

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

**Sunday Services 10:30 am
September/October 2020**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Sept. 20	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Chunks of Time</i> Our sense of awareness tends to find order by dividing time in manageable bits. Changes in seasons are one way that we find ourselves grounded in time, and as the days darken, we can find new meanings for the foreseeable future.	Toni Janik
Sept. 27	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>FWIW (For What It's Worth)</i> Variations of Universalism have been around for longer than we might think. The details may change, but the foundations of love without exceptions offer a worldview worth cultivating.	Bill & Bobbye Baylis
Oct. 4, 11 am	North-America-wide Service	<i>250 Years of Universalist Heritage and its Meaning for Our Time</i> Continuing our exploration of Universalism, we're invited to join this service, celebrating our tradition's roots on the continent.	
Oct. 11	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>TIA (Thanks in Advance)</i> The general practice is to give thanks after the fact - but what if we can apply the gift of gratitude preemptively?	TBA
Oct. 18	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Heavy Metal</i> We've all heard of the golden rule, but what about the silver rule and the platinum rule? How do these different "metal" rules invite us to seek answers to the question: "what is the right thing to do?"	Toni Janik
Oct. 25	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>IOW (In Other Words)</i> When one-off situations seem to pop up everywhere, it may be a sign that something larger is in the works. What do we call this?	TBA
Nov. 1	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>R.I.P. - Rest In Power</i> As we honour those who have gone before us around the Days of the Dead, we recall the power that they can have even after death.	TBA

*There will be no services at the church until further notice 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, 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 and clicking on the appropriate Recent Post (upper right-hand corner.) His reflections are also being mailed to those who prefer to read printed materials.

From The Board

Welcome back!

Summer has passed – fall has arrived ... and with the changes of the seasons comes the many changes inherent in the return to the church year!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the board of directors, trustees and others met twice throughout the summer to address the ongoing impact of COVID on the church functioning. In addition, we were able to complete a major portion of the work on the new draft by-laws that are necessary as a result of incorporation.

Moving into the fall, the board is now dealing with the following key items:

- Developing an overall plan for addressing the “opening” of in-person church services which includes:

 - Surveying the various members of all church committees around what they would require in order to begin meeting in person, indoors;

 - Surveying all church members around what they would require in order to attend in person services within the church once more;

 - Developing a plan for how to continue with online services once in person services resume; and

- Finalizing a draft copy of the new by-laws so that they can be presented to church membership for approval prior to the end of November.

As the board continues with this needed focus, the decision has been made to extend the postponement of in-person Sunday services through to December 6, to be reviewed at the November Board Meeting.

An important decision made at the September Board meeting was to restart in-person church committee meetings to be held out of doors – an important step in bringing back the face-to-face component of the Olinda community.

September through October will be a significant time period when we will be reaching out to you for your input. Please take the time to respond to any and all surveys that you may receive.

Stay well,
Stay Safe,

Stephen Brennan, President

Continuing Suspension of In-Church Services

With the ongoing level and situation surrounding the COVID-19 Pandemic, it has been decided by the board to continue the suspension of in-person services at the church until at least the beginning of December 2020. The situation will be reviewed again at the November and December board meetings and a decision will be made as to whether in person services can be re-started, in some form, or the suspension will have to continue. While many may be eager to get back together for the sense of community we get from in person services, it is for the health and welfare of all members of the congregation that this decision has been made.

The church has begun the process of looking into what it would take to make in-person services safe for all members of the congregation. And while it is unsure as to how long this process may take, it is the hope, that in the future we will be able to provide services safely for all our members. Be that either in person and/or in an on-line capacity.

We look forward to the time when we will all be able to get together in person once again. Until such time please stay healthy and safe.

Brent Campbell

Vice President, UU Church of Olinda

The Church Library & Archives

For the past number of years, Pat Haynes cared for the Library as well as the Church Scrap Books. Pat has stepped down from that responsibility and I thank Pat very much for her years of dedication.

