

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 September 2022

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Sep. 11	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Just Add Water</i> – Water really is that special - and its very presence can make all the difference.	Lorie Lyons
Sep. 18	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>That Time I Almost Stole a Dog</i> - The right course of action isn't always clear, even when we consciously explore our moral compass.	Toni Janik
Sep. 25, 1 pm	CUC National Service	<i>Unsettled and Unafraid</i> – The CUC is hosting “Unsettled and Unafraid,” a national service to honour The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Join Elder-in-Residence Sharon Jinkerson Brass, Rev. Danielle Webber and folks from across the country as they reflect on what the process of un-colonizing looks and feels like to them.	CUC
		This will be followed by an optional, FREE 2.5-hour art therapy workshop facilitated by Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz and Ceremony Keeper Carey Jeanette Sinclair. It will be based on their popular, multi-day workshop, “Unsettling Our Spirituality.”	
Oct. 2	Liz James	<i>The Inherent Mirth and Dignity</i> - Liz James comes from a family that expresses love through practical jokes. Where does humour fit into Unitarian Universalism? Come hear the story behind the creation of the 175,000 person Facebook group, The Hysterical Society.	Baylis-Stone Trio

The building is open for in-person services following a COVID-19 protocol requiring masks and maintaining a 2 meter distance. The services will also continue to be broadcast via Zoom. 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.

Report from the Board

Welcome to the start of a new Fall season for our UU Church of Olinda. My last report was for the June newsletter, and we were finishing that part of our season with the guest Pawley memorial lecture. Suzanne Grouette gave the talk entitled Reconciliation and Forgiveness about indigenous communities and culture in Canada. We were delighted that Howard Pawley's widow, Adele, could join us in the church for the presentation.

The covid-19 pandemic is still with us having killed over a million North Americans and having reduced our life expectancies by over a half dozen years, but it is now joined by the disasters of unexpectantly severe droughts, heat waves, and floods from climate change as magnified by food, water, and fuel shortages as Russia drops its stockpile of weapons on Ukrainian heads, homes, and hospitals and Ukraine counters by blowing up its own bridges in order to isolate Russian forces.

Work in, on, and around our church continued during the summer, as "Men in Kilts" cleaned the church exterior, its windows, and gutters on June 19, Carol and Laurie Hylton organized archives, property chair Stuart Miller ordered replacement windows for a pair of leaking ones on the second floor, and Lorie Lyons weeded and cleaned our flower gardens. Memorial services were held for John Haynes on June 18 at 2 pm and for Laurie Stone on July 23 at both 10:30 am and 2 pm. It was a special treat that the Indian Village String Quintet, that Ray Stone often plays with, made the trip into Canada to provide music for Laurie's services. One of those serving refreshments at Laurie's memorial service was Mariette Preyde. What most of us did not realize at the time was that Mariette's mother, Helen Preyde, had passed away at the age of 95, just a few days earlier, on July 20.

An external MiMo Directional WiFi antenna from Rogers was installed by technician Kory Klassen at the church on July 29. It is hidden under the roof above Rev. Rod's office and is connected to the Cradlepoint modem and E100 router for the church mounted on the wall of the archives closet at the east end of the second-floor hallway. The antenna communicates with the Rogers tower about a mile SE of the church. We used this setup for the Sunday Service of my talk on Extremism and Conspiracy Theories on Sunday, August 14, connecting with our computers in the sanctuary to the WiFi. It seemed to work well and did improve signal reception and transmission. We hope it will continue to provide strong signals for the online versions of our future services and meetings. However, we will also continue to operate our older Rogers Hub as a backup and for our telephone service.

I look forward to seeing everyone again, whether virtually or in person!

Bill Baylis, President

Clergy Connection

Last June, we closed our program year well, with guest speaker Suzanne Grouette at the Howard Pawley Memorial Lecture, as well as with our annual Flower Celebration, in which many of you contributed. As we welcome in a new program year, we begin with our annual **Water Ceremony on Sept. 11**. And, as we are making more use of our building, you're also invited to participate in pouring water into our communal vessel, or have water beside you if you join us from home.

The summer often brings a different pace – there may have been more opportunities for recreation and exploring the outdoors, even if other aspects of our lives may be busier in other ways. As is often the case, my summer held a mix of both, including a few adventures while I visited family. I hope to share one of these adventures on **Sept. 18**, when I tell you about ***That Time I Almost Stole a Dog***.

On **Sunday, Sept. 25 at 1pm**, the Canadian Unitarian Council is offering a new **National Service *Unsettled and Unafraid***, which explores the ongoing process of decolonizing. Afterwards, there will be a *free* art therapy session hosted by Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz and Carey Jeanette Sinclair (2.5 hours). I attended a version of this workshop in May and found it an insightful experience.

I'm also excited about our guest speaker from the ***UU Hysterical Society***, **Liz James**, joining us the following **Sunday, Oct. 2**. I've known Liz for many years and I always enjoy listening to her speak, especially as she takes humour very seriously. I will be attending the Canadian Unitarian Council's Board retreat in Mississauga that weekend, which represents our first in-person encounter in over two years!

