

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
January 2021



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Jan. 3	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Beyond Expectations</i> With Advent gone past, new seasons of expectation are before us, as the coming months may reveal a new sense of life.	Ray Stone, Bill Baylis
Jan. 10	Elizabeth Ha	<i>Justicia for Migrant Workers</i>	Lorie Lyons
Jan. 17	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Uncomfortable Conversations</i> We sometimes hesitate to delve into some deep conversations because the topic is unfamiliar, or we may be afraid to make a mistake in how we talk about it. But if we find people or places that reassure us that it's OK to lean into difficult topics - however imperfectly - then uncomfortable conversations can strengthen meaningful connections.	Toni Janik
Jan. 24	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Long Haul</i> About a month into the new year, we might wonder how exactly this year differs from the previous one. Even with major changes, a lot might feel the same for another while. Where do we fit in in the story of this new year'?	Lorie Lyons
Jan. 31	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>France is Bacon</i> "Knowledge is power", but there are some questions we are not sure how to ask, either because we might not have the words we need, or because others don't share that language with us. This can lead to misunderstandings, and it can also invite further contemplation.	Toni Janik
Feb. 7 12:30 pm	CUC National Service	<i>A Faith Worth Failing For</i> We often talk about Unitarian Universalism as a transformational faith - and yet to be transformed means to take a risk. How is it that we are adverse to taking such risks when it comes to widening the circle of who we are as a community? Join Revs. Shana Lynngood and Samaya Oakley for a service that explores how we've failed and how we can learn from those failures to become the transformational faith we proclaim to be.	CUC

*There will be no services in the church building 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 UUOlin-da.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

Happy New Year to all and Welcome to 2021!

In the past month two important church membership meetings were held.

At the first meeting, the church membership passed the fiscal budget for the current 2021 year, a budget that was developed to provide financial oversight for a year that will continue to be heavily influenced by the COVID pandemic.

At the second meeting, the church members voted to adopt the NEW bylaws under which the church, as a federal corporation, will now be operating. These new Bylaws are the culmination of ten months of intense work, effort and volunteer time put in by the Bylaw Committee, under the leadership of Bobbye Baylis.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the board and all the various committee members for their hours of volunteer work that went into preparing these documents over the last ten months, documents that have now become an integral part of UU Olinda moving forward.

Together with the passing of the new bylaws, the Nomination Committee for 2021 was approved and will now be reaching out to the congregation for members to step into Director Positions. Under the new bylaws, Directors will be nominated and appointed to the board by the congregational membership at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Following their appointment, the Directors will then decide amongst themselves what positions they will fill on the executive. There are five required positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Finance Committee chairperson.

It is with regret that I inform the community that I am removing my name from standing for one of the Director positions and, as a result, from the position of President. When I accepted both the nomination and the resultant election to the President position last February, 2020, I did so with the intention of fulfilling a much longer term commitment than one year. However, in the last ten months several unforeseen changes occurred within my personal life and Kathy's and my family life that now necessitates I prioritize these areas and be more available to each of them. At the same time, with the advent of COVID impacting the church since early March, 2020 and the ongoing increase around due diligence necessary from all board members within their positions, I do believe I cannot do justice to the current requirements of the position.

I invite any church member who would consider the President position to express their interest to myself and/or the members of the Nomination Committee. Your inquiries would be welcomed.

As we move closer to the Annual Congregational Meeting in March and the start of the new church year, I wish you all good health, safe living and a continued sense of community within Olinda.

Respectfully,
Stephen Brennan,
Board President.

Clergy Connection

Even as the new year 2021 is still young, January has already proven quite eventful – reminding us that the difficult legacies of 2020 continue to shape our present. The struggle to preserve democratic processes remains vitally important, reminding us that it takes work, and a commitment to truth, to uphold the wellbeing of our communities. Lessons from abroad affect us across borders. The same is true for the need to take advice from health professionals to heart.

Although we are only a couple of weeks in, this month has been difficult in our shared communities, and it is okay to recognize the complicated feelings that can come with these times. Along with anger and sadness, it is also possible to leave space for those things that bring us joy and a sense of hope. And even though the Advent season of expectation is behind us, we can look expectantly toward the possibilities of 2021, including the increased likelihood of in-person gatherings some time into this new year. This is a cautious optimism... and I expect it will still take some time.

One way that we're renewing the spirit of fellowship outside of Sundays includes the revival of our traditional **Soup Meal Fundraiser** – with a virtual twist. This includes full meals, with several soup options, from Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson (details on page 10). You can **pre-order by Friday, Jan. 15**. The meals will be available on Tuesday, Jan. 17 by contactless pick-up, and you can enjoy them at home. You can eat them any time or join in fellowship by **Zoom on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 6 pm**. We'll have a few "virtual tables" in Zoom rooms. I'm particularly interested in the dill pickle soup, but there are four options available, so get the ones that appeal to you the most!

