

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
October 2021



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
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
Oct. 10	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>What We Count On</i> [Thanksgiving] - Some things anchor us in our lives, and keeping stock of these can replenish our awareness of our “wellness accounts”.	Lorie Lyons
Oct 17	TBA		Bill & Bobbye Baylis
Oct 24	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Spending the Allowance</i> - Acting responsibly, with an interest in service to humanity, can seem like a chore when it’s a “rule”... what if it is a possibility?	Toni Janik
Oct 31	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Lamentations</i> - The past couple of years have been an especially difficult time – and source of lamentation. In our annual recognition of Days of the Dead, we honour loss in our communities. Send pictures &/or bring mementos.	Lorie Lyons
Nov. 3	Donovan Hayden	TBA	Baylis-Stone Trio

*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.

Board Report

Fall is upon us, quite possibly my favourite time of year. And while the year has been challenging in many ways, much like the turning of the leaves, the signs of getting back to, or closer to, normal are appearing.

Starting in September we began to have in-person services, for a limited number of people, at the church again. Along with simultaneous on line services for all others. On Sunday, September 26 we welcomed the new members who have joined in the past year with a ceremony at the church. On the previous Sunday, September 19, we celebrated the 140th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the church.

Some needed repairs to the roof of the church will be getting underway soon in order to assure the Archives remain intact and unspoiled for the future.

So with cautious optimism we look forward to increasing the number of people at the in-person services and recapturing the sense of community for which we come together as a congregation. We especially anticipate the social gatherings for which we all look forward to throughout the year. And seeing the faces (in person) once again of those we have all become accustomed to seeing in small boxes on a screen.

Lastly, but not least, let's all send our best wishes to Laurie and Ray Stone for her speedy and successful recovery.

Brent Campbell
Vice President

The Community Meal Program

Last year our Church participated indirectly to this effort under the leadership of Rev Rod. This event takes place at the Leamington United Church each Monday providing a meal to many people in need. Our participation was much appreciated last year so we are asking you to participate again this year.

This is how it works: You issue a cheque to the Leamington United Church, Noting 'Community Meal'. Send the cheque to our Treasurer, Helen Moore. An income tax receipt will be issued to you directly by the United Church. Helen will collect the cheques and send them with a covering letter to the United Church so our Church receives recognition of our group participation.

In lieu of a cheque, if you prefer to do an e-transfer, please contact Helen Moore for the details to e-transfer to the United Church, noting 'Community Meal'. (Do not e-transfer to our Church.) Please mail the cheque or notify Helen of your intent re the cheque or the e-transfer so Helen has the information all by October 31, 2021. ***Thank you for your caring and participation.***

Clergy Connection

It was exciting to celebrate the 140th anniversary of the laying of our cornerstone on Sept. 19, as we took another step in reclaiming our building. We were graced by the presence of Leamington Mayor Hilda Macdonald, Canadian Unitarian Council President Margaret Wanlin, and Central Region CUC Board Member Margaret Kohr, who has previously offered assistance in our incorporation process. We also received greetings and blessings from local communities of faith.

We were also able to welcome our newest members on Sept. 26, at a live service with limited in-person attendance. At this time, only folks who are directly involved in a Sunday service may be on-site, and we hope to make the building more widely accessible once we determine that we can make it reasonably safe for everyone who wishes to attend in person. We'll be evaluating that possibility frequently.

As part of this process, in which we're slowly making more use of our church building, we're also finding some new challenges... this includes discovering the limitations of our current internet capabilities when broadcasting live services from the sanctuary – as many of you observed over the past couple of services. Richard Stevenson helpfully offered some insights into some of the technical aspects we need to consider in seeking upgrades to our internet capabilities. In the meantime, we'll be exploring creative ways to incorporate our home building into the services. On Oct. 3, I will be broadcasting off-site, but featuring the building's space in other ways, and we may broadcast on-site again on Thanksgiving Sunday.

Our Lifespan and Religious Education team will be offering an **Adult RE series** on our neighbouring traditions of faith. Given some recent events, we'll begin our first series by expanding our **understanding of Islam**, with a minimum three-session program in **November** (details to be confirmed). We hope to include a practicing Muslim guest to help us get to know our neighbours better.

