

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 2021

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Sept. 12	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>The Humours</i> - In ancient Greek philosophy, four bodily liquids were regarded as the source of our different moods. Our understanding of emotions is different now, but we may still use water to recognize the feelings that come at this threshold of time in our community and the world.	Lorie Lyons
Sept. 19	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Upon This Stone</i> - Just about 140 years ago, our church founders set our building's cornerstone in Olinda. We have built upon it – and beyond it – an enduring community of faith proclaiming the good news of radical inclusivity.	Bill & Bobbye Baylis & Ray Stone
Sept. 26	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Seeds of Growth</i> - Our church has experienced growth of many kinds over the past couple of years. Among these are new and returning members, who have joined in engaging with our community of faith	Toni Janik
Oct. 3	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Accounting for Theologians</i> - The practice of accountability can seem daunting or perhaps vague. What does it mean to be accountable within our covenants?	Bill & Bobbye Baylis

Special Congregational Meeting

Vote on Motion to Repair the Roof
at a Cost Not to Exceed \$14,000.
September 26, 2021
at noon following the Zoom Service

*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 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.

A Note from the Treasurer

Thank you for your continuing donations during June, July and August which are usually our quieter months for donations.

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 2022 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. Note that all meetings will be virtual (via Zoom) unless we are notified otherwise.

Date	Time	Description
Oct. 17	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 Committee members are requested to attend to answer questions.
Oct. 24		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. 7	After Church, via Zoom	Meeting of the Finance Committee to approve the Budget.
Nov. 11	7 PM (via Zoom?)	Board Meeting at which Budget will be presented for approval.
Nov. 21	Before Church	Copies of the budget will be available to the congregation for review.
Dec. 5	After Church (via Zoom?)	Congregational Budget meeting.

See you there!

Bobbye Baylis, Finance Trustee

Clergy Connection

This was an eventful summer – I hope that, among all the happenings, you have found some time for renewal! I had a good mix of resting time, some limited travel and family visits, as well as some opportunities for professional development.

As is announced in this Newsletter, the Board decided earlier in August to postpone returning to full in-person services for the time being. I want to affirm my support for that decision and that it is in line with many of our congregations across Canada. This decision leaves some space for making some limited use of our sanctuary during services, and we'll be experimenting with this setup in the coming weeks, subject to technical and logistical considerations.

Of course, this means that the celebration of our **building's 140th anniversary** on **Sept. 19** will be held with most of you off-site... we will nonetheless seek to include the building in our celebration, as we move toward broadcasting parts of the service from the premises, along with a few participants who offer supporting roles during our services.

September is set to bring us back into the swing of our program year, with our **ingathering** on **Sept. 12**, where we can meditate on the events of the summer and the upcoming year, along with all the emotions that come with this threshold in time. And I expect to offer some space for formally welcoming our **newest members**, on **Sept. 26**.

October and November will offer us a chance to explore some of the themes that have come about with the larger conversation around a proposed 8th principle to accountably dismantle racism and systemic oppression in our communities, leading to a **special meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council on Saturday Nov. 27**. We can also look forward to a **National Sunday Service**, hosted by the CUC on the following Sunday **Nov. 28**.

This year also offers greater possibilities to explore more about our neighbours and their traditions, including having outside clergy visiting for Adult Religious Education units and perhaps even guest speaking opportunities.

Lastly, a note that I am switching my **Sabbath day** back to **Mondays** this year. You're still welcome to e-mail me at any time of the week (I'll check my e-mail again on Tuesday), but I appreciate it if you hold your phone calls or text queries until after Monday. For an absolutely urgent matter, please note the urgency on your voice message, or text, and I can arrange to connect with you. If you're unsure, you can contact Board President Ray Stone, and he may be able to help figure out your need.

I am looking forward to the emerging opportunities that we seek to explore in this fall season!

With warm lingering summer regards,
--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.

Sept. 19 10:30 am
140th Anniversary of Laying of Cornerstone

Sept. 26 Noon
Special Congregational Meeting on Roof Repair

Sept. 28
October Newsletter Reports Due

Oct. 3 Noon
Sunday Services Committee Meeting

Oct. 5 7 pm
Governance Document Committee Meeting

Oct. 6 10 am
Membership Committee Meeting

Oct. 10 Noon
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Oct. 14 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Oct. 17 Noon
Finance Comm. Meeting

Membership and Publicity

It is my pleasure to announce that we have 4 new members who have joined our church over the summer months: Patrick Impens, Carmen Smith, Michael Hoffman and Jeff Wyatt. We now have 57 voting members. We look forward to holding a membership ceremony for all those members who have not yet had a membership ceremony in the near future.

