

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 2023



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Feb. 5 1 pm	CUC National Service	<p><i>Covenanting Through Transitions</i> - Congregations are experiencing a lot of change these days: from ministerial transitions to implementing the 8th Principle, all during a pandemic. Upheaval, loss, uncertainty, pain, aspirations, conflict: cultural shifts within and without are calling us to hold one another gently, despite our differences and difficulties.</p> <p>Covenanting through Transition is a national worship service that asks us “How do we stay in covenant through all of this in our communities? How do we stay in it in a good way when it is hard and people aren’t always their best selves or are disappointed?”</p> <p>We encourage you to bring materials to help you participate in a creative ritual to express yourself during the service; art supplies, an instrument, findings from outside, whatever moves you!</p>	CUC
Feb. 12	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<p><i>Friendship Recession</i> Finding friendship in adulthood can be surprisingly challenging – and practicing connection is still possible.</p>	Lorie Lyons
Feb. 19	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<p><i>Time Surplus...?</i> Recognizing the limits of resources might be just the kind of guidance that allows us to get invested in what we have now.</p>	Toni Janik
Feb. 26	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<p><i>The Doors of Perception</i> Our thoughts can lead us in certain directions – sometimes helpful and sometimes wayward. And then, a stranger’s perspective can offer a whole new trajectory.</p>	Baylis-Stone Trio
March 5	Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel	<p><i>The Leviathan of Parsonstown</i> A major disagreement was settled when people were able to look at the heavens more clearly – it turns out everyone was right.</p>	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

As the Church prepares to close its books on its 2022 fiscal year, committee chairs including many members of your Board of Directors have been busy writing up final reports for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) that follows our Sunday service on March 5, 2023. I know these reports are not always viewed as great reads or best sellers, but I encourage everyone in the church to look through them to appreciate and celebrate what our church has managed to accomplish in very challenging times. In spite of covid cases that strained our hospitals and inflation that drained our wallets, we have survived relatively in tact. We did lose a few dear friends and members, but we paid our bills, continued to offer hybrid Sunday services, and remained true to the mission of our church.

On March 5, a new Board with fresh energy and ideas will take over to lead our church. Of course, many Board members will continue in their positions for another year, and this will ensure continuity in our governance. But continuity does not mean stagnation. We look forward to several welcome changes next year, including more social gatherings including dinners for 6 or 8, a live auction in April, possibly in conjunction with a bring-your-own-bowl chili luncheon, increased singing during services, and in-person coffee hours afterwards, usually hosted by Mariette Preyde. In order to facilitate access to the sanctuary by those in wheelchairs or with other mobility constraints, we look forward to the completion of our new ramp entrance by Stuart Miller and his team mates John Upcott, Laurie Hylton, and Patrick Impens, as well as repair of loose gutters and replacement of several dining-room ceiling tiles. In order to facilitate having refreshments and even meals in the church, the property team and Mariette are looking at adding a high-end dishwasher in the kitchen. Of course, we still have to monitor covid illness in our region and the evolution of any new variants to make sure we stay safe and healthy.

Please join us for the AGM after the service on March 5 to thank the old Board and welcome the new one at the transition of the Church's fiscal year!

Bill Baylis, President

Note from the Treasurer

The year end figures are all in. We ended the year with a deficit of \$2,602 which was a big improvement over the projected deficit of \$7,191.

Thanks for your pledges for 2023. Twenty-one individuals have pledged \$27,620 for the year. If you have not pledged for the year but think that you are able to do so, please do. I realize that for some the situation has changed in the last year.

Thanks for your continuing donations and volunteer hours.

Helen Moore

Clergy Connection

The holiday time allowed us some time to hibernate, which included at least some extra time at home, given that our Saturday afternoon Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24 had to be held exclusively online after Winter Storm “Elliot” got our building snowed-in. While access to the building was limited, our building manager John Upcott was able to look after its maintenance during the storm. Our Jan. 1 online-only service, also allowed our members and volunteers to stay at home, while still having a time for shared worship at the turn of the year.