We're also offering a brief Sunday afternoon session on **e-security on October 31**, after the service. This is a chance to brush up on ways that we can minimize our risk online from e-scams and fraud. I invite you to stay, even if you already feel comfortable online, as scammers have become quite savvy.

We have set aside **Oct. 13** as an **information and feedback session**, as we continue the conversations around a proposed **8th Principle** to accountably dismantle racism and systemic oppression in our communities. Your feedback will be useful for our delegates when they vote on the proposed principle at a **special meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council on Saturday Nov. 27**.

I will be attending a **CUC Board Retreat Oct. 5-7** and will remain in town, though I'll have reduced availability during the day. On that note, I want to thank everyone for supporting me as I transitioned my sabbath day back to Monday. I look forward to the emerging opportunities that we seek to explore in this fall season!

Warm 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.

Oct. 3 Noon
Sunday Services
Committee Meeting

Oct. 5 7 pm
Tech Team Meeting

Oct. 10 Noon
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

Oct. 13 7 pm
8th Principle Information

Oct. 14 7 pm
Board of Trustees Meeting

Oct. 17 Noon
Finance Comm. Meeting

Oct. 19 7 pm
Governance Document
Committee Meeting

Oct. 26
November Newsletter
Reports Due

Oct. 31 Noon
E-security Session

Nov. 3 10 am
Membership Comm. Meet.

Membership and Publicity

Thank you to my committee members, Bobbye Baylis, Helen Moore, Trudy Ware and Carol Hylton who have worked with me to successfully celebrate our bookend celebration of the laying of our cornerstone 140 years ago. Thanks to everyone for all your positive feedback on our "Seed Cards" with the marigolds which you can plant next spring and enjoy. I am appreciative of all Carol's assistance as we planned our two anniversary celebrations with her experience in the church archives.



Last Sunday we celebrated 6 individuals who have now joined our church as members. This in-person celebration was a joyous occasion as Judy Carter, Anne Purtell, Carmen Smith, Pat Impens, Jeff Wyatt, and Michael Hoffman were formally recognized as members of the UU Church of Olinda. Thank you Rev. Rod for creating a service that was truly memorable. We now have 58 members of our congregation.



If you have been thinking about joining our congregation as member please contact either Rev. Rod or myself if you have questions.

Toni Janik
Membership Chair



Thanks for Membership Ceremony

As exceedingly grateful and blessed participants at the recent New Member Service at the UU Church of Olinda, we would like to thank ALL of those who made this most memorable event possible. In particular, Toni Janik and her Membership Committee, Dan Janik as the Chalice lighter, Toni for the beautiful music, Rev. Rod and Sarah for leading us in the Hymns. Rev. Rod deserves a *super* pat on the back for his delicate dance of hopping and skipping from one place to another, balancing a monitor and/or a microphone, without once tripping over the cords, and without ever missing a beat! As “re-treads”, we are already somewhat familiar with the hard work, creativity, sensitivity and flexibility of all those who made such a challenging service happen. Yes, there were a few small burps along the way, but none of us could probably have done any better at overcoming the over-whelming obstacles that stood in the way of this part in-person, part Zoom Service! Those of us who were invited to attend and participate in this intimate, heart-warming, in-person part of the service commend you for your efforts!

Judith L. Carter and Anne M. Purtell

Social Responsibility Committee Report

You might be interested in receiving notices from the Detroit First UU Film Committee. They send out monthly Zoom links for a preview and for the film and a discussion usually the following evening. Other Michigan UU Churches are involved, and they welcome our involvement. The films are chosen for social justice content and often have a decidedly US slant, but they are eager to include an International component.

Contact Charles King at 1stuu@1stuu.org to get on the emailing list.

The next film is ***Planet of the Humans***, which takes a harsh look at how the environmental movement has lost the battle through well-meaning but disastrous choices.

The film runs for 100 minutes, and will be shown and discussed over Zoom, starting at 7 pm on Sunday, October 10th. The director of the film, Jeff Gibbs, will be the guest speaker during the discussion, which will follow immediately after the viewing. The discussion should run for about an hour, after the film. The zoom session will open 15 minutes early for socializing before the start at 7 pm.

Join the meeting here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82979390595> There will be a Q&A session with the director after he speaks.

