

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
November 2021



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Nov. 7	Donovan Hayden	<i>Anti-Racism as Spiritual Practice</i>	Bill Baylis, Ray Stone, Karen Miller
Nov. 14	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Life Saving - The medical community has been committed to saving lives for centuries. Research has led to life-saving discoveries like insulin, penicillin, and vaccines, which are greatly successful. But finding these is only part of the work – there's something else that's also needed.</i>	Toni Janik
Nov. 21	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Knickers in a Knot - It might be uncomfortable to talk about certain things, especially when they relate to toilets and hygiene... what if talking about these were life-saving?</i>	Lorie Lyons
Nov. 28 1 PM	CUC National Service	<i>Led by youth and young adults, this service recognizes and celebrates the CUC's 60-year history, and calls on us to fulfill the possibilities of our future together.</i>	CUC
Dec. 5	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Reconciling with Indiana Jones - 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.</i>	Toni Janik

*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

November is almost upon us. The leaves seem to be turning at a more rapid pace by the day. Hopefully all had a pleasant and safe Thanksgiving and can look forward to an enjoyable lead up to the holiday season.

The Property Committee has been busy looking into the roofing situation for the church and getting it resolved before the winter hits us, thus protecting the rectory and the archives for the foreseeable future. A new filing cabinet and shelving has arrived in order to better organize the archives as well.

While the hope is to return to in-person services in the not too distant future, the Tech Team has been looking into avenues of improving the on-line services aspect of the church for those who may not be able to attend in person for various reasons. Be it either being out of town, lack of transportation, health reasons, etc., the goal is to provide the services and a sense of community for all members of the church wherever you may be. Yet it is proving a challenge in order to get adequate connectivity in our rural location. However efforts are ongoing.

With the pandemic numbers trending in a steady downward direction in the province, perhaps we can all maybe now look forward to a closer resumption of a more back-to-normal life. Until then we can stay positive and await until the time we can all meet in person once again.

Brent Campbell
Vice President

Meeting our Neighbours of Faith

Islam

Wednesdays

Nov. 24, Dec. 1, Dec. 8

7-8:30pm Online (Zoom)

As part of a new series on our neighbouring traditions of faith, the Lifespan Learning Team is offering an Adult Religious Education program on Islam and our Muslim neighbours.

Imam Muhammad Abuelezz

will also join us on
Dec. 1 for an interactive dialogue.

Contact Rev. Rod to register!

Clergy Connection

We are back to doing “building broadcasts”, as we bring more of our church building into our Sunday services! This is owing to the dedication of our Tech Team, which has done a lot of legwork and testing to ensure this is possible. I’d like to give a special callout to Bobbye and Bill Baylis, who have looked after adjustments to our hardware, as well as to Richard Stevenson, who consulted with our Tech Team about some technical details that allowed us to break through in seeking solutions.

I should clarify that, for the time being, *only* the people directly involved in the service are in the building. While we are not yet offering in-person services for the entire congregation, we are a step closer to this goal. Our new technical capabilities also mean that we expect to continue offering a stay-at-home option for those who find that more convenient, even when in-person services are possible.

Thank you to all who joined our *e-security* session offered on Oct. 31. Our Lifespan Learning team will now be offering an Adult Religious Education program online starting this month. These will be on **Nov. 24, Dec. 1 & Dec. 8 at 7pm** (sessions are about 1 ½ hours each). This is part of a larger series on **getting to know our neighbours of faith**, and we’ve decided to prioritize our understanding of **Islam** and our Muslim neighbours. We have a guest for our session on Dec. 1, Imam Muhammad Abuelezz, from Rose City Islamic Centre in Windsor, who is eager to have an interactive dialogue session with us. You can register by e-mailing or calling me.

Café hours are back this week! I will be generally offering these on Thursdays, possibly alternating between afternoon and early evening. You can expect the invite in your mailbox the day before, on Wednesday at 3pm. In the coming weeks, I might experiment with the new online platform called *Topia*, which has a more organic feel for drop-in online interactions. In many ways, it is easier to use than Zoom, though you might still find it involves a learning curve. We can use this time to explore.

I was excited to attend the **Parliament of the World’s Religions** (online) Saturday to Monday, **Oct, 16-18**. This was a very rich, if at times overwhelming, experience, and I hope to bring some of my new learning into the work we do this year.

