

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 December 2021

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Dec. 5	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Reconciling with Indiana Jones</i> - Some films age better than others... This is especially true if our values and understandings of the world have shifted, which can reveal different layers to our favourite movies.	Toni Janik
Dec. 12	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>How Do You Draw Your Stars?</i> - Around this time of year, the image of a star adds to the atmosphere of the season, and we might draw one here and there. It turns out, people have different ways of drawing a star... how do you draw yours?	Baylis Duo
Dec. 19	Olivia Brezeanu	<i>Lend a Hand to Build a Welcoming Community</i> - Chief Executive Officer of Windsor Women Working With Immigrant Women (W5) introduces W5's history and current services.	Lorie Lyons
Dec. 24 5 pm	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Starlight Songs - Christmas Eve Service</i> - Join us for an evening of carols and for reliving the Christmas Story.	Lorie Lyons
Dec. 26	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Winter Fuel</i> - On the Second Day of Christmas, we explore the tradition and theology of Boxing Day, along with its lore and music. Stay at home for the holiday and join this service online and by mail.	Toni Janik
Jan. 2	TBA	TBA	Baylis Duo

*There will be no services in the church building **except by personal invitation** 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

November is coming to a close, as we remember those who came before us and their efforts and sacrifices so that we may be where we are today. And while the December weather may be turning to the worse for now, it leaves us with the better days of next year and spring to look forward to.

The Property Committee has been busy investigating the major roof repairs needed for maintaining the roof integrity in order to be able to get through the winter months ahead. With the remainder to be completed in the new year, ensuring we will have a building to return to.

The Tech Committee continues its efforts to improve our connectivity from the Church. Not the easiest of tasks considering our rural location, but they are working to ensure our members who may not be able to attend in person can still be present in another form.

As well we are welcoming more new members to the congregation, with a ceremony to be held in December for our newest.

So for until we meet again:

*Oh, that a man might know
The end of this day's business ere it come!
But it sufficeth that the day will end,
And then the end is known.
If we do meet again, why, we shall smile.
If not, why then this parting was well made.*

(Julius Caesar, Act 5, Scene 1)

Brent Campbell, Vice President

Governance Document Committee Report

At their meeting on November 16, the GDC approved the job descriptions of the Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer,) which had been discussed at the previous meeting.

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the following were discussed then passed:

1) Finance Committee, and 2) Caring Committee.

The ToR for the Property Committee was tabled until the next meeting because too much editing was required to separate the duties of the Committee from the duties of the Chair. The ToRs of the following will also be discussed at the next meeting, on December 14:

- Social Responsibility
- Committee on Shared Ministry
- Library and Archives
- Technical Committee
- Membership & Publicity

It was decided that job descriptions for the Minister and the Lay Chaplain were not appropriate to include in the Governance Document.

Bobbie Baylis, Chair of the Governance Document Committee

Clergy Connection

We are getting a better handle on what it means to hold “building broadcasts” and we are now beginning to offer priority access to a small group of congregants for whom the online options are inaccessible or impractical – this is an exercise in improved inclusion for these members of our community. After more than a year riding the learning curve of Zoom, we’re finding other smaller learning curves on the logistics of hosting a live broadcast in conjunction with people in the building, including our volunteers who support the service and our members who have access priority.

This experience will be especially useful as we consider what multi-platform services with a fuller in-person attendance will look like, and I expect we’ll find incremental wisdom on making these run more smoothly and as inclusively as possible.

The Lifespan Learning team has begun offering an online Adult Religious Education program featuring learning of Islam and our Muslim neighbours, with a planned guest appearance from local Imam Muhammad Abuelezz, from Rose City Islamic Centre in Windsor, who is eager to have an interactive dialogue session with us. If you missed this opportunity, we hope to expand our *Getting to Know Our Neighbours of Faith* series in the new year.

Café hours are back! I am generally offering these on Thursdays, alternating between afternoon and early evening. I have started to experiment with the new online platform called *Topia*, which has a more organic feel for drop-in online interactions. I’ve had a few successful trials and we might give this platform more time to explore.

I attended a review session of **Church and Charity Law** hosted by the Carters Law firm on Nov. 4. I was also invited to be a chaplain for the CUC-hosted event **CommUUnities and Mental Health Matters** on Nov. 6. I was grateful to have met with my colleagues in-person for the first time in over a year on Nov. 23 in Mississauga.

On Nov. 27 a **Special Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council** was held, in which delegates representing Canadian UU congregations voted 95% in favour of adopting an **8th Principle**, covenanting to affirm and promote: “Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions”.

