

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
February 2022



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Feb. 6 1 pm	National Service	<i>Celebration and Contemplation: The Path of an 8th Principle - Unitarians and Universalists have been on the forefront of social change and justice seeking for hundreds of years. In November 2021, congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council once again stepped forward, this time to commit ourselves to dismantling racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion for all people. Be part of celebrating this commitment to foundational social change as we contemplate the steps we take to move forward in our commitment to justice in ourselves, our denomination, and our larger society.</i>	CUC
Feb. 13	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Desire Lines - Making plans and meticulous preparation have their place... and sometimes it makes more sense to follow your heart.</i>	Toni Janik
Feb. 20	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Where the Heart Is - Finding and making a home can be hard work... as well as heart work. A place and materials are important, and so are the people that come with it.</i>	Toni Janik
Feb. 27	Karen Dunk-Green	<i>Honesty & Inclusion: What they mean to one polyamorous family - Karen Dunk-Green is a long-time member of the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto and currently its President and a Lay Chaplain. She is also part of a 20-year polyamorous foursome. In this sermon, she'll share about her experiences of entering into such a relationship, keeping it a secret, and coming out to others.</i>	Lorie Lyons
Mar. 6	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Black Belt for Beginners - In pop culture, a black belt in martial arts is seen as the ultimate level of mastery. More likely, it's the place where a path to mastery is only just beginning.</i>	Baylis Duo

At this time, we are still broadcasting from the church building, but **all in-person attendance is on hold during February**, 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

“Can’t wait until February 15th – the chocolate will be on sale.”

There are many sayings about the month of February. One of the most common going something like, “It’s only 28 days, because if it lasted any longer people might just lose their minds”. The Honourable David J. Broadfoot (The Member of Parliament for Kicking Horse Pass) had a saying about Saskatchewan: “I spent 2 years out there last February”.

Must have been a leap year.

With the temporary suspension of in-person services for the month of January, we are still looking to improve our on-line option. There are still some bugs in the technology that our team is working out. Our technical support team has also expanded with the addition of Sue Markham and Stuart Miller. In the future we hope the fuzziness and squawks will be a thing of the past.

We are also hoping to lift the suspension of in-person services in the near future. The main concern, as always, being the safety and well-being of all members of the congregation. When it does happen, any steps and procedures put in place for attending in person will have those two main points in mind.

So while February may be the harshest month of winter, it is also the shortest (thank goodness). And at its end lies March, which will ever hold the dream of spring. Stay safe and healthy.

Brent Campbell
Vice President

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

Thank you to everyone who supported the Soup Lunch Fundraiser! We also had a warm time of conviviality on our Lunch Drop-in on Thursday, January 27. A special thank you to Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson, who were instrumental into making this fundraising and community-building event happen.

February always invites many important conversations. We continue our exploration of the 8th Principle's call to dismantle systemic barriers to full inclusion as we also expand our connections with our national denomination. We can delve into these themes with Rev. Victoria Ingram and Rev. Meghann Roborn at the next **National Service** on **February 6 at 1 pm**, hosted by the Canadian Unitarian Council.

This month is also a time to take a broader look into different manifestations of love and family, and how we can be more inclusive within this diversity. On **February 27** our guest speaker Karen Dunk-Green, president at First Unitarian in Toronto, will tell us her story as a Unitarian Universalist who is in a polyamorous relationship. This is an opportunity to learn from someone who is willing to share life experience and answer questions you may be curious about on this topic.

We continue to broadcast from our church building. We may resume limited in-person attendance to our Priority List in the coming weeks and we shall announce this by e-mail and phone as this seems feasible. As we mentioned last month, any in-person attendance is subject to being double vaccinated and completing a brief screening questionnaire upon entering. The screening questionnaire comprises 7 questions to assess attendees' exposure risk and is currently required by local health authorities.

One shift in our communications strategy has included inserting some of the more time-sensitive community announcements in the weekly mail-outs that include the Zoom links and Worship Resources, so you're invited to be on the lookout for additional information when these e-mails get to you.

If you're looking to be a more active participant during Sunday services, the Tech Committee is still looking for **tech support volunteers**. Whether you are interested in expanding your Zoom skill set, or already feel you have a good handle on it, we'd like to hear from you! Just let us know – you can contact me, Sarah, or the Baylises.

