

The Olinda Outpost

Monthly Newsletter of the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda](#)
 2953 Olinda Side Road, Ruthven, Ontario, N0P 2G0
 Toni Janik & Bobbye Baylis, Editors



Sunday Services 10:30 am January 2022

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Jan. 2	Congregants	<i>A Year in Transition: Reflections on 2021 and Visions of 2022 - a lay-led service with short contributions from some of our congregation members.</i>	Baylis Duo
Jan. 9	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Ctrl-Z - Sometimes we could really use a do-over. Some things can be easily corrected, others less so. Usually, the lessons remain.</i>	Lorie Lyons
Jan. 16	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Perpetual Beta - It is rare for things to be complete... at least with any permanence. Practice is a process of ongoing development.</i>	Toni Janik
Jan. 23	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Protonic Salad - Have you ever wondered what a proton tastes like? A good salad dressing will give you a hint. And that's just one clue into the doors of perception.</i>	Baylis Duo + Ray Stone
Jan. 30	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Mashup - Sometimes, multiple sources complement each other in unexpected ways.</i>	Lorie Lyons
Feb. 6 1 pm	National Service	<i>Sharing our Faith (CUC)</i>	CUC

At this time, we are still broadcasting from the church building, but **all in-person attendance is on hold during January**, given the heightened risk posed by the Omicron variant. 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 & 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

"I stayed up this New Year's Eve. Not so much to see the New Year in, but to make sure the previous one left."

January brings a new year with new challenges, new celebrations and new adventures. The key is to not let the challenges overshadow the other two.

The congregation continues to grow. The end of the year welcomed two new members on December the 5th. As well, our Tech Team continues to improve and refine our abilities to broadcast Sunday services for all members as well as prospective new members. Our current set up appears to be working well. Also the roof looks sturdy enough to survive the winter, with any repairs commencing in the spring.

With the recent arrival of the Omicron variant it appears that the return to full in-person services will be delayed for the near future (hopefully not too long). The Board is looking into a possible survey for all members to see what they would deem as being safe/comfortable to resume in person services and what they would like to see regarding hybrid services.

And so until such time as we are all able to meet in person again, please stay safe/healthy and don't be afraid to rise to the challenges of a new year.

Brent Campbell, Vice President

Historical Hymnals, Wednesday, January 26th @7pm

Olinda has a fabulous collection of hymnals that go back into the 19th Century. During this meeting, Charlotte Innerd will take us through the collection and look for reminiscences. She'll also talk about Wilfrid Laurier University's Special Collection of Hymnals. Information will be shared after the meeting for those not able to attend. Zoom connection details will be shared closer to the date.

Thanks,
Charlotte Innerd

Annual Congregational Meeting

Vote on the Annual Report
Election of 2022 Board of Directors
and Nominating & Auditing Committees

March 6, 2022

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

Clergy Connection

The new year brings us a new set of opportunities and challenges. Last year showed us that we can adapt, grow, and thrive, even during tricky times, made possible by collaborative efforts in our community.

One opportunity for connection this month is the **Soup Lunch Fundraiser** offered by Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson. You can make your **soup order until Jan. 17** – order for the day or for a few meals! Pickup is during the day on Jan. 26. You also have the option of joining the Café Drop-in on Thursday Jan. 27 for some social time while you enjoy your soup meal.

At this time, we are still broadcasting from the church building, but **all in-person attendance is on hold during January**, given the heightened risk posed by the Omicron variant. We will offer an update in the February newsletter – we can also make announcements on the weekly mail-outs that include the links to our Zoom services or Worship Resources, as well as by post and phone, when required. I should note that, when in-person attendance resumes, it will likely be subject to being double vaccinated and completing a brief screening questionnaire upon entering. The screening questionnaire comprises 7 questions to assess your exposure risk and is currently required by local health authorities.

We have been expanding our roster of tech support volunteers. Bobbye and Bill Baylis have been the main tech supports for broadcasts from our building, with Ray Stone offering support online. This role is now being shared with Stuart Miller and Sue Markham, and they have also led services over the past month. These are the volunteers that make our Sunday services logistically possible!

Are you interested in expanding your Zoom skillset? Or do you already feel comfortable with it? We could use one or two more **tech support volunteers!** Just let us know – you can contact me, Sarah, or the Baylises.

The Lifespan Learning team completed a 3-session online Adult Religious Education program and we look to continue our *Getting to Know Our Neighbours of Faith* series into this new year. After delving into Islam and the Muslim experience, we are considering suggestions for exploring other faith groups.