I'm pleased to remind all of us that, **in addition to our online and mail options, in-person services are open**, with an expectation to be masked indoors and fully vaccinated. We are not asking for any medical history and I'm grateful for your cooperation during our most recent in-person services, which allows us to keep our spaces as accessible as possible.

One of our volunteers can offer masks on-site and may remind you of the requirement to wear it over your nose and mouth. There is an exemption for attendees with medical conditions, for whom this may be difficult for extended periods of time. The Board will be reviewing our policies this month.

I'm eager to hear your latest stories in the coming weeks, and I'm hopeful that we may have more opportunities to do so in-person!

Warm regards,
--Rev. Rod

Important Dates

Committee meetings may either be in-person or via Zoom. Committee chairs need to notify their members how the meeting will be held when they send out meeting reminders.

Sep. 7 10 am
Membership Committee

Sep. 8 7 pm
Board Meeting

Sep. 11 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Sep. 18 Noon
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

Sep. 20
October Newsletter
Reports Due

Sep. 22 7 pm
Governance Documents
Committee Meeting

Almost Fall Ponderings

As we pass from Summer into our Fall UU Olinda schedule, I decided that, instead of writing an article on one particular topic, I would give you some “Almost Fall Musings” to ponder on, or some “Almost Fall Ponderings” to muse on!? I was about to sit down and begin to write the article, when I found my mind was like a blender, full of all kinds of ingredients, flavours, thoughts, and questions, so here we go. Just like a good home-made salsa, sweet and flavourful, with a bit of kick!

I was listening to a story on the news the other day about “Heros”, and who ARE Heros, and/or WHEN are people Heros? So, are you a Hero for “showing up” or “doing what is expected of you in your job”, or “doing the right thing”? For example a fire fighter or police officer going to work every day, or someone who returns lost money. We see references all the time to First Responders being Heros, during the worst days of the Pandemic. Were the Nurses and Doctors on ICU Units heros, for showing up, or Heros because they were often performing miracles, with little or no resources, such as respirators, medications, proper masks and other protective equipment, and too few staff, in situations where they themselves were at risk of catching Covid? Were they Heros as they often had to hold the hand of our dying relative, who was all alone, as family was not allowed in?

There has also been a whole lot of debate about access to abortion, and particularly when The US Supreme Court overturned “Roe vs Wade” and the impact this might have on women in all the States of the US, but also in Canada. This sparks concern not only over the issue of “freedom of choice” in health care, and gender equality for women, but as well as concern that the “floodgates” for considering reversing legal positions on other “equal rights issues”, may be opened, for example, same sex marriage, and, even voting rights for Black people. Clearly there is likely to be some fallout for women everywhere, including Canada. A celebrity interviewer was having a conversation with Billy Porter, a singer, songwriter, fashion guru, gay black man, activist, and self-described “drag queen”, who you may not know, but who is a Tony *and* Grammy winner. Whether or not you “agree” with his life style or opinions, he is no slouch. Simply put, he says: “ If you don’t agree with abortion, then don’t have one. If you don’t agree with same sex marriage, then don’t marry a gay person!”.

No discussion of “gender equality” would be complete without considering the question of voting on whether or not school children should be “subjected” (their word, not mine) to hearing of LGBT lifestyle issues and language, such as using the word “gay”, or providing educational information about Transgender and other lifestyles. The word “indoctrination” has been used by those who might have us to go back to living in caves. There has also been a lot of debate over whether transgender athletes should be able to compete as their chosen gender, as opposed to their birth gender. School boards have been consumed with what to do about washroom use for Transgender individuals. I don’t know about you, but when I have to go, I am not so concerned about what the person in the cubicle next to me has under their clothing...as long as it’s not a gun!

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Governance Document Committee Report

At the Committee meeting on June 23, two documents were approved: Summer Services and Hospitality. They will receive final approval at the upcoming meeting on Sept. 22. Three other documents were discussed, one on Board Committees generally, one on Gardens, and one presenting the Q & A Covenant prepared by the Sunday Services Committee. In particular, the Garden Committee document has proved to be much more significant than originally anticipated due to the need to come up with a protocol for spreading or interring ashes. It turns out there are legal requirements involved that we need to follow, and a Board decision will need to be made before we can proceed further.

The documents that will be discussed this coming September 22 are as follows:

- a. Choir Director (or Music Director): Bill Baylis
- b. Lay Chaplaincy Committee: Sue Markham
- c. Summer Services, second reading: Rev. Rod
- d. Hospitality, second reading: Mireya Campbell
- e. Gardens, including ash issue: Mireya Campbell & Helen Moore
- f. Q & A Covenant (if there is anything new): Rev. Rod

Your input on any of these documents is welcome. Contact me if you would like to attend and to receive the draft document in advance.