I'm attending the UU Ministers Association's CENTER Institute gathering (online), from **January 31 to February 4**. This particular continental gathering happens only every three years and includes a more intensive set of professional development opportunities. I will remain in town, though the day-long programming means I will have **limited availability** that week. I hope to bring back much learning!

Warm regards,
--Rev. Rod

Important Dates

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

Feb. 10 7 pm
Board of Directors Meeting

Feb. 13 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Feb. 13
Annual Reports Available

Feb. 22
March Newsletter
Reports Due

Mar. 6 Noon
Annual Congregational Meeting

March 9 10 am
Membership Committee Meeting

Mar. 10 7 pm
Board of Directors Meeting

Mar. 13 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Mar. 20 Noon
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

Mar. 24 7 pm
Governance Documents
Committee Meeting

Membership and Publicity

Just a friendly reminder that if you have a change of contact information—phone number, address or email kindly let Toni Janik or Bobbye Baylis know so we can update your information in our Church Directory and our Telephone Tree. If you would like to either submit or edit your information on your Emergency Contact Form please contact Toni and I'll send you a fresh copy of the form to complete. This information is used solely by Rev. Rod in the event of a serious event to contact your self-identified emergency contact.

Thank you to all who supported our Soup Fundraising event on January 26th. Perhaps you also enjoyed connecting with others at the Virtual Luncheon hosted by Rev. Rod on the 27th and enjoyed some of your soup meals. Elaine Stevenson and I appreciate your generosity from all who purchased soups and from those who made a monetary donation to this event in the spirit of raising funds for our church. We raised \$1,100.00

Stay warm during this cold winter—whether the groundhog sees his shadow or not there is not much winter left after this month of February passes. Perhaps two to three weeks. At least that's what I'm telling myself. I for one am ready to start thinking about planting in the gardens this spring.

Toni Janik
Chair, Membership and Publicity

Note from the Treasurer

Congratulations! Your generosity throughout the year, as well as at year end, has resulted in a \$6,915.23 surplus despite a projected deficit. The Board of Directors also have been diligent in monitoring expenditures resulting in spending less than budgeted.

Thank you!

Helen Moore
Treasurer

“Are You a Rock....or Are You A Stone?”

On a recent frigid trip to Lake Erie, I stopped at a remote beach we frequent and picked up a small bag of rocks, stones and pebbles which I use to decorate the tops of all



of my flower pots. It always fascinates me when I walk along the beach and examine all the possibilities of colour, texture, size, depth, smoothness, shape and beauty the beach stones have, much like people. Some even come with aged fossils embedded in them likely from thousands of years ago. I can let my imagination run wild trying to guess where these stones have come from, how they have been formed, and what types of minerals they are made of. Given that these stones

have washed up on the north shore of a Great Lake, I can't let my imagination run too wild. So, they didn't come here from Australia or Japan. But surely each and every one has its own unique journey and interesting story to tell.

There are gradations of what most of us just call “stones” or “rocks”, from boulders, to rocks, to stones, to pebbles, each with their own purpose. The biggest and baddest are “boulders”, which, by the sheer nature of their size, don't move about much. They are at their best making up break-walls, protecting us from flooding, or just sitting at the end of our driveways with our address on them. They are quiet, unassuming, but sometimes menacing and very direct. Sometimes we use them as decorative pieces in our gardens. They are very stubborn, and can usually only be moved by the force of a front-end loader. Perhaps you know someone who fits this description?



“Are You a Rock....or Are You A Stone?” - Continued

Next are the “rocks”, who by dictionary definition, “are used to refer to someone (or something) who/that is extremely reliable and/or solid”. These are the folks who you want for your close friends and confidants. Someone whose opinion you value. If you are a manager, the kind of folks you want working with you, or chairing a committee. They get the job done, are always there for you, and you can count on them to be decisive, clear, colourful and original. They are special, and “rocks” are what I always look for on the beach, or as a friend. I have heard people say to someone “you are my rock”, referring being a pillar of strength. Are you a Rock?

“Stones” are often “used in similes and metaphors, to refer to weight, *OR* lack of feeling, expression, or movement”. Stones are probably the kind of folks you’d want to lead you and the injured survivors, away through the mountains and snow, after surviving a plane crash. They would be fearless and practical. They would also be the type who would make an excellent Special Forces soldier. I do know a few “stones”.