I joined some of our leaders in attending the online event *“The truth is hard. Reconciliation is harder”* with Murray Sinclair, on Dec. 9, which was an important opportunity to continue our learning about the ongoing realities of colonialism.

And as February approaches, so do many important conversations. It is a time when we become better acquainted with Black history, as well as getting better connected with our national denomination. It is also a time when we celebrate the diversity of love and family. The Canadian Unitarian Council is offering another **National Service on Feb. 6 at 1 pm**, when we can begin some of these conversations.

Warm regards,
--Rev. Rod

Important Dates

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

Jan. 5 10 am
Membership Committee Meeting

Jan. 9 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Jan. 13 7 pm
Board of Directors Meeting

Jan. 16 Noon
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Jan. 16
Non-financial Annual Reports Due

Jan. 24
February Newsletter Reports Due

Jan. 27 7 pm
Governance Documents Committee Meeting

Jan. 30
Financial Annual Reports Due

Feb. 10 7 pm
Board of Directors Meeting

Mar. 6 Noon
Annual General Meeting

Membership and Publicity

Happy New Year !

I am thrilled to share that we now have 60 members, and on December 5, 2021 we held our second membership ceremony as a hybrid service with new members Eric McCort attending in person in the sanctuary and Joyce Gowanlock attending via Zoom. I sincerely appreciated all who took part in the service whether they were with us in-person or via Zoom; there was much to celebrate. We have grown as a congregation in many ways over the last year including in numbers.

Thank you to all who have helped us with your ideas, participation and feedback on how we can minister to one another. Many of you commented on our Christmas Greeting postcard that the Membership Committee sent out to all congregants. We are pleased that you found it warm and comforting at a time when many of us cannot safely attend services in person. May we be blessed with hope that in the near future we can all safely return to our beloved church in person.

Wishing for all a coming year of peace, hope and love.

Toni Janik

Membership Chair

'Live' Christmas Present from Ray Stone

During a holiday visit to Hamilton Ray performed a solo violin recital. The pieces played were *Superb & Delightful !*



The Butterfly - *Traditional Irish tune*

Romanian Folk Dances - *Bartok*

Salut d'Amour - *Elgar*

Allemanda from Sonata in D Minor -
Bach

Praeludium and Allegro - *Keiser*

Meditation from Thais - *Massenet*

Thanks from a fortunate, & grateful friend ... Stuart Miller

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

Long before we received the invitation, as Congregants, to offer a “reflection” at the January 2nd service, on how we saw, and hoped to see, the year behind us and the year before us, I had begun mulling over in my mind, the usual checklist of the “positives” and the “negatives” of 2021. In no time flat, the “negatives” came flying to the forefront: the continuing complicated unsafe and unhealthy Covid environment that has been swirling around all of us for yet another year into 2022; the on-going isolation we suffer from both of our families, mine primarily in the greater Toronto area, and Anne’s primarily in the Bay City Area of Michigan; the death of FIVE friends, two on one day!, most long-term and very close, without the ability to say goodbye or support them or their families as they dwindled away; the continuing rift between those who have no difficulty stepping up to the plate to get vaccinated for their own protection as well as for the Community at large, versus those who hang back, refusing to get vaccinated because they have “personal rights and freedoms” which exempt them from joining the majority of us; the great divide between families, friends, coworkers, political party affiliations and even religions on questions relating to how we view and manage this pandemic. Just in the last few weeks, we had to cancel several *significant* Holiday events, including a visit to my Brother and Sister-in-Law over the holidays, who we have not seen in over two years now. And Today, January 3, 2022, we hear the grim news that Ontario residents must return to Modified Step 2 Covid Restrictions on January 5th, which we last experienced, without any joy, last Fall. A real sense of “Deja Vu” all over again. Small business owners, such as local restaurants, just trying to keep their heads above water, seemingly again taking the brunt of the impact of these restrictions. I keep feeling like those of us who ARE doing all the right things, without question, are being punished for the total lack of action by folks who refuse to follow even the most basic safety and health protocols (based on *science*), and who are, for the most part, responsible for the continuing spread of the virus in our communities and the impact on our overwhelmed health system and workers. So, along with a number of other additions, my list on the “negatives” side was long and fairly easy to identify.

