeks;
- The newly formed Olinda UU Church Pandemic Task Force (as of April 9, 2020) that now spearheads the governance oversight for the Board of Directors in meeting the governmental pandemic expectations of not-for-profit corporations such as the church;
- Rev. Rodrigo Solano-Quesnel for his strong, calm consistent pastoral leadership to the church, its members, and the community we live in. Rev. Rod has been instrumental in bringing the church, the Board of Directors and many committee members into the age of electronic media through the use of ZOOM, thereby allowing for the work of the church – both governance and pastoral – to continue. His knowledge and skill has resulted in on-line interactive services to now be in operation along with the current expansion to the on-line reinstatement of Café hours;

## From The Board, Cont.

The Membership Committee, under the new leadership of Toni Janik, for taking the lead in finding a way within COVID-19 guidelines, to bring the music of the church into individual homes through the delivery of the hymnals to each congregant;

The ongoing hard work of the Newsletter Committee to provide a continuous and consistent stream of information to all congregants through making the monthly newsletter available in its many formats – online as well as hardcopy;

The increased connection to congregants by the Caring Committee through their weekly outreach calls to those in need. In addition, the members of the committee have undertaken to touch base with as many congregants as possible over the ensuing weeks to check in with how each of us is doing under these stressful times. The Caring Committee is also present to receive calls from those in need, supplying a backup to Rev. Rod in this important service at this time;

Those many congregants who have taken upon themselves to reach out to others amongst us who may be in need and have then stepped in to support in whatever way has been necessary;

To all of you who have been there behind the scenes to reach out and offer support in your own ways to members of the church, to your families, to friends, to strangers continuing to do so from the foundational faith of this church that “love is a more positive force for good than fear”.

There is yet another way that many continue to support the above work of the church and that is through your continued financial support which in turn provides the platform for all of the work above. A different yet equally important act of service for which the church is thankful.

To all of you, for all the many different kinds of service provided, I offer my sincerest thank you.

Finally, while I recognize that we are only five weeks into dealing with the impact on Olinda UU Church of this worldwide pandemic, I wish to say that I am extremely proud to be serving with all members of this church who continue to stand steadfast in their belief of service from the heart. I truly believe we continue to establish a strong basis for moving forward to provide the ongoing support to all congregants during this worldwide Pandemic - for as long as it lasts, for as long as the service is needed.

As such, I openly invite all of you to reach out:

When you need to,

When you want to,

When you desire to.

The Olinda UU Church community is here for you, as always.

Respectfully,

Stephen Brennan, President

## Financial Report

Thank you very much for the cheques that have been delivered to my door or have arrived by mail. I went to the church to pick up mail on March 31 and plan to again at month's end. As mentioned in the last newsletter, if you wish to make a **Donation (including to Bakesale,)** please mail to church:

Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda  
2953 Olinda Side Road  
Ruthven, ON NOP 2G0

or to my home address:

UU Church  
290 Lester Drive  
Essex, ON N8M 3G9

The expenses for March continued even though we didn't meet regularly at church:

Cost of Ministry: \$5,915.72

Salary: \$5,236.

Employment Insurance: \$115.80

Canada Pension Plan: \$260.76

Health Benefits: \$303.16

Other costs: Total: \$1003.16

Paper and postage: \$152.32

Telephone and WIFI: \$53.18

Sunday Services: \$500. Speakers: Carrie Ann Peters and Rev. Conrad Dippel

Electricity: \$128.85

Gas: \$168.81

Income for March:

Offering: \$3,300

Fundraising: \$20

Transfer from Lloyd Fund: \$6,000 divided by 3 months for \$2,000

Thanks, Helen Moore, Treasurer



**Bakeless Bake Sale  
May 2020**

**“No Baking Required”**

**Donation details above and  
In Toni's report, page 7**

## Membership and Publicity

During this time of temporary changes to keep us all safe, the membership and publicity committee have been connecting virtually. Our Committee met virtually on April 1st and we discussed and evaluated our processes for distributing Rev. Rod's weekly reflections, distribution of hymnals to congregants who would like to borrow a copy during this time of virtual services, and how to help our congregants stay connected.

In the coming week all congregants will receive, either by Email or Canada Post, a form entitled "Congregant Emergency Contact Form." Please consider completing this form and either emailing it to Toni Janik at [djanik1@cogeco.ca](mailto:djanik1@cogeco.ca) or snail mailing to Toni. In the event of a serious emergency Rev. Rod will have the necessary information to contact your emergency contact.

If you have questions—feel free to reach out to Rev. Rod or myself.