I am pleased to announce that Charlotte Innerd has accepted the responsibility of working with me in our Library as well as our Archives. I am so pleased to have Charlotte to work with; thank you Charlotte. Charlotte is a Librarian so it is very advantageous in both cases. We will be letting you know about our progress.

Carol Hylton
Archives

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.

Sept. 23 10 am
Membership Committee Meeting

Oct. 8 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Oct. 11 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Oct. 18 Noon
Finance Comm. Meeting

Oct. 20
November Newsletter Reports Due

Oct. 25
Budget Requests Due

Clergy Connection

I was glad to see so many of you again at our modified water ceremony! Sharing a drink of worthy waters from a distance is a reminder that we can continue to share in our spiritual community, even while apart. Although the summer tends to have a slower pace in our church life, many in our leadership remained active in exploring new visions for our community. One of the tasks that carried on during the summer was the drafting of **new by-laws** to conform with our recent incorporation status. This involved a lot of invisible work and discussion – a process that we hope will conclude by December. As part of new visions, we will also be exploring the meaning of **covenant** and how it is central to our tradition.

Adding a sense of renewal to our church is especially timely, as we look to a year that is bookmarked by **two 140th anniversaries** for us: celebrating the **founding** of our church on **November 8** this year (online), and celebrating our **church building** on September 19 next year (place to be determined!).

I find the fact that we're celebrating the anniversary of our church without the building seems oddly appropriate, since that is how our church's founders gathered 140 years ago. And it may well be possible that, by September 2021 we could celebrate the construction of our church building back in the sanctuary. For the time being, the Board has renewed the need to maintain virtual services through November of this year, at which time, we will re-evaluate our options.

As we look at our roots, I'm also excited to announce that we're invited to join an **international online service** celebrating 250 years of Universalism in North America on **October 4**.

And, by popular demand, there are *two* more **Canada-wide Sunday Services** coming up. The first one is on **November 15**, when virtual CUC regional gatherings are taking place – you can attend the stand-alone service, or explore the larger **Eastern Regional Gathering** experience over the **November 13-15** weekend. There is also **another service** in the works for **February 7**.

I also invite all of you to seek photos of departed loved ones that you'd like to share for our annual **Day of the Dead** service on **November 1**. Let me know if you'd like these photos used during the live online service only, or if you'd also like them to be part of the web version of the service.

The Board has also given the go-ahead to formalize a **Technology Team**, to offer tech support during virtual services, as well as to explore how we can make our church and its services more accessible, even after in-person services recommence. If you have experience with audio-visual and computer technology, or are willing to expand your skills, I invite you to contact Bill Baylis.

I look forward to continuing our work as a community of faith with you, as we move into a year that may offer both great challenges, as well as exciting opportunities.

In Solidarity,
--Rev. Rod

Update From Property

While the congregation has been unable to visit our church since the end of March, and over the summer, your property committee has been addressing several issues.

Landscaping – The tall cedar bushes on the south side of the building constantly require trimming. Our neighbour, the Nicholls Farm, has always been very receptive to our requests for the tending of their trees. This summer he was able to remove the tops once again off the bushes, and the thin out the sides. There is now a good ten feet of open space between the church wall and the bushes. With the high bushes, our eavestroughs had become full, and John Upcott did a magnificent job cleaning them out.

Roofing – Constant maintenance is necessary to prevent small problems from developing into large damaging situations. Our roof over the second floor Archives Storage Room had developed a leak last fall. While this was partially repaired at that time, we had been advised that the shingles in this one area should be replaced.

Laurie Hylton is in the process of scheduling this work to be completed now by Unique Roofing a company that have completed the work for years.

Possible Sale of Neighbour's Property - The old red brick building north of our church, on the NW corner of the Olinda Sideroad & 5th Concession has fallen into disrepair. The property owner is also now very ill and no longer lives in the building. There had been a rumour that this corner property would go up for sale. We have been informed that the property has been taken over by the Town of Kingsville and the Heritage Foundation. This building was initially built and used as the school master's house of the Olinda Public School SS #5. The school was located across from the church which is now our parking lot. The decision to either restore the building or sell it has yet to be made. If someone did buy it and tear it down, current zoning setback requirements, and building codes, would not allow as large a new structure to be rebuilt, nor as close to the road as the old building is. Our church was, and still is interested in the property, potential for a secondary parking lot. We will keep you informed as more information is available.