Then I tried to begin the “positives” column, which frequently helps me identify the New Year’s Resolutions that I think I can actually accomplish, without cheating! The “Usuals” are easy: we have a roof over our heads; food to eat, (when we can afford it!); can for the most part pay the bills, have been partners for 31 going on 32 years; we are fully vaccinated and boosted; have two devilishly cute Pembroke Welsh Corgis who make us laugh every single day, and love us unconditionally, even if I don’t go out in the rain to throw the ball for them!; we are currently experiencing fairly good health; friends and family who still love us and we connect with as we are able by email or text; and a Church that cares enough about ALL of us, to ensure that all of us can participate in the services. In retrospect, I do find that my anger and even jealousy, do rear up their ugly heads from time to time, and do get in the way sometimes of a more measured approach...anger that this pandemic and all its negatives just seems to go on FOREVER, without any sense of really getting better, and jealousy when I see and hear of folks getting together during the holidays with their families/friends, and able to freely travel about, things we can not safely do due to health issues and Borders, real and artificial. Our hearts often ache for the opportunity to just hug every single one of them...*it has been far too long!*

Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow - Continued

So, upon reflection, clearly it is time for action, a time for “making lemonade out of lemons”. I tried, successfully, to begin my lemonade mission the other day, when a good friend mentioned that she was very conflicted about having her two daughters, their husbands and children over to her house for Christmas dinner. Their last Thanksgiving had been a disaster! The two daughters, in particular, have *completely* opposite views about getting vaccinated and wearing masks. And at this last family event, the two “factions” fought like cats and dogs, as one group did not want to wear masks, when asked by my friend and the other group, to do so, for everyone’s protection. My friend was giving serious thought to just cancelling the Christmas gathering altogether, as she just couldn’t deal with all the heartache and bickering again. I suggested that perhaps she could talk separately to each daughter, about the need for compromise, and the need for safety, especially with Covid and the variant spreading at full tilt. I told her about us having to cancel our holiday gathering with my Brother, and suggested she use us as an example of how blessed THEY really were, to be able to gather with their family, have fun, a great meal, exchange gifts and create good memories, when so many of us were not able to do so. She told me right after Christmas that she had done as I suggested, and that each of her daughters had agreed to go to a “neutral corner” so to speak, there was no fighting, masks were worn, and it was one of the best Christmases she had ever had! *A little give and take goes a VERY long way!* And so does a half spiral ham!

Happy New Year to all of you, and be sure to count your blessings, and keep counting them, as I intend to try to do this New Year...you probably have more than you think!

Judith L. Carter

Message from your Nominating Committee

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

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

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

Thank you,
Your Nominating Committee,
Jane Innerd, Karen Miller, Cathy Dewhurst

Finance Committee Report

The 2022 Budget as approved by the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors was passed at the Congregational Budget Meeting on Dec. 5. Many thanks to the 27 members who attended this Zoom meeting in spite of the audio problem we were having! The unanimous vote was a wonderful endorsement of the hard work by those responsible for the work that goes into the budget process.

Bobbye Baylis, Finance Chair

Governance Document Committee Report

At the meeting on Dec. 12 the Committee approved the following terms of reference:

- Finance Committee
- Caring Committee
- Property Committee

They passed the following, with final approval to come at the next meeting:

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

They requested that Sue submit a one-page job description for the Lay Chaplain. Further, the job description for the Minister does not really belong in this binder. This material is covered in the Letter of Call and In the By-Laws.

Bobbye Baylis, Chair Governance Document Committee

Note from the Treasurer

Thanks for your generous regular and year end donations.

Thanks also for your donations for the two Christmas families consisting of a mother and two sons, 3 and 2 years old, and a mother with a 3 year old daughter and 2 year old son. Our shoppers, John and Linda Upcott, were diligent in fulfilling the wish lists which the mothers had prepared. This included going to three different stores to get the best buy on pairs of boots. Educational toys and diapers were also requested. Thanks John and Linda and to all who contributed to children and mothers having, probably, the best Christmas ever.

Helen Moore, Treasurer

January Soup Meal Order Form 2022



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 or more 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 pick up your meal.

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

As we get ready to say goodbye to 2021, may we welcome a new year that is filled with miracles, good health and many positive changes in our world. Everything that has a beginning has an end, so forget the past, plan for the future, and enjoy the moment.