This was part of a set of weekend events that also included a Regional Gathering Nov. 26, a celebration of the CUC’s 60th anniversary Nov. 27, and a National Sunday Service Nov. 28 led by UU Youth and Young Adults.

Warm regards,
--Rev. Rod

Important Dates

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

Dec. 1 10:30 am
Membership Comm. Meet.
In-person at the Janiks’

Dec. 1 6 pm
Adult RE Class, #2

Dec. 5 Noon
Congregational Budget Meeting

Dec. 8 7 pm
Adult RE Class, #3

Dec. 12 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Dec. 14 7 pm
Governance Document
Committee Meeting

Dec. 16 7 pm
Board of Directors Meeting

Dec. 19 Noon
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

Jan. 4
January Newsletter
Reports Due

Jan. 5 10 am
Membership Comm. Meet.

“Happy Holiday: As Seen By A Dog”



Allow me to introduce myself: my name is Chanel, I am a 3 ½ year old cute Pembroke Welsh Corgi...not just a DOG, but *Royalty*. As you may know, Queen Elizabeth has been a fancier of Pembrokes for decades, as are many other “horse people.” We were originally bred to herd sheep, goats, and cattle through the pastures, to and from the corrals or barns. Now, our primary motivation is herding our Masters to where they ought to be. If you feel our whiskers on the back of your legs, you know we are doing our job. There are no limits to our mandate, doesn’t matter if you’re busy in the bathroom, or busy trying to sleep. Our Masters think they

are “in charge,” and we just let them think that. We are smarter than most people you know, something that is proven more times than you’d think, as well as curious, faithful, yet can be aloof, if we think you are not paying enough attention to us. I live in a very loving home with my two owners, Anne and Judy, a modest vintage Shaker style house with a large yard, in Amherstburg, along with younger brat brother Oscar....well, you know how boys are. I’ve been in charge of this troop for over two years, and one of my favourite pastimes is observing their behaviour, just like you might enjoy “people watching” at the Food Court. Humans can be amazingly creative, funny and teachable, through to the other extreme of being amazingly boring, sometimes unpleasant to each other, routine and tradition driven folks. I love to lay on my back and pretend I am asleep and watch the day unfold, punctuated by times when Oscar and I get “put out” into the snow, rain, wind or possibly other adverse weather conditions, to empty our tanks.

The Holiday, as I call them, can be particularly humorous and odd. Not to dismiss the obvious religious importance of Christmas, for a significant number of people, but I am going to comment on what seems to be a significant focus of many people I have observed. The first thing I don’t understand is why The Holiday seem to start so darn EARLY. In late summer, we begin to hear references to The Holiday! At the Dollar and other stores, they still have oodles of Halloween items for sale in early October, when suddenly (our) Thanksgiving and Christmas items flood the aisles. TV ads are trying to “normalize” earlier shopping and a frenzied kind of aura. This year in particular, with COVID impacting the “Supply Chain,” as they call it, folks are encouraged to “get out early,” and/or shop online NOW to find whatever, before the stores all run out. I am hopeful that the squeaky toys that Oscar and I love to tear apart, are not sitting on some boat anchored off the port of Los Angeles. So when do The Holiday actually start? Looks like we Canadians have been hood-winked into believing that we should start our Holiday right after (if not before) Halloween, and take every advantage of “Black Friday,” the US day after their Thanksgiving in late November, which is traditionally a shopping nightmare sale day. Even the local TV and newspaper ads refer to the vast number of enticing sales at bargain basement prices they will have available on “Black Friday.” The “thrill of the hunt” and the fights over a dozen special sale golf balls at stores highlight the news. Somehow, in the midst of that foggy frenzy, we may have lost some of the special connotations of the Holiday, and an appreciation for those we love and who pat us. The size, cost, colour or ranking on the toy scale is really of little importance to Corgis....whether it can be used as a tugging toy, and, full of spittle, taken to bed to be placed lovingly beside our mommy, is what REALLY matters.

Happy Holiday: As Seen By A Dog, Cont'd.