I also attended a **CUC Board Retreat Oct. 5-7**, where we reviewed some of the major denominational matters for this year. This includes our **proposed 8th Principle**, about which we held an information and feedback session for Olinda on Oct. 13. Bill Baylis and Michael Hoffman have been appointed by our Board as delegates to vote on the proposed principle at a **special meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council on Saturday Nov. 27**. This will be followed by a CUC-hosted **National Service on Sunday Nov. 28 at 1pm**. It should be relatively simple to log in to this service, with a Zoom link (a very short registration with name and e-mail address may be required). I hope to see you there!

Warm regards,
--Rev. Rod

Important Dates

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

Nov. 2 7 pm
Tech Team Meeting

Nov. 3 10 am
Membership Comm. Meet.

Nov. 7 Noon
Finance Comm. Meeting

Nov. 11 7 pm
Board of Directors Meeting

Nov. 14 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Nov. 16 7 pm
Governance Document
Committee Meeting

Nov. 21 Noon
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

Nov. 21
Budget Available

Monday Nov. 22
December Newsletter
Reports Due

Nov. 24 7 pm
Adult RE Class, #1

Dec. 1 10 am
Membership Comm. Meet.

Dec. 1 7 pm
Adult RE Class, #2

Membership and Publicity

I am thrilled to announce that our membership has increased to 59 committed individuals with Eric McCort joining us as a member of our UU Church of Olinda. Welcome Eric!

If you've been thinking about joining our congregation as a member, please consider connecting with either Rev. Rod or Toni Janik and we would be pleased to answer any questions you may have about membership.

I've included the "Emergency Contact Form" in this issue of the newsletter (*last page*) for everyone to consider updating/submitting your contact information for the exclusive use of Rev. Rod in the situation of an Emergency. Please send your completed forms by Email or Snail Mail to Toni Janik for updating of the spreadsheet for Rev. Rod's use.

Directory Updates—If you have had a change in address, phone number(s), or email address since the last directory was published—please send your update(s) to Bobbye Baylis ASAP for inclusion in the update we will be sending out shortly.

Toni Janik
Membership Chair

Social Responsibility Committee Report

At the October 10 meeting, we discussed the following:

Everyone is encouraged to sign the petition supporting the Ojibway National Urban Park, to be found on Lisagretzkympp.ca/ojibway_national_park. This will be the second National Urban Park in Canada.

There will be elections of new officers (Chair and Secretary) at the next meeting, on Nov. 21 at noon. Members are encouraged to volunteer to run for these offices.

Social Responsibility Committee Terms of Reference were presented. Members of the committee were encouraged to suggest additions and amendments. This document will be voted on at the next meeting.

Labour Council and the Can-Am Indian Friendship Centre of Windsor are co-hosting a 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 will be distributed as soon as they are available.

Bobbye Baylis, Secretary SRC

Governance Document Committee Report

The committee met on October 19 at 7 pm via Zoom and discussed the organization of this document and layouts of the individual job descriptions. The Governance Document will be in a binder with a Table of Contents and each job description will be on a separate sheet (or sheets.) There will not be a prescribed layout for the job descriptions; they will appear as submitted.

The first job descriptions up for discussion were those of the officers. Small editorial changes were made. The committee members will take time between meetings to reread these descriptions and decide whether further changes are needed. After further discussion at the next meeting, on Nov. 16, the final form of these job descriptions will be approved. Next job descriptions in line for discussion are the Lay Chaplain, the Minister (if available), Finance Committee, Caring Committee, and Property Committee.

Bobbye Baylis,
Chair, Governance Document Committee

Olinda Library and Archives Report

The Library and Archives Committee was reinvigorated this year and has been working hard over the summer. We have a great legacy to build on. As we took stock of how the archives were stored, we decided to relocate the archives. We purchased a lateral filing cabinet and repurposed two smaller filing cabinets and moved the archives into the upstairs hall closet (see photo).

In moving the materials into the filing cabinets, we put everything into acid free folders and paid close attention to storing the material with preservation in mind. This new arrangement will make finding and adding material much easier. We are also undertaking a longer-term project of digitizing the archives.

The closet is packed full with all the treasures of our history. Our earliest records date from 1846, part of the Universalist Convention records that came to us as the remaining church of the Ontario Universalist Convention. We have minutes and records dating from the foundation of Olinda through to the present day. Access to this material is available by contacting a member of the committee (Charlotte Innerd (chair), Carol Hylton, and Sue Markham).

We also did some work on the library. There is now an online catalogue of the library, available at <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/OlindaLibrary>. Now whenever that theological question comes to you, you can now see if we have a book that might help in your search. The Library will be available once the building reopens.