Your Committee members are John Upcott, Laurie Hylton, Richard Stevenson, and Chair, Stuart Miller.

A Note from the Treasurer

Thank you for your generous donations since last June. As Rev. Rod has mentioned, we now have e –Transfer available. If you wish to donate by e-Transfer, please contact Bobbye Baylis (519-738-2118) or Helen Moore (519-776-4068) for the procedure and email address. To date, four couples have donated by e-Transfer.

Your donation continues to support Rev. Rod's ministry and maintenance of our church building and grounds.

Helen Moore , Treasurer

Finance Report

Once again it is time to plan for the coming year. We will start the process of creating an Operating Budget for 2021 in October. The following schedule is being presented to inform everyone who would like to be part of this process. There are always openings on the Finance Committee for anyone who is interested in the financial health of our church.

Date	Time	Description
Oct. 18	After church, via Zoom	Open meeting to discuss budget items. Anyone desiring to be on the Finance Committee should definitely attend this meeting and volunteer to become a member. Lloyd Fund representatives are requested to attend to answer questions.
Oct. 25		By this date, all Committee budget requests must be submitted to the finance trustee or the treasurer so that they can prepare the budget.
Nov. 8	After Church, via Zoom	Meeting of the Finance Committee to approve the Budget.
Nov. 12	7 PM	Board Meeting at which Budget will be presented for approval.
Nov. 22	Before Church	Copies of the budget will be available to the congregation for review. (Also copies of new By-Laws)
Dec. 6	After Church	Congregational Budget meeting. (Also vote on By-Laws)

See you there!

Bobbye Baylis, Finance Trustee

The Church

Since we have been Away With Leave since our last church service on March 15, I just wanted you to know that the church building and grounds continue to exist and thrive though I am sure the building and grounds miss our presence. That may be a pretty big assumption but it is, or may be, comforting to presume we are missed.

John Upcott is now our official Property Manager, without remuneration, and daily checks the church building, systems within, and the grounds and picks up the mail. He did notice when the dehumidifier stopped working and, with consultation, purchased a new one which keeps our basement dry. He noticed that the cedars on the south side of the church were overhanging eaves troughs and very close to the windows. He called our church neighbour, Dave Nickels, who, with his family, owns the surrounding orchards (previously owned by the Fox Family of Mike Fox fame) and had planted the cedars. Dave Nickels had his workers drastically (massacre?) prune the cedars but that has provided a generous walkway to protect the church windows, eaves troughs and roof. John Upcott also noticed the weeds and grass growing out of the eaves trough above our back porch and safely cleaned the eaves trough. Derek Freeman has continued to mow and trim the grass regularly throughout the spring and summer. He does a good job keeping the church grounds looking very neat and attractive. (I wanted to use the word kempt which I assumed was the opposite of unkempt but couldn't find it in the dictionary).

Lorie Lyons has generously continued to tend the front and back gardens which she planted one and two years ago. The roses and ornamental grasses are lovely in front of the Memorial Garden and all the other flowers, plants, shrubs and trees are beautiful as well. The church gardens and lawn are well cared for and the church definitely looks as if it is, or we are, still in business and definitely not abandoned. Lorie Lyons and John Upcott keep the birds bath in the back gardens filled for our feathered friends, birds.

Neighbours watch our church in our absence. Monday I spoke with Sue Parker who was walking past the church with her little dog and had noticed we hadn't been attending church. She lives in a house on Thompson Crescent and finds the neighbourhood refreshingly quiet compared to their previous home on Pelee Island. Tina Martens, across the street, keeps an eye on the church and gave news of Mr. Hummel and his property prior to his moving to hospital and then nursing home. It is good to know others watch over the church in our absence.

In the interim we attend church services and meetings via Zoom, or read Reverend Rod's sermons online or receive them via Canada Post.