Our Membership committee has also created a list of ideas for celebrating our church's 140th anniversary this November which will be further reviewed by the board. Mark your calendars for *Sunday November 8th, 2020* as our day of celebration. More details to come.

Our UU Church of Olinda third annual Bakeless Bake Sale will be held during the month of May. This event is a fund-raiser and, unlike a traditional bake sale, No Baking is Required. Easy. Simply figure out how much you would have spent on baking supplies, ADD how much you would have spent buying tasty treats at the bake sale and put that money in an donation envelope, with your name, labelled Bakeless Bake Sale, in the collection plate OR mail a cheque to our treasurer. Your donation is eligible for a tax receipt.

To honour those that have gone before us we have started working on a "Memorial List." This will be an internal church document and will be included in the annual report. Toni will be creating the document with as many of the following details as possible: First and Last Name, Maiden Name, Date of Birth and Date of Passing. If you would like to contribute/ assist with this important historical document, please connect or send information to Toni.

Toni Janik  
Membership and Publicity Trustee



## Update From Property

Despite the inability to group in-person, that this time dictates, things are moving ahead with all the Church Committees. So too Property!

The April newsletter report identified the numerous projects that are on our wish list. When these were presented at the Board meeting, the Committee was charged to provide the costs of each. These will then be prioritized to determine if they can fit into the new Church Budget now being amended.

The active Property Committee members have each been assigned the task of shopping their item, and reporting the costs. These are as follows:

1. The Programmable Thermostat for the Sanctuary has been investigated by Richard Stevenson. We're informed that these are currently on sale, and Grants are also available for these.
2. The chilliness of Rev Rod's office is a challenge too. Richard is asked to determine if the space heater can safely be controlled by a Timer.
3. Past Chairperson Laurie Hylton, with the assistance of Carol & Toni, has been checking out Dishwashers, and the conversion of the kitchen to install one seamlessly into the cabinetwork. This could be for the Kitchens in either the main, or the lower levels.
4. Perennial committee member, sporting many 'hats', John Upcott, has been requested to price a new Barbecue.
5. Lastly, the restoration of the Garage building in the rear yard, into a Pavilion, will be subjected to an updated design review, and a dollar figure range allotted, by the Committee Chair, yours truly.

So, stand by, as the quiet group of repair experts, working undercover, come up with the figures for the dream list of improvements to our building and property.

Stuart Miller, Property Chair

## From the Archives Committee

It has been decided that we should have a separate file saved in the Archives that is dedicated to the COVID-19. This is a unique period for our Church to be experiencing and something to have on record, all the extra work and effort the Board and many others are doing as we move through this.

The current Board Members will be documenting anything pertaining to the VIRUS that has taken place in their Committees, i.e. Minutes of meetings. As well, Linda Upcott will note all the extra efforts the Caring Committee will be doing. This is all on top of all the other documentation and work they do.

If any of you have anything beyond the above pertaining to this period we are in, you are invited to document same and give it to me.

I thank all of you for everything you are doing. Be Healthy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Hylton, Archives Committee



# Caring Committee Report

April distances brings May existences, we hope! Someday we will look back on this moment and it will forever remind us to never take the little things for granted. It will remind us to hug with all our hearts, to pause, to appreciate holding someone's hand, and to live in the moments that we are surrounded by others.

Thanks to All for reaching out to shut-ins and congregants living alone, either by email or phone conversations. Reaching out to Nancy Basinger, it was discovered she needed some help. Thanks to Steve and Kathy Brennan and Ray and Laurie Stone.

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Ken Martiniuk on the passing of his sister Deborah Caseley on March 23, 2020. Special thanks to Eunice Goyette for all the greeting cards sent this month, much appreciated. Wishing everyone good health and a Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers. This is the caring committee wish for you:

COMFORT on difficult days,  
SMILES when sadness intrudes,  
RAINBOWS to follow the clouds,  
LAUGHTER to kiss your lips,  
SUNSETS to warm your hearts,  
BEAUTY for your eyes to see,  
FRIENDSHIPS to brighten your being,  
CONFIDENCE for when you doubt,  
COURAGE to know yourself,  
PATIENCE to accept the truth and  
LOVE to complete your life.

Stay Safe Everyone!

Submitted by Linda Upcott



## Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

## **BEST PRACTICE SUGGESTIONS in this time of COVID-19**

As a church community, whose foundational beliefs includes that of social responsibility and service, we continue to reach out and be present for our congregational members, their families, their friends. Likewise, many of our fellow members are also our friends, relatives and family members. As such it is only natural that we would respond to any and all requests for help and assistance from them at this critical time.

In this time of the World Pandemic concerning the COVID virus, general population protocols such as:

social distancing,  
self-isolation, and  
14-21 day home quarantine

are now both government imposed and highly recommended.