The simple things in life...don't lose track of them! In our household, Holiday traditions are a BIG deal. Even though for almost two years, my mommies have not been able to visit or have visits from, family, we continue to enjoy the fond, warm traditions of the season. Every year, around after the American Thanksgiving, my mommies pull out the decorations, our Charlie Brown LED tree, our stocking tree, and the fun begins. The "stocking tree" was designed by Judy, as we don't have a mantle to hang stockings on, and that was a tradition she was brought up with. EVERYONE in the family had a stocking to hang, and to be filled with small inexpensive, but thoughtful, gifts. Maybe a favourite chocolate bar, a paperback, a pack of pens, some Arthritis Tylenol, some chew bones or a squeaky toy. On the other hand, Anne's family did not have the tradition of "stockings" for kids, adults or dogs. *Can you imagine?* Our household stocking tree is an engineering feat to be admired. And once the two stockings with Oscar's name and my name on them are hung, and full to overflowing, we "admire" them closely several times a day! The stocking tree not only represents the joy of giving simple gifts to your loved ones, but also the joy of remembering those who came before you, and are no longer with us, at least in Corgis. *Every Corgi* who Judy and Anne have had in the 31 years they have been together, has a special stocking, their original one, with their name on it, and a place of honour, on the tree. Every Holiday they remember how special *each* of these friends were to them, and give thanks for the blessings of a Corgi's unquestioned devotion and love. Those of you who have had special pets, know what I mean. After hanging garland and bows on the front and side fences every year, (something to bark at when the wind flaps them), the *piece de resistance* is the unveiling (from a beat up old box) of the Charlie Brown LED Tree. It is only 24 inches tall, surrounded by LED lights that change colour as they come and go on and off. It goes on top of a small table in front of our living room windows for birds, squirrels, and passers by to enjoy. It has no decorations, except, of course, a few small Corgi decorations that hang from special spots. It comes all "folded in" together, and each branch must be carefully and patiently



pulled away from the base, bent and set lovingly into place. It is quite a treasure, even though it is showing a bit of wear and tear from over 30 years of use. As we all put it together (yes, we do "help") it reminds us of how blessed we are to have each other, no matter what weird and whacky stuff is going on in the world. There is no politics or party division about it, no east or west, no black or white, no Christian or other, no gay or straight, no dog or cat. Plain and simply, as I have observed it, it is just a remembrance of love, support, understanding, kindness, peace, celebrating differences, and good memories...what the Holiday should be about. Oscar and I, Judy and Anne wish all of you a very special Holiday, surrounded by the people, things and memories that are most meaningful to you.

From our household to yours, Chanel, Oscar, Judy and Anne

Property Report

The committee wishes everyone a **Happy Thanksgiving** (... belatedly for us ... & this weekend for our friends to the south ...), as we now have ... **Great News** ... !

A second new local roofer has climbed up our church, and reviewed the present condition of our roof. In Lakeview Roofing's opinion ... with a slight adjustment ... there is no need at this point in time for the expensive repairs that the first roofer estimated, and that the congregation approved earlier in the autumn.

After re-connecting a new downpipe from the upper roof, to direct the rainwater away from the area that had leaked, and into the existing eavestroughs on the south side of the church, this new roofer left our church grounds, *and didn't even give us a bill* ! Come spring and summer next year, we've been asked to re-assess the situation. Potentially we can delay the dreaded expensive roof repair for another year or two !

Other routine maintenance is underway, with our furnace expert consultant coming in this week to provide a status report, to prepare us for the chilly winter months ahead, as we slowly begin the process of re-attendance at the church.

The Archive Committee is also happy, now that our historical records have a new home, a new locked room on the second floor, in a superb new file cabinet. Committee staff assisted with the move, that required the enlarging of a door frame.

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

Technical Team Report

The two options we are considering for our internet service are 1)the Rogers Hub that we have been using and 2)a possible line-of-sight link to WaveDirect. Due to trees between us and the WaveDirect tower, we would need a 50 foot tower erected behind the church in the back garden. We recently received a quote for a tower and concrete pad for almost \$5000. This price will increase about 15% after December 1 due to a rise in the price of aluminum. WaveDirect has assured us they could give us appropriate service from a tower at \$90 per month.

At this time we are still testing the Rogers connection. The service has been adequate during the past few services, now that we know to have the Hub in the sanctuary rather than in Rev. Rod's office. Our main problem at the moment is working out details of the connections of the sound system in the church with the computers, without causing feedback or echoes. The cost is proving to be around \$25 per service, or \$100 to \$125 per month.

Bobbye Baylis, Secretary, Tech Team

Finance Committee Report

The Budget, distributed by mail on Nov. 15, is ready for your approval at the Congregational Budget Meeting after the service on Sunday, Dec. 5.

Various committees and trustees have input into this budget, but it mostly is based on past expenses and donations, recorded by our Treasurer, Helen Moore. Thank you, Helen, for your dedication to this work.

This Budget has been approved by the Finance Committee and by the Board of Directors and represents all of our best estimates. Please stay after “Coffee Hour” for this meeting or call in at 12 noon (So we can have a Quorum!) and join in the discussion of this important aspect of church life.