I appreciated the thoughtful discussion and small group community-building that I saw in our **Adult RE** program *What Matters Now*, which ran from Nov. 11 to Dec. 9. We explored a number of current topics, delved deeper into the practice of a covenant group, and found spaces for further growth and personal development. The Lifespan Religious Education Committee will explore opportunities for further adult programming, possibly in late winter or spring, and I expect it will offer another space to make sense of our lives and our place in the world.

I was pleased with the generally smooth dynamic at our Budget meeting on Dec. 6, even as we juggled a number of voting options, which was necessary for the sake of inclusion. We also had a momentous meeting on Dec. 20 as we approved our long-awaited revised by-laws. This marks an important step in our incorporation process, and is a witness to many hours of hard work by our volunteers.

February 7 will bring another opportunity to join our Canadian community with a National Service sponsored by the Canadian Unitarian Council, with the theme "*A Faith Worth Failing For*", led by my colleagues, the Revs. Shana Lynngood and Samaya Oakley. We'll work to make this service as accessible as possible to our church members, and I hope to see many of you in that space!

In Solidarity,
--Rev. 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.

Jan. 6 10 am
Membership Committee Meeting

Jan. 14 7 pm
Board Meeting

Jan. 17 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Jan. 17
Non-Financial Annual Reports due.

Jan. 20 6 pm
Soup Meal Fundraiser via Zoom

Jan. 26
February Newsletter Reports Due

Jan. 31
Financial Annual Reports Due

Pandemic Perspectives...Joys & Sorrows

Sadly, a pandemic of global proportions is ravaging not only our country, but the world. It is hard to escape the on-going catastrophe of the pandemic, whether you read the paper, listen to the news or search social media. "Turning it off", literally or figuratively, is a challenge.

Many of us have experienced personal losses that are hard to resolve. There are weddings and birthdays, and funerals we have not been able to attend. We often live in fear, and isolation from our friends and family, our support networks. Some of the things that may have given us joy before are no longer available or accessible, due to border closures, loss of jobs, restaurants closed, breakdowns in supply chains, limitations, restrictions, even illness and death. Time for making lemonade out of lemons, so I've tried using my time constructively cleaning out cupboards, gardening, feeding the birds, training the dogs, doing jig saw puzzles, writing snail mail cards to lonely friends, reading, making soup, finding joy in small things, and now trying to figure out Netflix!

We are likely becoming "numb" to all the input. We have looked to our daily routines for some security and sanity, in what seems to be almost daily chaos and insanity. Even though we do our best to "get outside ourselves" and not "circle the wagons", it is sometimes difficult. We try to help who we can, when we can. I do my level best to be a responsible grown-up, wear my mask, wash my hands, stay 6 ft away from everyone, and not gather in groups. We search for answers, from doctors, scientists, and other learned men/women, for our sources of spirituality and faith to guide us, and for a vaccine that will save us all, yesterday.

I have found myself wondering if I will be blessed to survive this, and if so, where will I "fit" in the midst of the "new world" that is wrestling with itself? I miss hugs, smiles, shaking hands, being able to hear some without masks garbling the words. I get angry at selfish people who put their "rights" ahead of their responsibility to **ALL** of us to not spread the virus.



Some days I don't even want to get out of bed, but on others, I bounce out of bed, full of optimism and hope, comforted and joyful, to have been licked awake by one of our Corgis. The simple things in life! Some days I experience reflection and angst, while searching for a positive angle to this forced incarceration.

(Continued on next page.)

Pandemic Perspectives, Cont'd.

I have noted below some of the issues that I have considered, and I invite you to consider these questions for yourself, ruminate some, then answer them, and, if you wish, share your answers. With your permission, I will author another article/s, summarizing what you have shared with me, from your deliberations. Please forward your comments to any, or all, of the Questions, just include with each "answer" the number of the Question you are answering. Your participation is valued! Look for more in future Newsletters.

QUESTIONS: (During the pandemic.....)

What is something NEW you have learned? Or learned to do?

Name someone, or something, you really miss.

How has this pandemic changed you?

How have you helped someone else? And how has someone helped you?

What now gives you the biggest joy?

What now makes you sad or cry?

What are you most thankful for?

How have you become a better person?

What is the FIRST thing you will do when the pandemic is finally over?

What is your go-to pandemic-relief comfort food?

SEND TO: Judy Carter at jlcarter7@aol.com *no later than Wednesday, January 20, 2021.*

Stay safe and stay well!

Judy Carter

Annual Congregational Meeting

Vote on the Annual Report
Election of 2021 Board of Directors
& Auditing Committee

March 7, 2021

At noon following the Zoom Service
Please attend! We need a Quorum!