The Membership Committee met August 4, 2021 at Toni's home to prepare for the 140th celebration September 19th. The Membership Committee members are Toni Janik, Chair, Bobbye Baylis, Trudy Ware, Helen Moore and Carol Hylton. We discussed at length the pros and cons of 4 different possible way of holding services moving forward. We presented our recommendation and the content of our discussion, listing all the possible scenarios and the pros and cons of each. On the following pages, 5 & 6, you will see the full report that was given to the Board and know that we looked at every possibility.

We created a **Basic Rule: "All of us, including families & friends, are to come out of this alive! We are all vulnerable and/or have loved ones who are, and the creation of COVID variants has not ended. Even fully vaccinated people can be carriers."**

The Board carefully reviewed and discussed our recommendation and voted to continue through September with Zoom Services allowing for the ability to move towards In-Person Services at the Future Recommendation of the Pandemic Task Force.

Please join us via Zoom on September 19th to celebrate our 140th Anniversary of the Laying of our Cornerstone of our Building. This celebration will be the bookend to the beginning of our celebrations which began in November when we celebrated the Founding of our Church. Let us plant the seeds for the future of our congregation.

Toni Janik
Membership Chair

For Your Information

COVID-19 vaccine receipts can be obtained online at covid19.ontariohealth.ca. To download your receipts, check the box that you have read the terms of use, click on Continue. A screen for entering information from your health card will appear. Fill that in and hit Continue. A screen will appear listing your receipts and you can click to download them.

Restaurants & bars, sports venues & gyms, concerts & conventions, etc. are going to start asking people to provide these receipts as proof of vaccine status.

Membership and Publicity Report to the Board

Basic Rule: All of us, including families & friends, are to come out of this alive! We are all vulnerable and/or have loved ones who are, and the creation of COVID variants has not ended. Even fully vaccinated people can be carriers.

Options considered: In-person in the church building, in-person outside, and Zoom with in-person aspect.

(A) In-person in the church:

Rules to be followed: Social distancing (6-foot distance between family units), masks mandatory, no singing, registering attendance prior to service due to limited seating capacity. Attendance open only to those symptom-free. There will be no refreshments. The invitation will include information on registering and lack of refreshments.

Pro:

Congregants want to come together again and are tired of Zoom services. May lose some congregants if they see no end to this.

Opportunity for a Membership ceremony for new members who have signed the book, etc., but never had a service welcoming them. Also to give pins to those who had never received one and have expressed a desire to have one.

Con:

Even fully vaccinated people can serve as carriers of COVID.

Limited seating capacity will require registration and maybe some people will have to be turned away, especially anyone showing up without having registered.

(Capacity to be determined.)

The Anniversary will be the second service after starting this new procedure, giving little time to work out any kinks.

(B) In-person outside (in side yard, north of the church):

Pro (compared to inside). Note that all pros and cons listed above still apply.

Better ventilation, so less chance of virus transmission.

Probably can accommodate more people with chairs instead of pews. (Capacity to be determined.)

Con:

Weather. Would not have option of going inside if rain.

Noisy traffic. This is tomato harvest time.

Interference of wind with any microphones.

Lack of sound system to assure everyone can hear.

Need for registration of attendees even more serious

Need to set up chairs, considering family groups

Difficulty in controlling attendance.

Membership Committee Report to the Board cont'd.

(C) Zoom with in-church component: Rod, Musicians, Choir (?), and Chalice Lighter in the church building, flowers on the altar. Socially distanced and masked when not speaking, playing, or singing. All vaccinated and symptom-free. Possibly would include some dignitaries (CUC officers or ex-ministers) if they came from a distance.

Pro (compared with in-person generally):

Eliminates transmission risk for congregants. Minimal risk for those few in the church building.

Con:

Not very special – almost same as services during this past year

Will have to hand-deliver (or mail) “Seed Cards” and Order of Service, preferably prior to the service.

This discussion focused on September 19 but probably has implications for all of the (at least) September services.

Our Recommendation to the Board: Continue with Zoom Services, and when it can be safely done, move toward having the Minister, Musician(s), Choir, Chalice Lighter inside the church building while having the service live through Zoom. Then gradually, when safe, allow congregants into the building. Timing to be determined by the Government and the Pandemic Task Force.

Membership Committee: Toni Janik, Bobbye Baylis, Helen Moore, Trudy Ware, Carol Hylton



“The Great Divide”: How Did We Get Here?