See you at Noon on October 10 for the next Social Responsibility Committee Meeting,
Bobbie Baylis, Secretary SRC

How We Spent Our Summer Vacation 2021

Some of you more “mature” individuals probably recall when your teacher asked you, on one of the first days of school, to write a narrative about what you did during your summer vacation, in those days, typically the months of July and August. During the Pandemic, with everything turned upside down, we were indeed fortunate to even be able to orchestrate a short 10 day vacation away. We arranged to rent a “rustic cottage” up at the campground where we last had our RV parked for the season, in beautiful Oliphant, Ontario, 10 miles west of Wiarton, at the base of the Bruce Peninsula. One of our big blessings was to be able to connect with friends Joan and Mary, along with their two pups, who motored all the way from Winnipeg Beach, Manitoba, in their campervan, to spend a few days with us, at the start of a whirlwind visit to friends and family in SW Ontario. Joan and I used to work together in Toronto. However, after we both completed law school in 1982/1983, we both relocated, me to Windsor, and she to Winnipeg, although we kept in touch thanks to email, we had not SEEN each other in 37 years, we calculated. In some ways, our first meeting was like we had never missed a beat, and in other ways, it was like we were hooking up with complete strangers. Physically, we both looked much like the “old days”, just a bit grayer and hopefully a bit wiser. We had LOTS of catching up to do, and a short time to do it, and get to know her partner Mary, whom we had never met. Hours of *super* enjoyable and interesting conversations passed, and before we knew it, their three days were up. It was great to have such spontaneous laughter and memories, and to make new ones. Perhaps the most memorable thing for all of us was that, as fully vaxed folks, we felt safe hugging each other warmly and often, engaging in conversations comfortable without masks, making it easy for me to participate, as I could again lip read *and* even hear some of the conversation! We have promised to connect again soon, perhaps in Manitoba this time!

While at the campground, we had opportunity to say “goodbye” to our friend John, a card player friend from the campground, who had a valiant battle with cancer, but lost the fight just weeks before we arrived up north. We had hoped to see him in person, one more time. I did, however, say goodbye to him “in spirit”, and asked whoever is in charge to keep him safe and well. Every morning at dawn at the campground over the years, I would take one of our Corgis down to the shore of the small lake we were on, greet the day, and thank the Lake for all our blessings. I was able to do this several mornings with both Chanel and Oscar while there, and gave thanks for the blessing and privilege of having known John, and to personally see other dear friends. We had opportunity to also connect with friends from Ottawa, whom we used to see only once a year, up north, as their family has a cottage in Sauble Beach, nearby. Again warm hugs, great conversation and food was the order of the day. Several other times, we were able to go over to see our 80 something year old friend Florence, who was up at her trailer, at a nearby campground. I found

Summer Vacation 2021, Cont'd.

myself almost crying, realizing how some of the *most important things in our lives* had been sadly missing...in person human contact, embraces and conversation, without fear or discomfort. Fortunately ALL of the friends we connected with were fully vaccinated people, who share a respect for the people and community outside themselves. One of the other blessings we realized, was "Heat". I mentioned earlier that this was a "rustic" cottage, meaning no heat or AC. The lack of heat, on atypical 7 or 8C mornings was a challenge! We improvised by turning on the oven (electric) when we got up and made coffee, which took a bit of edge off the number of layers we had to wear until we warmed up a bit. A trip to Walmart in Port Elgin for more blankets helped some too. We tried to keep a sense of humour about this inconvenience! When we arrived home, refreshed, we were greeted with the sad news that two other friends, VERY significant in our lives, one in Florida and one in Michigan, both now in hospice care, were in the last days of their lives. Paradoxically, one was fighting so hard to overcome the diagnosis of an inoperable brain tumour, and the other has chosen to hasten her demise, by not participating positively in her care, we suspect due to financial issues. She has chosen this to be her time. Sadly, we have no control over either situation. With the border closed, and both living in high variant areas, we will not be able to attend a memorial or funeral service for either. No doubt many of you have been in that very situation over the past two years. Our hearts ache. So be sure to hug AND appreciate all your friends and family, as you are able. You never know when they might not be with us any more.



So, all in all it was a summer, and vacation, of hills and valleys of emotion, and a wakeup call as to what is REALLY important to us and our lives!

Judith L. Carter

Comments welcome!