And lastly are the “pebbles”, by definition being “small colourful, and smooth, by the action of water or sand”. They are the ones who move quickly, laying low out of harm’s way, following the best currents, to get to the edge of the shore. They are dual-purpose, very handy, and typically are the ones who fill in all the spaces between the boulders, rocks and stones in your life. I use a handful of them in my pots to go in all the little nooks and crannies that the multi-shaped and sized beach stones can not fill. They are the smallest, often the sturdiest happy colours, and it does take a few more of them to fill the void, but they are friendly and loyal. You can literally “put them in your pocket”, and rub them for comfort, just in case. We are VERY lucky if we have plenty of “pebbles” in our life, to help us navigate through some of the annoying, niggly and most troubling everyday events we encounter. They are like the Covid vaccines and booster shots, masks and protocols; they give us hope, when hope is hard to come by.

All of us are no doubt blessed to have a few “boulders, rocks, stones and pebbles” in our life. If you do, your life should be “rock solid”, pardon the pun. Take a trip to the beach to meet these friends!

Judith L. Carter

Caring Committee Report

Stories have been told, that if the groundhog sees its shadow, spring is just around the corner. According to some, the winter is half over. Other than a few cold bitter days, we have no reason thus far to complain. New month, new challenges, new hopes, new goals. Hope we all beat every challenge and achieve our goals this month successfully.

A special mid-winter hello to all church families and friends, especially those who are struggling with health issues, and isolated during this recent Covid lockdown. Greetings to Laurie Stone as she has been discharged from the hospital but still facing some challenges. May we continue to stay safe and support each other either by phone or e-mail during these uncertain times.

It is a pleasure to see so many of you on the Sunday Zoom Services and many thanks to the technical committee for this privilege.

This is Valentine month, and with that in mind, we all need a little love, but a little chocolate now and then doesn't hurt. Happy Valentine's.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

Governance Document Committee Report

At the meeting on January 27 the Committee approved the following terms of reference:

Technical Committee

They passed suggested changes to the following, with approval (or not) from the relevant committees to come before the next meeting:

Committee on Shared Ministry

Membership and Publicity Committee

Social Responsibility Committee

Library and Archives Committee

Lay Chaplaincy Committee

A list of procedures to be written was presented, and the members will be researching these procedures for presentation at future meetings.

Bobbye Baylis,
Chair Governance Document Committee

Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton

Carmen Smith

Anne Purtell

Linda Upcott

Social Responsibility Report

Many in our committee participated in the December 9th Zoom lecture by the Honourable Murray Sinclair. We learned more about the Indian Act and the controls it placed on Indigenous peoples. We were also given a historic look and the factors behind the Residential School system and the 2008 Truth and Reconciliation Commission which Senator Sinclair chaired. Within this inquiry over 6,000 survivors had a safe place to tell their stories resulting in 94 calls to action to the Federal Government.

Sue is still active in the UU Film Crew that originated in Detroit but now extends to Canada. She has sent out film Zoom invitations to other UU churches in Ontario with three responding. These three are fine with being sent the Zoom links for the films but like many of us, they are very busy and at this point have little interest in joining the film crew. There has been an increase in members with our USA counterparts and many of the roles have been reassigned within the group to ensure that all can participate equally. If our Committee or Board members are aware of films that could be of interest, they are welcome to submit their ideas to the Social Responsibility Committee.

One of the roles of the Film Crew is outreach and fundraising, because many films require a licensing payment. Our SRC has agreed to send \$100.00 CAD to the group and Sue is awaiting a mailing address to which Helen can send the cheque.

Our committee is waiting on more information about speaker for the Howard Pawley Memorial Lecture. We are close to firming that up.

We also have two potential speakers for the International Dinner scheduled for May 1 or 8th. Those speakers' names will be given to the Sunday Services Committee for discussion. It is hoped we can meet in person to enjoy our amazing international cuisine together. With Covid restrictions frequently changing, that must be decided at a date closer to the function.

Our church has been contributing to the Monday Meals at the Leamington United Church and hope to offer more assistance in the future.

Sue Markham,
Chair, Social Responsibility Committee