In the last five weeks, the general population's information about disease spread within the community has increased and continues to do so daily. Each week more and better ways of protecting ourselves have become known/ recommended when we venture out into the community.

What is also important however is that we keep in mind the need to protect ourselves with respect to the virus transmission on three levels:

Contracting the virus from others;  
Contracting the virus from other environments; and  
Passing the virus onto others.

As such, the following suggestions are strongly recommended when you are responding to any request for help from other people, members or otherwise. The degree to which these suggestions would be practiced is entirely a personal one and based on your own sense of risk when engaging in the service role.

### **SUGGESTIONS:**

1. Always assume that when you leave your home environment that your clothes and skin have been exposed to the virus;
2. Wear a mask (medical or self-made) whenever you leave your home environment OR when inviting a person into your home whose daily routine puts them at risk to be carrying the virus;
3. Wear gloves when you leave home and are going to be touching any surfaces that are not under your personal cleaning control;
4. Carry disinfectant wipes with you at all times;
5. Disinfect any door surfaces, door pulls/knobs/handles, push buttons (elevator buttons, credit card machines, door buttons, etc.) prior to touching them AND immediately after touching them;

## **BEST PRACTICE SUGGESTIONS Continued**

6. Disinfect ALL surfaces of your car touched by you or your passenger(s) after each time you are finished driving;
7. Remove all shoes worn outside upon your return and store in designated place, or consider disinfecting them, specifically the outer soles;
8. If your travels have taken you into areas of high people traffic (grocery stores, pharmacy, other people's homes, business areas, work environments, etc.) for longer than 20 to 30 minutes, consider removing all clothing immediately upon entering home, putting them in washer to wash and then showering before interacting with other members of the household;
9. If you have purchased items from public stores consider wiping them down with disinfectant prior to bringing them into the home proper;
10. Once you have returned home and have disinfected all things needed, remove gloves and dispose of OR wash gloves with soap and water before removing and let dry;
11. Wash hands with soap and water frequently;
12. Maintain recommended protocols around:
  - a. Social Distancing;
  - b. Self Isolation; and
  - c. All quarantine situations.

Repeat: **Wash hands with soap and water frequently.**

Above all, as we daily learn how to manage our exposure to the virus to as minimal a risk as possible, we are also finding ways to continue to reach out and assist others – a way of continuing to live out our value of social responsibility.

Thank you to all of you for what you do for yourselves and, by so doing, you are doing for others.

Stephen Brennan,  
Chair, Pandemic Task Force

## Thoughts on Earth Day

The Church service on April 19<sup>th</sup> by Bill Baylis recognized Earth Day and drew attention to the beauty of the earth through the experiences of the astronauts relating how they came to appreciate the world. We humans do take all this for granted or do not give it any thought in our busy lives. We do not take care of it and treasure it as we should. The service stimulated our thoughts of how we have experienced the wonders of the world in our small way and we will share a bit of it with you.

For five years we lived in our motor home full time and then later spent months of RV travel besides. By being in the RV it allowed us to be away from commercialization and enjoy nature and see things we would have never enjoyed otherwise. Our prime interest was being away from manmade situations. In those days, we had very little TV (prior to satellite and computer) and most of the time we were in the wilderness where there was no TV reception and we did not buy a newspaper. Those were the best years of our lives. In that lifestyle we got to talk to many others living the same way and that was how we would learn of so many hidden treasures that were not even known as such. Our best days were out there hiking and scrambling around in nature. Those years left us with real appreciation of the treasures of the earth, and they truly are treasures. It is awesome. We managed to enjoy all states of the U.S. as well as all of Canada, including Yukon, Alaska, Labrador and Newfoundland.

One other light comment about all those years is about living in the motor home. We were unto ourselves most of the time, living in an 8 x 38-foot motor home. These days that we are now in our house all the time and by ourselves don't bother us at all and we have lots of room. We have experience.

Since then, we went on many cruises and visited over 20 islands and ports in the Caribbean as well as Hawaii and South Pacific Islands. When visiting those places, while in port, we always toured the wonders of nature they had to offer.

Until Sunday we did not think of the overall summary of what we had done. Besides the above, most other things evolved around experiences of nature. Now at our age, we enjoy armchair travel, we now have advantage of TV programs that visit the hidden treasures of the world, much of it due to filming by drone.

Bill relating about the astronauts and their appreciation of the beauty of earth, made us think of all we have enjoyed in our small way and put things in perspective. Every day should be Earth Day, not just one day a year.

*Appreciate and respect this Planet we live on.*

*Laurie & Carol Hylton*