We have not yet to date been able to resume our visits, which we miss terribly. We look forward to the time when we can once again resume our visits, and hopefully spread some cheer and/ or smiles to our congregants. Unlike other years, for this past holiday season the committee was only allowed to drop off Christmas goodies to the shut-ins due to the pandemic. Everything is disrupted because of Covid, but the caring committee needs to continue to care for the church family and friends. Let's stay connected either by phone or e-mail. A special birthday hello to Evelyn Dresser on Jan.10th, and get well wishes to all who are struggling with health issues at this time.

Special thanks to the new caring committee members, Carol Hylton, Carmen Smith, and Anne Purtell for all their assistance this past holiday season.

Remember, as we all journey through another year, we are never alone.

Submitted by:
Linda Upcott

Update on Laurie Stone's Improved Condition

During the Christmas break, I visited Ray at his Hamilton hotel, with my mother, had a Holiday banquet, and caught up on many stories. Unfortunately the hospital Covid restrictions did not allow us to drop in to greet Laurie. However on New Year's day, speaking to Ray again, I heard that Laurie was feeling much better, was up walking the hospital corridors with him, and enjoying full meals again.

Sunday afternoon, I chatted directly with Laurie and had an animated conversation, passing along County & Church news. The Laurie we all know & love!

Laurie & Ray have been talking to the medical team about possibly returning to Windsor fairly soon although nothing is settled yet. ***They wish everyone a Happy New Year!***

Sincerely, Stuart Miller

Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton

Carmen Smith

Anne Purtell

Linda Upcott

Making the Best of it!

I love to be outside. Nature transports me from focusing on my thoughts and problems and gives me needed spiritual reprieve. I was hoping to find another outlet to relieve my Covid tension, so when I got a call from a friend to be involved in a hiking experience along our local Chrysler Greenway, I jumped into action. This was a group outing and as we rallied at the starting point I knew I already liked them. The hike and conversations were wonderful but I discovered this was just one of many. Martine and Sylvain Fortin had an idea that enticed their friends, now dubbed “the Wellness Group” on Boblo Island, to “take a hike” with them. The group set out to complete the first segment of the trail on November 11th 2021 and completed the last portion for this year on December 31st, completing portions from The Herb Grey Parkway near Amherstburg and ending with a 15.6 kilometer bang in Comber. Martine has a simple motto we all can relate to but even better to heed: “You just have to keep moving!” The Fortins became avid hikers during a trip to Las Vegas. The strip did not excite them but getting lost in the caverns of Red Rock certainly did. They were set on buying a house in Nevada but lost a house bid, a synchronicity that sent them exploring Zion National Park in Utah. Further hiking recommendations took them to their most loved destination: St. George Utah. They became hiking keeners in the area, hiking thousands of kilometers and soon became guides. The Americans enjoyed a great joke: “You are Canadians guiding Americans in America”. Since 2020, travelling to Utah was ill-advised so they focused on setting out to complete their own Essex County version of El Camino de Santiago, a 1000 km pilgrimage through Spain. That journey is on my bucket list so my interest was piqued, but with Covid travel restrictions, not too probable.

For many of us, such circumstances can deter us from being able to tread down the unknown paths of nature, but a couple of my friends have found a virtual solution. They have taken part of the Conqueror Challenge: a virtual hiking experience. www.theconqueror.events/r/MT7818 (Copy & paste into your browser.)

As a group they have registered for hikes around the world and once completed they are sent a medal of completion. It’s an amazing opportunity to walk locally but be immersed globally in the sights and history of the lands along your virtual trek. You can walk the trail individually or as a group viewing each other’s icons as you move along the trail, giving each other encouragement and savoring the tourist attractions together. At each place of interest a postcard can be emailed to you allowing you to print it and send it to any of your friends informing them of your journeys. I had a conversation with two of my friends who participate in these world hikes and they oozed enthusiasm for the people in the program. There is a motivating Facebook community of fabulous folks with differing abilities who cheer each other on. Each person’s distance counts towards achieving a medal but more importantly each 20% completed will plant a tree or remove a water bottle from the ocean. It seems so many boxes are being checked!

One of these participants has completed two adventures while my other friend is on her fifth. They included Hadrian’s Wall in the UK (also known as the Roman Wall), the Cote D’Azur in France, the North Coast in Scotland, the Ring of Kerry in Scotland and the Great Wall of China. There are so many to choose from so if you are thinking it is time to enjoying some outdoor plans despite your limitations, this may be for you!!

I also found a website that allows virtual touring, together with the option to walk it.

Virtual Hikes: The Best Way to Hike Without Leaving Home by Lourdes. Check it out!!

Sue Markham, Chair, Social Responsibility Committee