There are three topics that these days seem to generate a whole lot of emotion, for and against...Masks, Vaccinations, and Donald Trump! Although all three are actually intertwined, I am only going to discuss the two that really deserve our attention, in my humble opinion. It is not my intention, in writing this article to divide us any more that we are already on these topics, but I am taking the opportunity to tell you what I think, and where I'm coming from, as you should be welcome to do as well. On the topics of Masks and Vaccinations, I have learned, painfully so, that I do not know some of my friends and colleagues as I thought I knew them, and that I need to be VERY cautious of everything I say, as innocent as it may seem. I do NOT like this new feeling of “walking on eggs”. And I do NOT like that things that should not be politicised, have become very much so, to many folks. I even find myself guilty of sometimes associating a certain behaviour with a political connection, at least in the USA, where it is a much clearer divide: “Oh, She must be a Republican”. People I expected would be likely to mentor and act in a certain way, like professionals in Health Care, have surprised me with their protests and refusals. I guess I just don't understand how those who work in health care, and have to deal with the ravages of Covid and now the Delta variant, *every single work day*, would hesitate to, or refuse to, protect themselves, their co-workers, their patients, their families, and the community at large, from being infected with the very devil that permeates and stresses their lives at work every day. The same for teachers not wanting to be vaccinated, not wanting to wear masks, and wanting ALL students to be back in a herd, in school...clearly this is a complicated issue, what IS best for the kids? I would think that the very best thing for THE KIDS is to protect them, however possible, from contracting the Virus or the Variant, given that most of them are vulnerable and not old enough to be vaccinated. Not sure the science supports putting sizeable groups of unvaccinated kids in a room, maybe without masks, with teachers and staff of schools not required to be vaccinated and maybe not masked, and hope for the best! And what gives with the flight attendants of many major US airlines having to take self-defence courses to protect themselves from “unruly” passengers, the majority of incidents being related to folks who refuse to wear masks on board, *even though they know in advance that this is mandated*. So they choose to take out their anger on innocent flight attendants whose primary job is to keep them safe on the flight! These are things I don't understand, and probably am not likely to, just as I don't understand why an adult person would pay extra to buy a pair of “stylish” jeans full of holes and tears! There is lots I can't even begin to fathom or understand about how the Great Divide has brought us to where we are today!

There are some things, however that I know for sure! I know that we can not continue to be individual isolated islands, consumed with our “rights” and “freedoms”. Being selfish and irresponsible to your fellow wo/man is not the answer. When my mother was a young adult, Polio was the big Public Health Threat, and folks lined up to get vaccinated, *without* being bribed with money, lottery tickets, trips or other carrots, *because it was the right thing to do!* People then seemed more fearful not only of being infected, but also in being a part in preventing the spread of polio, and had a sense of responsibility to their community to help eradicate the virus. I also know that Social

“The Great Divide” cont’d.

Media is NOT a reliable source of news and information. I am surprised that so many, young and old, think it is. I had a very interesting conversation with a friend who told me the reason she was not going to get vaccinated was because she had read on Facebook that it caused cancer. Clearly not the truth, but she took as gospel. I was taught to look to RELIABLE sources for my news and information, and not just one source, but MANY, so that I can compare viewpoints, talk to others, and boil it all down so I can make an INFORMED decision. She also told me she was NOT going to be wearing a mask, because “no-one was going to tell her what to do!” Bear in mind that I was talking to a 40 something year old ADULT, *not a pouty toddler*. Part of our responsibility as adults is to care about and for each other, as more is expected of us. We need to step up! I also know I am ANGRY at how the choices made by a minority are impacting my life in so many sad ways. This pandemic did NOT need to drag on like this, had folks chosen to do what was right for the bigger community, beyond their own “rights”. We have a good friend who was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor, and has just been transferred to a long-term care facility in the greater Detroit area. She is not likely to live long enough for the US-Canada border to open to non-essential travel, meaning, it is not likely that we will ever get to see her alive again, and be able to give her the hug she so richly deserves. She is only one of MANY relatives and friends we have lost during this pandemic, like all of you, but have not been able to attend their funerals or memorials because of Covid.

The Delta variant of Covid is romping across North America, fuelling a fourth wave of the pandemic. If you thought the worst of the pandemic was over, you were WRONG! Nearly 21, 000 active cases of the virus were reported in CANADA, by Canada’s top public health doctor, last week. That is TWICE what the stats were only two weeks ago! Ontario provincial data tracking shows that nearly 83% of Canadians have had at least one shot and almost 74% are fully vaccinated. Where are the other 26%...still “waiting” to see if they should get vaccinated, or put it off even longer? What IS it they are waiting for? TV news personality Van Jones said recently in a TV interview: “Is this the end of something, or the beginning of something?” The choice belongs to ALL of us. I have managed to reach 72 years old, despite many set-backs, and all the non-vaccinators and non-maskers are putting MY life at risk every day. We ALL have CHOICES, and the choices we make will impact directly on each other far into the future. The power to change this narrative is up to all of us. The large and small choices we make every day, which either keep the pandemic going, or stop it in its tracks, are ever so important.