Charlotte Innerd



You Are What You Wear

Last week I began the laborious job of switching my Spring/Summer/Fall clothes with more Winter-Cold weather appropriate clothes, to my main closet. It is always a struggle to bring myself to the reality that I can not wear shorts every day at a certain point in the Fall. So, I mostly surrender to Mother Nature, keeping one pair of favourite shorts held back, with contempt, just in case we have a heat wave in January. It is a hard task, hauling a load of clothes either up or down stairs, depending on whether the temperature is going up or down. This seasonal job, which I do twice a year, and detest, does have a positive slant. It reminds me two times a year, that I am *far too blessed with far too many clothes*, many I do not seem to wear, and I need to cull some out and donate them. The challenge then begins in earnest...which ones can I "let go" and/or "do without"? It would seem, on the face of it, to be a relatively easy task, just pick out all the clothes I haven't worn in ages, and all the ones that are now too big (not many) or too small (could be many). However, it is not quite that simple. There's always the "what ifs". What if I have to go a Wedding, Baby Shower, Graduation, Funeral, Memorial. Baptism, or a Super Bowl Party...clearly I need to have something to wear! The Decision-Making Process on what to cull is a delicate dance of emotions, memories, and new realities.

Have you ever stood at the open closet and looked in at what is really there? There are things representing your past, when you were younger, maybe more carefree? Those orange and purple striped bell bottoms, which you wore to your very first "hippy party". You chuckle and let your mind wander, as you admire them, and then set them aside. Too many good memories to give those away. Maybe you can wear them as part of a Halloween costume? Then there's the madras shirt you wore all through high school, when it was trendy. Too bad it went "out of style". But maybe you decide that fashion trends often come back, in cycles, like short shorts and clam diggers. Then there's the sweater jacket your mother knitted you, with wolves, snowflakes and pine trees, for your "outdoors phase". One sleeve too long, the other a bit shorter. Now you hate winter and snowflakes. But it was made from love. Best keep it, just in case you need a very warm jacket, in addition to the seven others you already have. You probably have more shirts or blouses than you could ever wear, but which ones, and which colours and styles should you part with? It's sometimes just easier, to put everything back as after you examine and reminisce, to be evaluated next time.

As you examine the contents of your closet, you will likely see that the contents define you and where you are in your life. There is a neighbor down the street, probably in her early 40s, who wears nothing but black clothing, ALL of it with skulls and skeletons on it, she a tad old for the "Goth Look"....so what's with that? I won't go there...too much doom and gloom. Now that I'm retired, I own only a few outfits that might be considered suitable for attending "life's events". I did, actually, donate most of my "work wardrobe" once I was retired and sure I was not going to go back part-time, or any other such foolishness. I own many pairs of jeans now, something my mother would not let us have as kids, as she felt it was not acceptable wear for a "young lady", or my brother, the "young man". Now, I wear them comfortably many places, but you must know I do NOT own any that have skulls or tears/holes in them that I had to pay *more* for! I have many more sweatshirts and t-shirts than before, because my life seems much more casual, and my clothing choices not so determined by "trends" or my mother's little voice in the back of my head. I can even "go out on a limb" and wear plaids and polka dots together now, if I want to. I wear whatever colour and style I feel comfortable with, and even colours I would *never* wear when I was younger (old people's colours). From time to time, I "let go" and wear something very bright and colourful, like red, yellow, or purple. I don't care about "being cool", as I did as a teenager/young adult... the ones you see walking to school in a snow storm, wearing shorts, no boots, hat or gloves, and winter coat flapping open, but "cool"! Now I am a member of the "not cool" movement, I wear layers of warm clothes, bed socks at night, and hats/gloves/scarves/boots and all other winter paraphernalia, to keep from "being cool". I am more at peace with myself and not so worried about what people think. There is one line I don't think I can cross yet. I was told, as a kid, by my parents, that wearing casual clothes, like jeans, to Church, was not respectful to the institution of Church. Strangely enough, this came from two folks who were not regular church-goers. So, if you ever see me at Olinda in jeans, you will know I have truly arrived!

Judith L. Carter

Committee on Shared Ministry Report

The last two months have been busy ones for the CoSM as we worked to bring together the governance processes outlining how the CoSM will assist the Olinda Community within the next year. Changes made with the passing of the NEW Bylaws enabled the committee to better serve all the Olinda Church ministries from a more transparent and clarified position.

