

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 2022

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Nov. 6	Charlotte Innerd	<i>Treasures from the Archives</i> - Olinda's long history has been well preserved in our Archives. We'll look at some gems from the archives and how they have shaped our history and theology.	Lorie Lyons
Nov. 13	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Global Handball</i> - Sports and sporting events can be a polarizing subject. Not only do many of us root for different teams, but there are also many among us who have different interests. As the World Cup of soccer football gears up, these questions crop up.	Toni Janik
Nov. 20 1 pm	CUC National Service	<i>National Service – Living into Covenant</i> - We Unitarian Universalists are a covenantal people. Our faith tradition believes in the power and possibility of covenant – a set of shared promises, agreements, and understandings to hold us together. How does a vision of covenant hold us together when we disagree? How does our faith community covenant overlap and diverge from the other covenants of our lives (being a partner or parent or friend or citizen of the world)? How is all of this impacted by how well we are keeping a covenant with ourselves, our own well being? Join Revs. Shana Lyngood and Anne Barker in exploration and reflection.	CUC
Nov. 27	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Heating Up</i> - While winter is approaching, so too are its associated holidays. On the first Sunday of Advent, we kindle the light of warmth in the cold.	Bobbye & Bill Baylis
Dec. 4	TBD		Toni Janik

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

The warm sunny days and beautiful Fall colours that we've been enjoying are now fading all too quickly as Hallowe'en and the return to standard time on November 6 remind us of the changing seasons. Several items addressed at the October meeting of the Board may be of interest to Church members.

COVID Precautions: The Board discussed in-person and virtual services options. Current participation numbers range typically from 25 to 40 with 3 to 8 persons in live attendance and the rest joining online. These numbers are holding steady but live participation is expected to increase as inside social gatherings return. Board agreed to continue with the current approach to protecting our health during meetings in our church: an expectation that in-person attendees be double vaccinated and masked, with exemption only for medical reasons (no "doctor's note" required), distancing and continuation of current practice of no singing. The Board agreed to review these protocols at coming Board meeting and to update them as needed.

Engravings on stone marker in Memorial Garden: Space is available for engraving names on the Memorial Stone. Church has no procedures/process for responding to requests for space on the stone. Following discussion, the Board approved a motion by Bobbye that ***"Members who do not have a name marker elsewhere can request to have the name engraved on the Memorial Stone"*** and further that ***"Costs of the engraving are to be covered by the Memorial Fund."***

Online Directory and Privacy Concerns: Several years ago, we put the church directory online so that members could access up-to-date names, telephone numbers, and addresses of members by internet from any location. Access was protected by a 7-character password, but some members still had concern about privacy issues. The Tech Committee felt that the online availability of the updated directory was worth preserving if possible and suggested several options involving longer and more frequently updated passwords to address the concerns. Helen moved, Carmen seconded, and the Board passed the motion that **the online directory and telephone tree be removed from the web site.** These have now been removed.

CoSM, its membership and relation with the BoD: When the UU Church of Olinda incorporated federally in 2019, revisions of its by-laws and operating procedures were required. Margaret Kohr of the CUC has been very helpful in advising us about changes needed. Much of the work for this has been completed. The Church has accepted a new set of by-laws, but these are still subject to final adjustment and have yet to be submitted to the government. The Committee on Governance Documents has largely completed its description of procedures to be followed, and the Board monitors these developments since they govern its abilities to act and fulfill the mission and objectives of the church in the future.

The governance structure of the church is based on a Board of Directors model with Minister(s). The Board, according to the bylaws, is responsible, on behalf of the congregation, for the management of the affairs and property of the Church, including the appointment of such committees as it shall deem necessary. Its President is also the Chief Executive Officer of the Church.

There are two standing committees, the Finance Committee and the Committee on Shared Ministry (CoSM). CoSM is charged with facilitating work of the ministries of the Congregation and serving in an interpretative role between the Congregation and the ministries. Although

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Clergy Connection

As we move into another month of the Sunday morning multiplatform experience, we have a much better idea of how to meet the needs of our attendees. During the past month, our **Tech Team** has been holding a number of tests so that you may have better access to the entire service experience, whether you're joining in-person or from home. The feedback I've received is that the experience has been getting better in all spaces, even if there are imperfections along the way.