The new year is offering more opportunity for much-missed in-person interaction, as we’ve introduced increased **live singing** during services, with a growing number of singers in the sanctuary, and some **hospitality offerings** after the morning service with hot beverages, which have been eagerly welcomed. We hope to eventually re-introduce simple food options as well. Let us know if you wish to support the hospitality team.

January also offered us a remote option to share food outside of Sunday, with our touchless **Soup Lunch** on Jan. 26. Special thanks to Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson for organizing and coordinating this fundraiser and community-building event. We’ll have another opportunity for a shared meal later on in April.

Thanks to all of you who submitted your Annual Reports. These tell much of our story, helping us keep track of where we have recently been, and giving us an idea of where we might go in the time ahead. We’ll have a chance to familiarize ourselves with these stories this month, as we prepare for our Annual Congregational Meeting on March 5, when we have another space to collectively look after our church.

We continue our exploration of options for re-connection, even as the winter holiday season has passed us. And, as the Lenten season begins later this month, I also invite us to consider how our ways of perceiving the world shape us – and how we may shape them.

Warm regards,
--Rev. Rod

Annual Report Deadlines

January 15: Non-Financial Reports Due to Carmen & Bobbye.

January 29: Financial Reports Due to Helen, Bobbye, & Ray Stone.

February 12: Annual Reports Will be Available to Congregation

March 5: Annual Congregational Meeting

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.

Jan. 27 Noon
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

Jan. 29
Financial Annual Reports
Due

Feb. 9 7 pm
Board Meeting

Feb. 12 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Feb. 20
March Newsletter Reports
Due

March 23 10 am
Membership Committee
Meeting

It's Time to Prepare for our Annual AUUction

If you would like to donate items for either our silent or live auction this year please contact Toni Janik no later than March 20, 2023. The final list of items up for bids will be published in the April newsletter. Perhaps you would like to host a dinner and provide the food for your dining guests. Or maybe you would like to offer a class online, offer a service, art work, jams, pickles, pies, dessert.... The possibilities are endless.



UU Olinda AUUction 2023 Virtual Silent Auction by Phone and Email Monday April 17—Wednesday April 19 & Live Auction in our Church Sanctuary Saturday April 22 Time: 2 PM—4 PM

What an exciting auction it's going to be this year. We start with the Silent Auction which we will hold on Monday April 17, Tuesday April 18, and Wednesday April 19. You will be able to choose whether you want to **Phone** in your orders for items on the Silent Auction List OR **Email** in your orders. Toni Janik will be accepting your orders from 10 AM until 6 PM each of these 3 days. You can reach her by either calling her at 519-966-6434 or emailing at djanik1@cogeco.ca

The list of items available for **Silent AUUction** ordering will be published in the April Newsletter. For example you may choose to order 1 jar of pickles, 1 Quiche, 2 jars of jam, one ticket to a dining event,..... For each item you will see how many jars, tickets, etc. are available. Once we sell out of that item—that's it—there aren't any more. SO..... Start placing your orders as soon as you can once the auction opens on Monday April 17th. My guess is that with the excellent list of items available this year—we will sell out of everything.

See page 5 for details on our AUUction Chili Lunch which will take place at the church before the Live Auction on April 22, 2023.

Then... Set your calendars for the **Live AUUction** which begins **Saturday April 22th at 2 PM in the Church Sanctuary**. The list of items available for bidding will be published in the April Newsletter.

Keep your copy of this newsletter handy—you will want it close by so you can start choosing what you want to order from the silent auction and what you want to bid on during the live auction segment. Let us have fun and raise some funds for our beloved church.



UU Olinda AUUction Bring Your Own Bowl Chili Lunch



Once again we are thrilled to announce the return of the AU-Uction Lunch prior to the Live Auction.

Bring your own Bowl, Spoon and Beverage. This is a no cleanup lunch. Just take your dishes home.

There will be both Vegetarian and Meaty Chilis for your dining pleasure.