Bobbye Baylis, Chair

Almost Fall Ponderings, Cont'd

And last but not least, have you written a "snail mail" card to a friend or family member who could use some support or sunshine? It takes a bit more thought and effort to actually WRITE someone a card or note, than it does to fire off a sentence of text or email. I always appreciate *so much more*, when I receive a hand-written birthday card or note of news. And next time you're grocery shopping, as much as the prices make us groan, there are MANY others who are much worse off than us. Please consider buying an extra box of cereal or two, or some cans of soup or peanut butter, to drop off at your local Food Bank! If you are one of the many who is struggling to get enough groceries, please reach out to your local Community Centre, Senior Centre, Church or Food Bank!

Anne and I hope you had a healthy and happy Summer... and we look forward to being able to see those of you who are comfortable doing so, sitting in the pews at Olinda U.U. in September!

Judith L. Carter

Finance Report

Once again it is time to plan for the coming year. We will start the process of creating an Operating Budget for 2023 in October. The following schedule is being presented to inform everyone who would like to be part of this process. There are always openings on the Finance Committee for anyone who is interested in the financial health of our church.

Date	Time	Description
Oct. 16	After church, probably via Zoom	Open meeting to discuss budget items. Anyone desiring to be on the Finance Committee should definitely attend this meeting and volunteer to become a member. Lloyd Fund Committee members are requested to attend to answer questions.
Oct. 23		By this date, all Committee budget requests must be submitted to the Finance Chair or the Treasurer so that they can prepare the budget.
Nov. 6	After Church, Zoom (?)	Meeting of the Finance Committee to approve the Budget.
Nov. 10	7 PM	Board Meeting at which Budget will be presented for approval.
Nov. 20	Before Church	Copies of the budget will be available to the congregation for review.
Dec. 4	After Church	Congregational Budget meeting.

See you there!
Bobbye Baylis, Finance Chair

Caring Committee Report

September is the month when autumn says hello, and summertime is over and back to church we go. Hopefully everyone had an enjoyable summer and, as always, it seems to go much too quickly. Welcome back everyone.

Sincere condolences to Ray Stone in the passing of his wife Laurie on July 13th. Laurie was very active as one of our church members, always willing to help on various committees, and will be sadly missed. The caring committee also extends sympathies to Mariette Preyde in the passing on July 20th of her mother Helen Preyde, who often attended some of our church functions, and also to Don Orton who passed away on July 23rd. He was the go-to person to plow the church yard after heavy snow storms.

Extending a cheery hello to all in retirement homes and nursing homes and just at home, and may the new month bless all of you with love, happiness and good health.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

Membership & Publicity Report

As we approach the fall season I hope that all of you had a good summer and are looking forward to the renewal of another year. For many of us September brings back the opportunities to begin something anew. Whether it be fall classes, new hobbies, a chance to try something new, ... there's something about seeing the stores offering school supplies, new crayons, pens, and fresh paper that invites one to start anew, try something different. For me that may come in the form of trying new recipes, a renewed commitment to try something new.

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 me 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.

At any time if you wish to consider becoming a member please contact Rev. Rod or myself and we would be pleased to answer any questions you may have and review the process with you.

Submitted by
Toni Janik, Chair Membership & Publicity

Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton

Carmen Smith

Anne Purtell

Linda Upcott

Note from the Treasurer

Thanks for your donations over the summer when our expenses continued though we did not have weekly church services. The only unusual expense was the \$552 down payment on the replacement of two windows, one which overlooks and provides daylight in the upstairs hall and the other in the former archives closet. It is hoped that this will result in keeping the rain from falling into the church since the wooden window frames have deteriorated over many years.

Thanks to our grass cutter who keeps the lawns looking good and to Lorie Lyons who tends the gardens.

Helen Moore, Treasurer

Property Report

To me ... it seemed that the glorious summer that we've experienced this year, would never end ... what with the countless hot sunny days, and as I recall, almost no rain! But the calendar shows that we've moved into the month ... of return ... to school ... and to Church too.

Last year presented several new challenges for the Property committee.

With our gradual return to in-person services, along side virtual 'at-home' presentations, our stance with COVID-19 protection has continued largely unchanged. Investigations on the modifying of the Church's ancient mechanical systems are on-going, but the sizable expense for a minimal ultra clean & fresh air return, is still under consideration by the Board.

The long standing 'Roof Repair', (*you'll remember the Congregational meetings held to approve expenses of up to well over \$10,000*) gratefully has been resolved. The most recent roof repair company identified that the major source of the water leak into the Tranquility & Coffee rooms was caused by old inefficient storm windows, at the rear of the building, in the Archive, and upstairs corridor areas. You'll all be pleased to learn that a competitive search has purchased 2 new – non-opening - windows, that will be installed within the next month, long before the start of the rainy season ... for under one thousand dollars!

The outside 'stucco' surfaces and windows have also been cleaned, providing a smart appearance to our church building. Now, with only a repair to the older eavestroughs underway, our 'home' is ready to face the challenges of the upcoming fall, ... and (burr...) winter.

Sincerely,
Stuart Miller, Property Committee Chair