Just wanted to inform you in the event you also miss the church, the gardens and perhaps, most of all, the people including Reverend Rod and Sarah, who once upon a time attended and will again.

Helen Moore

Membership and Publicity

During the summer your membership committee has been busy. We have been meeting virtually monthly. I am pleased to announce that Trudy Ware has joined us and that Carol Hylton is coming onto the committee as an advisor as we ramp up for our celebrations for the 140th celebrations. The celebrations will be all year long starting on Sunday, November the 8th and continue with special events and feature items all the way through to September 19, 2021 which is the closest Sunday to the 140th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone. The original cornerstone was laid on September 21, 1881 and is still in place today. The service on November 8th will be a virtual service and if you currently are not joining us virtually through Zoom you may want to consider trying it. [See the article on next page for help on how use Zoom for Sunday Services.](#)

We are hoping that the celebration event planned for September 2021 will be an in-person celebration but in the meantime we believe that you will find all the celebrations and commemorations to be uplifting, fulfilling and truly honouring our past while we plan for the future of our church.

Perhaps you would like to follow along with the hymns during our virtual services or read and reflect upon one of the readings contained within our hymnals. If you haven't yet, but would like to borrow a hymnal from the church for your use, please contact Rev. Rod or myself and we will safely get a copy to you.

I'd also like to remind everyone that its always a good time to update or provide your emergency contact information for Rev. Rod's use in the event of a serious emergency. Kindly consider connecting with either Rev. Rod or Toni Janik for the form entitled "Congregant Emergency Contact Form."

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

Toni Janik
Membership and
Publicity Trustee



Caring Committee Report

In many ways, September feels like the busiest time of the year. The kids go back to school, work piles up after the summer's dog days, and Thanksgiving is suddenly upon us.

Many thanks to all for reaching out with shut-ins and congregants living alone, either by e-mail or phone conversations, during this unsettled time of covid isolation.

It is with sincere condolences to announce the passing of our friend Don Dotzert on June 09th. Our sympathies to Sylvia and family. Also my step-sister Theresa Subity, who passed away Aug.20th; she often attended our church bake sales. May they both rest in peace.

Leona Crowder and I had the privilege of having a short visit with Tina Bell on her 104th birthday on Sept.4th; we extended our best wishes.

Just a reminder, the caring committee is here for you if you wish to connect. You are all important to us and remember, be strong because things will get better. It may be stormy now, but it never rains forever; until we meet face to face be safe All.

Submitted by,
Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

Connecting with your Community, Technologically Speaking

These strange and hazardous times have put our ingenuity and resolve to the test. Taking proper care of yourself apparently requires isolation. Ugh. Forgoing personal contact with your friends and your community. Our church has online events using Zoom but that's obviously impossible because coping with computers requires magical skills only possessed by your grandchildren.

Or is it?

Suppose you had a friend. Who was patient. Who knew how to do it. Who could set it up. Who could walk you through the steps. Who would write down the steps. Who you could phone if you forget the steps and lose the paper where they're written down. Who could advise you about your choices. Who knows you're not made out of money. Who does it because they want to help you. Because they care about you. And about the church community. Because that's what being of service to humanity means. We set people up with Zoom. We'd LOVE for you to join us online. Give us a call.

Ray Stone
519-796-2702
Member, Technology Team

Bobbie Baylis
519-738-2118

CHURCH ARCHIVES SCRAP BOOKS

MESSAGE TO ALL ABOUT A PROJECT THAT IS BEING DONE FOR OUR ARCHIVES SCRAP BOOKS.

There are many photos and items in previous period scrap books that include the names of our people. This is mainly the last 40 years. It would be good if there could be a bit of history of these people who have been so dedicated and contributed so much of their time in various ways. Being recognized with a story would be a wonderful addition to our Church history. Many of you have participated in the functions of our Church in various ways and YOU are the reason we will be celebrating our 140th Anniversary.