Property

The committee wishes everyone a hopeful New Year. While the future is ever so uncertain, there are several issues that we'll be considering in the coming months.

As the Pandemic continues, and the Vaccines are now being introduced and distributed to the local community, the possibility of in-person meetings, or even services in our church building must be considered. While the Board of Directors and the Pandemic Task Force update potential procedures, our committee will be charged to investigate building and service upgrades.

One of these, new type filters for the furnaces, has already been introduced by one of our committee members. Richard Stevenson included his report in the last newsletter. The two church furnaces, one for the sanctuary, and one for the remainder of the church are old, and replacement has been discussed for several years. While funds have been budgeted, only motor replacements have been necessary to maintain their functioning.

The potential new filters that will assist with the purification of the building's air, we understand, do not fit our present equipment. Several people and consultants are reviewing this situation, and will shortly present their recommendations

Previous newsletters have introduced the status of the old red brick building north of our church, on the NW corner of the Olinda Sideroad & 5th Concession. It has fallen into disrepair, and has been condemned as unsafe. The property is to be put on the market, for sale in the future.

Word has it that the two adjacent neighbours will be placing offers to effectively enlarge their properties. In the past our church has also been interested, and the Board will be further discussing the potential purchase, and make recommendations to the congregation in an upcoming meeting.

More to come

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

Coming soon to a Zoom near you: **UnMute** is a forum theatre piece by Theatre of the Beat that addresses the rise of domestic violence and gender-based assault during COVID-19. "While a family's life may seem normal from the other side of the screen, abuse is lurking behind closed doors. Immerse yourself in this important and timely piece that gives audience members the chance to rehearse scenarios for real life." Audiences will learn skills and resources for how they can make a difference. The Leamington Ministerial is sponsoring a Zoom performance of **UnMute** on **Saturday February 20 at 7:30 p.m.** Tickets are free. Registration is limited to the first 100 screens. Priority is given to Leamington / Windsor-Essex community members until January 29, 2021. Representatives of local organizations will be present to discuss questions of domestic violence unique to Windsor-Essex. More details, including how to register will come next week. For more about the show, see www.theatreofthebeat.ca/unmute

Note from the Treasurer

Thanks very much for your generous donations throughout the year. When we prepared the budget for 2020, we assumed that with changing situations in some peoples' lives that there would be a reduction in donations. Following the end of in-person Sunday Services at church on March 15, because of Covid-19, the board also assumed there might be a reduction in donations. Our weekly Sunday Services by Zoom, and Rev. Rod's sermons mailed to those without computers, as well as phone calls and emails, have kept our church community connected.

To our delight, many were able to maintain their level of giving while some increased their donations and exceeded their pledges.

Thank you to all for your generosity in continuing to support our church community financially and by connecting with others.

Helen Moore, Treasurer

Message from Your Nominating Committee

It is that time again when a new Board of Directors and Committee Chairpersons are nominated for the upcoming year.

With the incorporation of our Church and our new Bylaws that were passed by vote in December, these positions have new names, however, the roles remain the same. These nominations will be presented to the Congregation for a vote at our Annual General Meeting.

If you are interested in offering your services to be on the Board, we would like to hear from you. Perhaps you can help the Church grow into the future.

We appreciate your contacting us quickly so you can be considered. Thank you.

Your Nominating Committee

Jane Innerd, Karen Miller, and Cathy Dewhurst, Chair

Membership and Publicity

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of long time member Evelyn Fisher on December 29 2020. She will be truly missed by all.

Copies of our two publications of our history are still available. If you own a copy of Louise Foulds' Book and would like a complimentary copy of Jane Innerd's updated history covering the last 20 years contact Toni Janik to get your very own copy. If you don't already own Louise's book—it's a great read and well worth having your own copy—the 2 book collection is available for a nominal fee of \$15.00. Your order can be placed with either Helen Moore, Bobbye Baylis or Toni Janik and payment can be made by cheque or e-transfer payable to the UU Church of Olinda.

We are excited to announce that Elaine Stevenson and Toni Janik will be hosting a socially distanced fund-raising Soup Meal in January 2021. Each meal will consist of a generous portion of soup, a bun and a dessert. Suggested donation is \$15 per meal. Diners are invited to pre-order as many meals as they would like. Contactless pickup will be on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 from your choice of either Elaine's front porch in Olinda or Toni's porch in Windsor. Rev. Rod has graciously agreed to set up an optional Virtual Dining Experience on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 6 PM. The order form can be found on page 10 in this newsletter. Rather than sending the order form in kindly either call Toni at 519-966-6434 or email djanik1@cogeco.ca with the subject line **January UU Soup Meal** with your order(s). ***Deadline to order your Soup Meal is Friday, January 15th, 2021.***

Toni Janik
Membership and Publicity Chair

Caring Committee Report

January is a time of quiet and new beginnings. It is a perfect time to reflect on how you want to live your life, and to refocus on your priorities and set goals.