A Note from the Treasurer

Thanks for your ongoing donations by cheque and e-transfer. I especially appreciate your offerings since we have not had in-person services, except for a few invited people on September 19 and 26, since March 15, 2020.

Today I called Children's Aid Society asking about Christmas sponsorship of families. CAS will have their first meeting on September 29 so we are early in asking. I've requested, as usual, 2 families with the greatest need, preferably living in the county, with a few children under 6. Once we have been assigned families, I'll let you know more about them. If you wish to make a donation to support sponsored families, please write a cheque or e-transfer, indicating that the donation is for Christmas families. Thanks to John and Linda Upcott who have again offered to shop for the families.

Helen Moore
Treasurer

Finance Trustee Report

On October 17 after church, we start the process of creating our 2022 Budget with an open Finance Committee meeting via Zoom. This follows the "coffee hour" discussion that follows the church service and anyone interested in the budgeting process is welcome. Just stay on-line or, if you take a break after the service, rejoin using the same Zoom link.

Bobbye Baylis
Chair, Finance Committee

Governance Document Committee Report

This is just a short note to notify the committee that the meeting has been postponed by the Chair until October 19 at 7 pm. I apologize, but the Tech Team is very busy looking into internet options for the church at this time and I cannot start preparing the documentation for this committee until the church internet issue is resolved. Which needs to be soon!

Thank you to all of you who have sent "job descriptions" to me. There will be lots of material to look at on October 19 and we can make a good start on creating the Governance Document!

Bobbye Baylis
Chair, Governance Document Committee

Caring Committee Report

The leaves have begun to change colours and fall which means winter is just around the corner. But until then, let's enjoy the beautiful colours and crisp air that fall brings.

The lovely yellow roses tipped in red which decorated the front of the church for the 140th anniversary, were shared amongst the shut-ins and seven arrangements were delivered and much appreciated by all.

Special thinking of you thoughts to Laurie Stone and sending her strength filled with warmth and care as she recovers from her procedures.

A cheery autumn hello to all in retirement homes, nursing homes, or just at home, until we meet face to face, wishing all a wonderful Thanksgiving and remember, "The more you practice the art of thankfulness, the more you have to be thankful for." Quote from Norman Vincent Peale.

Submitted by,
Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Eunice Goyette

June Blacker

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

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.

News Flash: Save the Date!

Labour Council is excited to partner with Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre of Windsor. They are co-hosting a Zoom event with The Honourable Murray Sinclair as the keynote speaker. Mr. Sinclair has had a wide ranging work life that includes being the chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. His talk is titled: *The Truth is Hard, Reconciliation is Harder*. The event will be on Thursday December 9th at 6:30-8:00pm. They are inviting us to register. More details to come later.

Property Report

At a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September, the following motion was passed: “The Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda agrees to authorize the Property Committee to organize the repair of the church’s roof for a cost not to exceed \$14,000.”

Only one quote was received when the job was quite small, but it is anticipated that there will be more roofers interested now that it is a job big enough to warrant bringing the equipment out to the church, even from Windsor. Hence it is expected that at least two more quotes will be available before this job is sourced by the Property Committee. Nonetheless the job is expected to be completed “before the snow flies.”

Sincerely,
Stuart Miller, Chair, Property and
Bobbye Baylis, Chair, Finance Committee

Technical Team Report

Unfortunately, the present wireless service from Rogers is proving inadequate for supporting a Zoom service. In particular, the upload speed is too slow to provide good audio and video quality. The team has researched other available services suggested by Richard Stevenson, and will be investigating the following:

Wave Direct requires an antenna on the church with line-of-sight view of their tower. Various Download/Upload speeds are available; they recommend a specific package (10 Down and 10 Mbps Up, unlimited data) which is discounted for a church. Costs for reasonable choices range from \$90 to \$100 per month.

Xplornet also requires an antenna. They have various plans but recommend for a church their 25 Download, 2.5 Upload package with a 350 GB data cap that costs \$60 per month.

Both offer a month’s free trial to make sure the service works for our purpose.

The Committee is meeting this coming Tuesday, October 5, at 7 pm, to discuss this and other options and to decide on a procedure.

Many thanks to Richard, for sharing his research into the area internet services and for agreeing to join the committee on this project.

Bobbye Baylis
Technical Team Member