Time: Noon April 22, 2023

Where: At the Church

Price: \$15 per person

To Reserve your tickets: Call or email Toni Janik

Caring Committee Report

Let us welcome the month of February and take every chance to show love to all we meet. This month is the border between winter and spring. The winter is half over and again this year we are blessed with mild weather for this time of the year. A special Valentine hello to all the church families and friends, especially to Carabel Ringrose as she celebrated her 90th birthday on Jan. 18th and recently recovered from a case of covid. It was good to hear her symptoms are subsiding, and hope she continues a rapid return to good health. Many happy returns to all who celebrated another birthday milestone this past month.

Get well wishes extended to all who are struggling with health issues. May we continue to stay safe and support each other.

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

Wishing All A HAPPY VALENTINE!

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton

Carmen Smith

Anne Purtell

Linda Upcott

Sunday Services/ Social Responsibility Report

On Sunday January 22, 2023, Olinda was very fortunate to have our guest Glen Jackson speak on the charity "Hearts Together for Haiti". Glen brought a slide show and video and although we had technical sound difficulties, it was a heartfelt look into the lives in Haiti that have been forever bettered by the involvement of Glen and his team.

Glen has graciously agreed to re-record his slide show commentary with me and we can have the wonderful presentation completed so it all can be posted with the video on line.

When this is completed you will be able to view it on our website...so stay tuned.

How to Help:

Glen did not give too much attention to the fact that it is donations that keep this charity running. With that in mind here are the ways you can help.

You can donate any amount to: Medical Clinic, Lunch Program, School and Orphanage

The areas most in need are:

Backpack Sponsorship (school kids) \$350.00 per year

Senior Sponsorship (elderly who have no family or income) \$350.00 per year

College student sponsorship \$500.00 + per year.

You can call Glen Jackson at 519-727-4385 or email him at akshun2@bell.net.

Any donations can be arranged through the website: htfhaiti.org or send a cheque to "Hearts Together for Haiti", c/o Glen Jackson, 1074 Lilydale Ave. Belle River, Ontario N0R1A0

Additionally, there is a fund raising banquet set for April 15th, 2023. Further details will be shared closer to this function.

Glen did not mention at our service that he had received the Platinum Jubilee

Award in Honour of the late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the II from Windsor West NDP Member of Parliament: Brian Masse. Here are some photos of the award ceremony.

Congratulations Glen!!



Sunday Services/ Social Responsibility Report continued

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Chinese New Year's Celebration of Culture: Year of the Rabbit.

Sunday, January 22, 2023 was Chinese Lunar New Year. According to world sources, it is the largest annual travel day in the world. Numbers are up this year in China since many haven't travelled to see family in two years.

This year the Essex County Chinese Association held a New Year's celebration for the community at Devonshire Mall in Windsor. They had drumming, dancing, dragon dancing, calligraphy, snacks and crafts for the kids. I made it a point to go and

take part in the festivities especially because the friend I went with was a rabbit in the



"Year of the Rabbit". I wanted see what was in store for him. What I did find is that the Rabbit is the fourth animal in the Chinese Zodiac sequence of 12, and is seen as the luckiest..... and lucky for my friend!

People born in the year of the Rabbit are believed to be vigilant, witty, quick-minded, patient, very responsible and ingenious. The animal is also said to signify mercy, elegance and beauty. Even more interesting to me was that the year of the rabbit is expected to bring calmness to our lives, as it symbolizes peace, happiness and health.

I ask you, couldn't we all use a little of that?

Sue Markham
Chair, Social Responsibility



“Happy Places”

No doubt most of us have at least one “Happy Place” where we go, in our minds, when we feel pain, grief, unwelcome solitude, depression, illness, bad news, and other uncomfortable situations and feelings. For some, this may involve prayer, for others not. For all, it’s just a “safe place to park” temporarily when we are being visited by events and/or feelings that are hard to handle. While in this safe, and happy, place, we have opportunity to get a short vacation from the uncomfortable, revisit old pleasant memories, and time to sort out our feelings and maybe options for the longer-term management of the more unsavoury things that have come to visit us. We may have more than one “Happy Place”, dependent on the nature of the discomfort, and these “Happy Places” may change over time, with age, and/or increased self-awareness or wisdom.