I'm continuing the **in-person Café Drop-ins** most **Tuesdays** from **2-4pm** at the **Lakeside Bakery** in Leamington. These are in addition to the online Drop-ins most Thursdays in the afternoon or early evening (times will be specified by e-mail each week). And our **dinner series** have been back in full swing, which have been great community-building events in our Church, and a chance to see fellow participants outside of Sunday.

I've registered to attend a new online **Carters Law Seminar** for Charities & Not-for-Profit Sector on **Nov. 10**. I've often found these useful in better understanding some of the nuances that affect organizations such as our incorporated church. It features guest speaker Sharmila Khare, a fellow UU from Ottawa First, who is the newest Director General for charities at the CRA, and I look forward to hearing her perspectives.

I attended the Canadian Unitarian Council Board's in-person retreat, in Mississauga, for our first in-person encounter in over two years. I was very pleased to see the energy we shared that weekend, where we discussed, among other things, some exciting possibilities for ministry in Canada. The UU Ministers of Southern Ontario (UUMOSO) is also holding an in-person retreat in Mississauga, from Nov. 21-23.

With the municipal elections completed, the Leamington Ministerial association will continue to work with the incoming council to advocate for better solutions to local people experiencing homelessness. I found it very gratifying that this issue came strongly into focus during this past election.

Over the past month, we've explored some of the legacies of our ancestors and our heritage, and we'll be capping that off with a special service by our Archives Team, who will guide us in a look back, around our Church's anniversary on **Nov. 6**. We also have a **National Service** on **Nov. 20 at 1pm**, hosted by the Canadian Unitarian Council, in which Revs. Shana Lyngood and Anne Barker help us explore covenant, as a primary aspect of our faith tradition.

I appreciate this opportunity to both, look back to our heritage, and look forward to a new kind of year for our church.

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.

Nov. 10 7 pm
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

Nov. 13 Noon
Finance Committee
Meeting

Nov. 17 7 pm
Board Meeting

Nov. 20 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Nov. 22
December Newsletter
Reports Due

Nov. 24 10 am
Membership Committee
Meeting

Membership & Publicity Report

Last Saturday October 22 was the first of three fall Dinners for 6 or 8 hosted by Dan and Toni Janik. It was a full table of 8 with a delightful group of members and friends enjoying the shared gifts of food, stimulating conversation and community. On Saturday, October 29, Carmen and John are hosting the second in the series with a Mexican Fiesta Theme. Our third in the series is on November 19th at Judy and Anne's. All of these dinners are fully subscribed. If you would like to host a dinner for 6 or 8 kindly connect with Toni Janik and I will help you choose a date and help with the advertising through the newsletter and announcements at church. These are wonderful social events outside of church and provide an opportunity to have fun while enjoying a great meal with one another.

Please consider reviewing the information you provided on your "Emergency Contact Forms" to ensure that the information is up to date. Has the email, phone number or individual changed for your contact person? If so, please send Toni Janik by email or snail mail your updated form. You will find a copy of this form on the last page of this newsletter.

If you have been thinking of becoming a member please connect with Rev. Rod or Toni Janik and we will send you the membership form and rights and responsibilities of membership.

Submitted by
Toni Janik, Chair Membership & Publicity

Report from the Board Continued

the President is a member of all Committees of the Church with voice but no vote, the president's attendance at scheduled meetings of CoSM requires permission (or invitation) of CoSM itself. The President initially expressed concerns about this exception to the general rule for Church committees and feared it could reduce the influence of the BoD on CoSM and thus eliminate one vestige of democracy. However, as the Finance Chair explained, CoSM often needs to hold in-camera meetings dealing with sensitive personnel issues, and the President therefore believes the exception is justified.

New antenna for Zoom broadcasts: a new antenna from Rogers has been installed in the archive closet next to Rev. Rod's office on the second floor. It seems to be working better than the Rogers Rocket Hub, Zoom services have improved. There are still occasional connection instabilities and some problems coordinating microphone and speaker settings for both the online and virtual audiences. The team will continue to work on resolving these issues.

Please also see important updates elsewhere in this newsletter: from the Caring committee about several members, from Membership about the happy return of dinners for 8 (or 6), and from Property on repair to the entrance ramp.