Judith L. Carter
Comments welcome!

Caring Committee Report

Every new month feels like a bit of renewal, but there's something special about September. Let's not forget cooler evenings, and best of all, there are fewer mosquitoes and other insects to annoy us when we decide to partake in outdoor activities. Welcome everyone from your summer break.

Everything stopped for COVID, but the caring committee needed to continue to care for our church family and friends. Greeting cards were sent for various reasons: to Bradley for having a reaction to the COVID vaccine, to John Smith having heart issues, to Eunice Goyette moving to Seacliff Manor, to Buster Ringrose moving to Royal Oak Nursing Home, to thinking-of-you greeting cards to Laurie Stone and all shut-ins. In July visiting restrictions lifted, so the committee was able to have a face to face visit with retirement and nursing home church families.

Sadly on August 20, 2021 our condolences were extended to the family of Eunice Goyette in the passing of her daughter Ann Marie Goyette. May her family be comforted by her fond memories, and may she rest in peace.

Special thanks to all who helped the committee with staying connected, as the world faces unique circumstances.

Together we are strong, together we can make a difference, together we can show love, and together we can bring peace.

Submitted by,
Linda Upcott

To My Olinda Church Family

A very appreciative "Thank You" to all my friends from the UU Church of Olinda who sent me notes and cards of sympathy at the loss of my beloved daughter, Ann.

She contracted COVID early when it first appeared, and although she was strong enough to fight it off, we believe she really never regained her full health afterwards.

Messages from family and friends have been helpful to all of us especially to me, who along with her father, chose this beautiful baby to begin our family. She has been well-loved for over 68 years. Again, I thank each one of you for your caring and sympathy.

Eunice, and the Goyette family

New address: 30 Seacliff Dr. E, Apt. 422
Leamington, ON
N8H 0E5

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

Remembering Our 125th Anniversary

Along with our celebration for our 125th, we hosted at our church the CUC Central Region Fall Gathering. It was held from Friday to Sunday, November 11 - 13, 2005. Over fifty participants (including youth & children) from UU congregations between Windsor and Peterborough, joined us in our celebration. Many learned for the first time of our impressive history as recounted in the second edition of Louise Foulds' book 'Universalists in Ontario'.

Rev. Christine Hillman gave a momentous church service on Sunday. Wilf Innerd led the Friday service and put our history in perspective. On Saturday the Fall Gathering was held at the Kingsville High School followed by a dinner. Sheron Campbell organized archives and historical displays. Hospitality was organized by Dorothy Brown and Carol Hylton. Saturday dinner was provided by Carmen's Catering along with cold veggie & fruit trays and desserts by the Church Woman's Association. Sunday dinner was a pot luck at the church. Other organizers: Karen Miller, facilities; Joyse Gilbert, billeting and childcare. Bill Baylis along with Trudy Ware and Carol Hylton spruced up the downstairs kitchen by painting it. Others also helped in making the weekend a real success.

Carol Hylton

Property Report

The Board approved at their April & June '21 meetings that the repair of the roof was to proceed, involving the Ridge (horizontal top of Sanctuary roof) shingles, and re-shingling and 'flashing' an area surrounding the existing chimney, and accepting Abe Fehr of Fehrway Roofing's 10 March '21 quote of \$ 762.75.

When Abe visited the roof again to start his work in late June, he identified that additional roof surfaces needed immediate repairs in addition to the previous (a) small Ridge repair near the chimney. Now shingle repair / replacement was required for the b) the east and west facing roof faces over the front entry and Sanctuary, c) the west-facing roof over the kitchen / RE-room, and d) the adding of 'a sheet membrane' on the south-facing roof over the Coffee-Hour dining area, & Tranquility Room to stop winter & spring 'ice dams' that have caused leaking into the rooms below.

Abe has provided a revised quote for this increased scope of work. This increased cost of the roof repair, now approximately \$13,000, is well over the \$2000 limit noted in the bylaws. Therefore a congregational meeting to review, discuss, and potentially accept the new roof repair quote is necessary. By the date of the meeting, there should be additional quotes to consider. It is hoped that the Congregation can agree to let the Property Committee choose the best quote and timing and that this work can be completed before winter storms set in.

The Board has scheduled a Congregational Meeting to approve this roof repair for Sunday, September 26, after church, via Zoom at noon.

Sincerely,
Stuart Miller, Property Chairperson