The passing of Evelyn Fisher in the last week of the year, was a shock to all even though Ray and Laurie Stone had kept us updated on her condition. We extend our deepest sympathies to all who knew her. Evelyn was an individual that spent a life time helping people fight infectious diseases. She will be sadly missed.

Unlike other years, this past Christmas, the committee was only allowed to do drop off Christmas boxes to the shut-ins due to the covid-19 pandemic. Everything stopped for covid-19 but the caring committee needs to continue to care for church friends and families. If you hear of anyone needing our help, please let's stay connected either by phone or e-mail. As we look to the new year, hold on to what is good. Let go of what is bad. It really is that simple. Kindness is like snow, it beautifies everything it covers.

STAY SAFE EVERYONE!

Submitted by: Linda Upcott



Annual Report Deadlines

Many of you have reports to submit for the Annual Report, which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on March 7. Our new bylaws require that the report be available three weeks before the meeting. This is a large document and takes time to assemble and print, so please try to get your reports to Ray Stone and Bobbye Baylis by the following dates:

January 17

Non-financial Annual Reports due to Ray Stone and Bobbye Baylis

January 31

Financial Reports due to Ray Stone and Bobbye Baylis.

Feb. 14

Annual Reports available for Congregation

March 7

Annual Meeting

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

January Soup Meal Order Form



Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson are thrilled to offer a contactless fund-raising and optional social dining experience for congregants and friends . Pickup will be on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, and the optional virtual table dining experience will be Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 6 pm. Suggested donation is \$15 per meal. Each Meal will include a generous portion of soup, a bun and dessert.

Please choose one of the following :

Soup: (1) Dill Pickle Vegetarian Soup

(2) Quinoa Veggie (Vegan)

(3) Four Cheese Tortellini (Vegetarian)

(4) Beef Barley

Dessert: Apple Pie Square—Please choose (A) Regular OR (B) Sugar-free

Please Choose Pickup Location:

(A) Elaine's front porch Olinda OR (B) Toni's front porch Windsor

Pickup time—Tuesday, January 19 from 10 AM to 6 PM

Please specify what time you would like to pickup.

If you require pickup outside of these hours please call Toni.

Payment can be made at the time of pickup by Cash or Cheque payable to the UU Church of Olinda.

To Place Your Order(s) - Call Toni at 519-966-6434 or email her at djani-k1@cogeco.ca .

CUC Pastoral Letter from Rev. Anne Barker

January 7, 2021

We write, as Unitarian Universalists, concerned by the frightful political uprising and events occurring in the US this week. Our spirits are with all who are impacted, and we share anger, frustration, and fear around these threats.

Many Canadian Unitarian Universalists have roots in, or close ties to, the US, and many Americans live among us. We appreciate how alarming this must be, to see a rogue militia storm the Capitol building while the Senate meets to confirm the Electoral College vote. To have these events fueled and interfered with by a sitting president is not something we recognize as democracy. And, unfortunately, we are not entirely surprised, given the unchecked rise of extremism, in the US and throughout the world.

Unitarian Universalists are committed to principles of justice and equity, believing in a freedom that comes from honesty, respect, and fair government. We recognize our interdependence and acknowledge that this kind of behaviour could occur anywhere – is occurring in many places – and will require responsible leadership and courageous responses to establish and maintain safe and fair cultures and nations going forward.

As people who are learning about, and bear witness to, the power imbalances within our own country, we recognize the privilege that allowed such an action to take place with so few casualties or arrests. Had the attackers been people of colour or Indigenous, the outcome would likely have been very different.

As people who care about democracy, who respect the hard work and dedication that brought a change in US political representation, we adamantly reject the idea that a defeated government would be held in power by an armed militia of extremists.

These shocking events, and the concerns we hold for the coming days, remind us of our vulnerabilities, and also our responsibilities. The Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, reassured people in her video on January 6, 2021, that “... even when we are afraid, we are strong ...”, and reinforced that “This is long haul work.”

As Unitarian Universalists, we are guided by our connections to purpose, find strength in the dream of beloved community for all, and are determined to be of meaningful service. It is hard to know, in this moment, how we are called to respond – but we are listening, learning, and eager to support a healthy, transformative justice.

United in love, we offer expressions of solidarity, compassion, care, and concern to all and most especially to those who have close ties to the United States. May all that nurtures and sustains you be plentiful in this time. May we be a source of support and strength, in any way possible. May the wisdom and grace of our better natures rise up to meet this occasion – and to whatever follows next. May a better, stronger democracy prevail.

We are in this together. We see you. You are not alone.

In faith and solidarity,

Rev. Anne Barker, Minister Unitarian Church of Edmonton

On behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada and the Canadian Unitarian Council