Enjoy the remaining weeks of Autumn!

Caring Committee Report

The chaos of fall has subsided. Hopefully we have polished off the Halloween candy, and now we get to take a deep breath of crisp air and settle into November. The days will be getting shorter with time change on November 6th.

Sincere condolences to the family of Karen Miller in the passing of her mother Sandra on Oct. 3, 2022, in South Carolina. May she find comfort from the entire congregation that we acknowledge her sorrow.

Keeping in our thoughts are those congregants and friends struggling with health issues. May you find strength with knowing we are here for you.

A cheery hello to Marion Thompson as she settles in the Leamington Sun Parlor Home Room 322, visitors welcome.

Best wishes to all the November birthdays , extending you all a happy day. Remembering all of our Veterans on Nov.11th.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton

Carmen Smith

Anne Purtell

Linda Upcott

Property Committee Report

As reported during last Sunday's hybrid service, the roof leak resolution, solved with the replacement of 2 rear 2nd storey windows, is to be finished up with their installation the week of 24 October.

Item no. 2 was locating the Roofer who stated that he could repair the existing roof eaves-troughs. We've now found him, and are now attempting to schedule his work for the next month and half.

Item no. 3, the repairs to the front ramp, are in process. Approximately half of the wood materials are being replaced. This should also be finished within the next month. We regret any inconvenience that these repairs may have caused, with appreciation that the ramp is temporarily closed, as marked with caution tape in place to prevent injury, during the 'surgery'!

Your Property Committee,
Respectfully, Stuart Miller

How I Spent My Summer Vacation (Part 2)

My last installment of “How I Spent My Summer Vacation” conjured up many memories of those “Old Days”, mostly in the 1950’s, when things didn’t seem as complicated, or as divided, as our world seems to be today. In those days, it wasn’t uncommon for middle class families to have cottages “up north”, many of which were, and continued to be, passed on through the family. The row of about a dozen cottages that my Grandmother’s cottage was on, all remained in the same families for the entire time I went to Grandmother’s as a kid. As described before, they were all like my Grandmother’s, the 4th hole of the golf course out the back of the properties, and the beach and shore of Lake Huron out front. It sure seemed like Paradise to me. It was a special time, which all of the kids from “the Row”, who looked forward to the summer months, especially July and August, as we were all out of school, and staying at our respective cottages. Usually, all the cottages were winterized, and closed up for the season, by Labour Day weekend, or shortly after, certainly before the first frost, so the pipes did not freeze. So all of us “went home” and didn’t see each other until “opening”, usually the Victoria Day long weekend. It seemed like forever until we saw our “cottage friends” again. There was no email or texting then to keep in touch, just “snail mail”. Each year, we were a little taller, sometimes a little wider (me), sometimes had girl/boyfriends, sometimes had graduated to Junior High or High School, sometimes even had jobs. But, at the Cottage, we were in another carefree world, of fresh air, time at the beach, golfing, and many activities with each other or our combined families, that kept us grounded and busy with many happy things. Sadly, at the point when we were old enough to have summer jobs, or boy/girl friends, new freedoms, that took our interest elsewhere, more than going to the cottage, we drifted apart, and rarely saw each other. But to this day, I can close my eyes, and vividly picture laying on the sand dunes, listening to the gentle rustle of the Poplar trees and Silver Birches, and the waves crashing on shore, dreaming about what I wanted to be when I grew up.

My past summer Cottage experiences reminded me of several occasions when someone in the one of the families in “The Row” died in the off-season, and as many of the Row families as possible would show up at the Funeral or Memorial. At that time, the majority of the families who owned the cottages were from the Greater Toronto/Golden Horseshoe area, so it usually wasn’t that far. As a kid, I guess I really didn’t pay too much attention to the “goings on” at the funeral, except to see some of my friends, and later, at a reception, eat lots of great food! It always seemed to be sad and somewhat boring, no disrespect intended. It wasn’t until the next Cottage season that the true reality hit me, that someone older that I had known for a long time, had died, and wasn’t there any more. I don’t know that I truly understood where they had gone, and why. It was puzzling when folks at the funeral would say things like “they’ve gone to a better place”. I couldn’t imagine going to a “better place” than what we had at the Cottage.