A scrap book is being made titled:

HERE WE ARE - 140 YEARS LATER

*The scrap book will contain various information, articles etc. from this upcoming year. I hope we have some photos of events during this next year. NOW, **This is the part of the project where you can help me.***

I am requesting that you write up an article about YOU (or as a couple) that includes your family if that is the case. This can be a brief article, paragraph or page, whatever it takes. Some info you might include: If you were born into the Church and your parents or relatives were involved and what they did in the Church can be included. Anyone who came to Olinda, where you came from, geographically and religiously. When you joined us, what attracted you to Olinda and what keeps you coming. What activities you have undertaken in the Church over these years. Any other info you might wish to share and leave for future people.

YOU ARE ALL IMPORTANT AND THE REASON THE CHURCH IS HERE TO CELEBRATE OUR 140TH.

It will be appreciated if you can do this article as soon as it works for you so I can assemble all your writings.

Please email (or mail) your story to me; my contact information is in our Church Directory. Please identify in the subject of your email 'Scrap Book Project' - that will be helpful. I thank all of you.

Carol Hylton, Archives

Revised By-Laws

In order to conform to the requirements of Incorporation, our By-Laws need to contain elements in the Model By-Laws for Non-Profit Corporations. The committee doing the revision (Steve Brennan, Helen Moore, and Bobbye Baylis) is adhering to the following ground rules:

- The new By-Laws must conform to the order of individual items as set out in the model by-laws for federally incorporated non-profits.
- They must conform to the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. For example, at the Annual Meeting the Members will elect Directors who will sit on a Board of Directors, as opposed to our present nomenclature: Board of Trustees, etc.
- All details in our present By-Laws (last amended in 2018) will be included in the revised By-Laws, except where change is required to conform to corporation rules.
- Nothing in the revised By-Laws will conflict with other documents, such as Rod's Letter of Call or the package submitted to the Federal Department for Corporations.
- These By-Laws must be approved at a special meeting of the Members and also must be submitted to Corporations Canada Innovation, Science & Economic Development, Canada. If we amend them, the same process must be followed and will cost us \$200 each time. Hence, following the advice of Margaret Kohl, the pro-bono lawyer helping us, we have kept the By-Laws as general as possible, with some details moved to a Governance Document, which will not be as difficult to modify as needed.
- Because we wanted to include as much of the original By-Laws as possible, we did include details that we felt will not need to be changed at any time in the future, at least not soon.
- The committee felt that this was not the time for a complete re-write of the By-Laws. That would have required assembling the various committees and much discussion with a wider group of people, as was done when these By-Laws were written in 1984. It did not seem feasible to do this without face-to-face meetings. So these By-Laws are simply a combination of the model (which in some places is written in legalese), our previous By-Laws, and the incorporation documents.
- We are checking with Margaret Kohl at each stage of the development of these By-Laws, so we can be assured that the end product will satisfy the government.

Special attention has been taken to assure that these revised By-Laws reflect our long-standing traditions, for which we have great respect.

Bobbye Baylis
Member, By-LawsTeam

National Forest Bathing Week

The week of September 20-26 has been declared “Canadian National Forest Bathing Week.”
This year’s theme is “Healthy Forests - Healthy Future”

Forest bathing is the latest health trend—but what exactly is it, anyways? Translated from the Japanese term *shinrin-yoku*, forest bathing is also known as forest therapy. It’s kind of like hiking through the forest. It’s kind of like meditating amongst the trees. Yet it’s not exactly either. This growing activity can be a simple walk outdoors, either in your own backyard, in a park or wooded area. The benefits are plentiful. Vitamin “Nature” can help uplift one’s mood, lower stress, create a sense of peace and relaxation . These are but a few of the positive side effects of time with nature. Even viewing a picture of nature can be good for our health.

Many find that this one of the best stress relievers and techniques for finding balance and a sense of peace in their day to day lives. Think I’ll go for a walk this week in a forest near our home.

For more information here are a couple of websites :

<http://www.cif-ifc.org/national-forest-week/>

<https://naturecanada.ca/news/blog/quarantine-cabin-fever-how-getting-into-nature-can-help/>

<https://theheartofontario.com/article/forest-bathing-101-4-reasons-to-take-a-woody-walk/>