In coming newsletters, the committee will be explaining more of this process. Pending the approval of the governance document, we also look forward to outlining the committee's goals for next year and changes to the committee membership.

At this time we wish you all a festive fall.

Carol Hylton, Mariette Preyde, Stephen Brennan, Rev. Rodrigo Solano-Quesnel

Technical Team Report

Short Update: Due to the number of very tall trees in the area, it would require a receiver on a 60-foot tower for us to receive signals from either Wave Direct or Xplornet. We are awaiting assurance from them that they could indeed provide good service if we had such a tower erected in our back yard.

Given this information, we have been studying whether it is possible to improve our Rogers service, which does not require the same line-of-sight connection. We observed that we obtained better upload speeds with the our Rogers hub (same model as the church's) and the October 24 Sunday Service was clear indication that it worked better! Further testing is under way.

Bobbye Baylis



Upcoming Contactless Soup Luncheon
Wednesday January 26, 2022
Watch for more details and your order form in the
December Newsletter.
This was a resounding success last year and a fundraising
event you don't want to miss.
Hosted by Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson

A Note from the Treasurer

Thanks for your generous donations by cheque and e-transfer. It is especially heartening since we have been unable to resume in-person services in our church sanctuary.

For several years our church has sponsored two families from Children's Aid Society. Donations of money are requested and then our shoppers, John and Linda Upcott, can shop for the wish list provided. This year we have been assigned two young families. One is a mother with two sons aged 3 and 2. The other family is a mother with a 3 year old daughter and a 2 year old son. If you wish to contribute, please identify the donation for the Christmas families on your cheque or e-transfer.

Helen Moore
Treasurer

Finance Trustee Report

Our 2022 Budget preparations are under way and the Finance Committee will be approving the Budget on November 7. This budget is always based on the actual expenses of the past year and on our best estimate of the expected income in 2022. Our expenses have been about the same as in the past; as last year, utilities at the church were lower but they never were very high! Our office expenses continue to be higher due to mailing out sermons and newsletters, but email and Zoom do not cost us much. Thankfully you have still been very supportive with cheques and e-transfers in spite of not being able to meet at the church.

One big new expense for 2022 will be the cost of live-streaming the services. One unexpected outcome of our COVID experience is that many members have found it very convenient to partake of Sunday services from home, saving them what for some of them is a long drive. But this will have serious implications for our budget, and we do not yet know how much it will cost. We are still working on a reliable supplier of the needed internet service.

In November you will be receiving a Letter of Appeal, requesting that you fill out a pledge form* for 2022. This mailing will include your record of donations through Oct. 31 and also the 2022 Budget that will be presented for approval on Dec. 5.

*You might consider sending the 2022 pledge information to Helen via email or giving her a call if you do not want to get the pledge form to a mail box.

Thank you for your continued support,
Bobbie Baylis, Chair, Finance Committee

Caring Committee Report

Welcome November! May it be a time of reflection, gratitude, and simple joy. May your life be filled with happiness, good will, success, love and affection. Let's make time for those close to us.

As a caring committee chair, I would like to extend a special big thank you to Eunice Goyette, June Blacker and Leona Crowder for their years of support and hard work as they have decided to retire, they will be greatly missed.

On the other hand I welcome Carmen Smith and Carol Hylton, and anyone else that is interested to join the committee. We try to visit or make a phone call once a month to stay connected with all shut-ins. Anyone interested please contact me.

Special thinking of you thoughts to Trudy Ware as she recovers from eye surgery, Carol Hylton as she undergoes a series of tests and Laurie Stone as she continues to recover from her surgeries. A cheery hello to all the shut-ins and best wishes to all the November birthdays, wishing you all a happy day. Let us remember to change our clocks back on Nov. 7th and remembering all our veterans on Nov. 11th.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton

Carmen Smith

Leona Crowder

Linda Upcott

For Your Information

COVID-19 vaccine certificates with the newly available QR codes can be obtained online at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/get-proof/>

To download your certificates, follow the instructions on each screen and click on Continue. Your certificate can be printed or downloaded to your computer or phone.

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

Congregational Budget Meeting

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

**UU Church of Olinda
Congregant Emergency Contact Form**

Your Name: _____

Primary Contact Name: (e.g. Next of Kin) _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____



Secondary Contact Name: _____

Contact Email: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Your Signature: _____

Date: _____

Email or mail (address in church directory) completed form to:

Toni Janik

Membership & Publicity Trustee

djanik1@cogeco.ca