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How I Spent My Summer Vacation (Part 2) Continued

Recently, over the past few years, we have all had experiences of losing many family, friends, church members, and other comrades. And another new reality has hit me. One of those experiences was the service for one of our UU members, Laurie Stone, when her husband, Ray, spoke eloquently, with both humour, pride and sad remembrance, of Laurie's life. After hearing Ray, I realized that I really knew very little of Laurie's life and many accomplishments. She was some kind of gal, I concluded! I wished then that I had had the opportunity to get to know her better. The same flash of reality came just a few weeks ago, when we attended a Memorial Gathering for my Aunt Edie, who died from complications of Alzheimer's Disease a few months ago. She was the last of my father's five siblings to depart this earth. The gathering was huge, over 150 people, happily mingling and exchanging Edie stories, at a golf and country club in Toronto. It was gratifying to see so many folks representing the many "circles" of my Aunt's life, from childhood friends, to us in the family, from her time in a girls' high school in Toronto, to nursing school, to being a nurse at Princess Margaret Hospital, to her interests in golfing, gardening, and community theatre, to name just a few. Most of these endeavors were news to me; I had no idea of what a full and passionate life she had lead. I felt indeed fortunate to have had such a loving, gifted and creative person in my life, and I wished that I had had the opportunity to get to know her better. I felt grateful that she had been instrumental in bringing our family back together at the Memorial, after the isolation of the COVID years. This made me ponder how much do I *really* know about my friends, or members of my family? Maybe we should all take a moment to consider the same...do we *really* know the folks we consider ourselves close to? I am determined to make a more concerted effort to get to know more about the ones I care about, the ones I admire, the ones who continue to teach me more about life, the ones who make me feel blessed every day, *and YOU!*

Respectfully submitted,
Judith L. Carter

Congregational Budget Meeting
Vote on the 2023 Budget
December 11, 2022
At noon following the Zoom Service

Finance Report

Once again it is time to plan for the coming year. We started 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
Nov. 13	After church, via Zoom	Meeting of the Finance Committee to approve the Budget.
Nov. 17	7 PM	Board Meeting at which Budget will be presented for approval.
Nov. 27	Before Church	Copies of the budget will be available to the congregation for review.
Dec. 11	After Church	Congregational Budget meeting.

See you there!
Bobbie Baylis, Finance Chair

Christmas Note from the Treasurer

Though it is still 70 days until Christmas Day, if you wish to contribute to the Children's Aid Society Christmas Families which the church buys gifts for, please make an e-transfer or mail a cheque. Gifts are purchased from a family's wish list.

Thanks for your continuing donations and gifts of Service,

Helen Moore



The Beginnings..... of Truth and Reconciliation

I have made it a part of my personal journey to understand the treatment of indigenous peoples in our country. It has always dismayed me when friends and family still make comments that marginalize and categorize all Indigenous folks. Even as a child I had the presence of a sense of conscious thought telling me something was not right about all of this. I have been open to listening and empathizing to the disturbing claims and conditions that have not been newly reported but rather underreported and largely ignored...until quite recently with the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It was established in 2008 as a result of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA). The IRSSA recognized the suffering and trauma experienced by indigenous students at residential schools. The TRC performed many tasks including creating a national research centre, collecting documents from churches and government, creating a platform for survivors to tell their stories and culminated in compiling a final report in 2015. In this document the 94 Calls to Action became a focus for organizations, corporations and ministries in Canada to improve indigenous people's experiences with child welfare, education, language, culture, health and justice.

Although many of the items from the report have not been addressed (according to the interactive website only 12 have been completed), The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a direct response to Call to Action 80, which called for a federal day of commemoration. Bill C-5 was given Royal Assent on June 3, 2021 designating that day as September 30th. Although federally regulated employees are not at work that day, one other province and two territories have followed suit: Prince Edward Island and Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Knowing this, it became particularly meaningful for me to attend one of the first such commemorative celebrations in our area. September 30 was a busy day for me but I made it my responsibility to take in the many activities in Amherstburg. One of the final ceremonies was the singing of the Travelers Song. Many joined in song, drum and dance.....it was a hopeful, sacred time for everyone there!

For your interest,
Sue Markham,
Chair, Social Responsibility Committee



Emergency Contact Form

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: _____