Note that the budget projects a deficit less than that of last year, about \$7000. We have whittled the 2021 deficit from the budgeted \$9000 down to a probable surplus by careful spending and your generous donations.

Bobbye Baylis, Chair, Finance Committee

Social Responsibility Report

Election of officers was held at the November 21 meeting; Sue Markham was acclaimed President and Bobbye Baylis Secretary. Terms of Reference for the Committee were approved.

Sue has been active in the Film Crew at Detroit 1st UU and reports that she is now the person in charge of Zoom connections for the films. Further, they often have to pay license fees for the films and have requested financial support from the other churches. Hence the Committee agreed to send them \$100, which requires that the SRC Budget for 2022 needs to be raised to \$200. We are emailing the monthly notices with Zoom links for the films and the following (a day or a week later) discussions.

Several churches take part in the Community Meals program. Leamington United presents Monday Meals (take-out) on the first Monday of the month. Last year 2,500 meals were prepared. A major cost is containers. Last year \$3,000 was spent on food and \$3,000 on containers. If you want our church to receive recognition for your donation (for which you will receive a tax receipt,) send your cheque to Helen Moore. Thanks to your generosity in October, Helen Moore was able to send \$750 to Leamington United Church for their Monday Meals. If you would like to inquire whether they need volunteers to help package the meals, call Shirley Chorba at (519)326-1851.

Reminder: Labour Council / Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre of Windsor co-hosting talk by Murray Sinclair entitled *The Truth is Hard, Reconciliation is Harder*. The event will be on Thursday December 9th at 6:30-8:00pm. Registration details were distributed to the Newsletter list on Nov. 6. A second email blast will be sent before the end of November.

Bobbye Baylis, Secretary, Social Responsibility Committee

January Soup Meal Order Form 2021



Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson are thrilled to offer a contactless fundraiser for congregants and friends. Pickup will be on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. Suggested donation is \$20 per meal, paid by e-transfer or cheque mailed to Helen Moore.

Each Meal will include a generous portion of soup, a bun and dessert.

Please place your orders before January 17th.

Please choose one of the following :

Soup: (1) Dill Pickle Vegetarian Soup

(2) Quinoa Veggie (Vegan)

(3) Four Cheese Tortellini (Vegetarian)

(4) Wonton

(5) Beef Barley

Dessert: 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—Wednesday January 26 from 11 AM to 6 PM.

Please specify what time you would like to pickup.

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

To Place Your Order(s) - Call Toni at 519-966-6434 or email [djani-
k1@cogeco.ca](mailto:djanik1@cogeco.ca)

And create the subject line **January UU Soup Meal.**

Caring Committee Report

The year's most festive month is upon us. The holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek ways to make life better for those around us.

On Nov. 4, Rev. Rod and the caring committee team, new and old, visited with Eunice Goyette for her 96th birthday. We enjoyed some birthday pie and good conversation. On Dec. 01st our very own Buster Ringrose will celebrate his 94th birthday; we wish him a very happy day.

The Congregation sends thinking of you thoughts to Nancy Basinger and Mary Tiner as they struggle with health issues. Also great to hear Laurie Stone is continuing on the road to recovery.

The Caring Committee elves are busy preparing their unique Xmas boxes for the shut-ins, which will be delivered in time for the holidays. Christmas is the time to celebrate with friends and family. Sending you all lots of joy, smiles and laughter this holiday season.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

Note from the Treasurer

By now you have received the Letter of Appeal as well as the record of your pledge, your donations to date for this year and a pledge card for 2022. Please return the pledge card by mail or call me so that I can record your pledge.

In the same envelope you received the budget in preparation for our Congregational Budget Meeting scheduled for noon on December 5 as well as the updates to the church directory.

Thanks for your donations for the two Christmas families which the church supports through gifts and grocery vouchers, as well as your donations in support of our church and ministry.

In order to qualify for an income tax receipt for 2021, please make sure that your donation is mailed to arrive before December 31 or e-transfer prior to that date. Thank you.

Helen Moore

Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton
Carmen Smith
Leona Crowder
Linda Upcott

Congregational Budget Meeting

Vote on the 2022 Budget
And 2021 Nominating Committee
December 5, 2021
At noon following the Zoom Service



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Membership and Publicity

I am thrilled to announce that our membership has increased to 60 committed Individuals, with Eric McCort and Joyce Gowanlock joining us as members of our UU Church of Olinda. Welcome Eric and Joyce! We will be formally recognizing our newest members on December 5th with a membership ceremony.

Toni Janik
Membership Chair