When I was a kid, most times my “happy places” involved seasonal places and friends we connected with during the Spring and Summer months at my grandmother’s cottage, in Kincardine, Ontario. The cottage was a very peaceful and safe place we looked forward to visiting for the eight or so months we were not up there. If you walked out the front door, and walked across the lawn to the steps, you went down to the sandy beach on the eastern shore of Lake Huron. If you walked out the back door, and down the driveway, you ended up in the middle of the 4th hole of the Kincardine Golf Course. Therefore, understandably, most of my “happy places” and fondest memories, revolved around being on the golf course, at the beach, or out in the Lake on a “punt” we had fashioned out of odds and sods of wood washed up on shore. One particular “happy place” was sitting reading with a flashlight at dusk on the second storey of the “luxury fort” my brother and I built with our friends, in the woods surrounding the cottage and on the edge of the golf course. Another was laying on my back in the sand dunes of the beach, watching the clouds change shape and location, in the robin’s egg blue sky. I went to these two “happy places” whenever I’d been sent to my room, or when, in school, I frequented the Vice-Principal’s office for yet another “discussion”.

As a middle-aged adult, one of my true “happy places” was on Madeira Beach, just west of Seminole, Florida, on The Gulf. Every February, for many years, Anne and I would drive down to visit our friend Joyce, now deceased, who lived in Seminole, and stay for around two weeks there with her. During these visits, we got to know the many lovely spots in the St. Pete’s area. During the last evening of every visit, before we were due to head out for home, the three of us would buy KFC dinners, and go sit on the beach watching the pelicans and other birds fishing in the surf, and watching our last sunset of the visit. Many times, when I was getting hateful dental work done, I would go to that very special spot for comfort. I also go there when I think of our friend Joyce, and how much we miss her, and her friendship.

As an older adult, my “happy places” have changed somewhat, as have my reason/s for needing to go there. Interestingly, some of my recent and current “happy places” remain in the Grey-Bruce area, in particular in Oliphant, Ontario, just west of Wiarton, and about a mile east of Lake Huron, where for many years we had our fifth-wheel RV parked. In the campground, just at day-break, almost every day, I would walk one or both of our Corgis along the road where our site was, past our friend Florence’s site, and up to the Beach on Spry Lake,

Continued on next page

“Happy Places” continued

the small Lake we were located on. There was rarely anyone else up at this time of the morning, which made it even more special. This was a time when everything was starting to wake up, except for the other campers. Small flocks of Sandhill Cranes would fly over at daybreak, squawking loudly. There was frequently a woodpecker to be heard, rat-a-tating on a metal pole up by the Rec Centre, and I often wondered if he was getting a concussion, or if his beak was getting dull from this. It was also a good time to hear the crows, and some other birds, calling to each other across the wide expanse of the campground. There were often busy, colourful, hummingbirds to be seen buzzing around the many feeders folks had at their sites, looking for breakfast. I would go down to the shore of the Lake and greet the Day, say hello to the spirits of our previous Corgis who had passed, and had had their ashes scattered on the Lake. These are “happy places” I find myself going to more often these days, when my health issues flair up, and I’m not feeling well, or when we hear of yet another friend passing away far too soon.

My hope for you is that you too are blessed with a number of special and peaceful “Happy Places” you can escape to when Life happens, and you need a bit of a break from the realities happening around you!

Judith L. Carter



Judy, Anne and Jane Innerd having lunch at a "Happy Place"

Annual Congregational Meeting

Vote on the Annual Report
Election of 2023 Board of Directors
and Nominating & Auditing Committees
March 5, 2023
At noon following the Church Service
Please attend! We need a Quorum!

Dinners for 6 or 8



Two of the dinners this church year were very well received and now the third one has been re-scheduled at Judy and Anne's on **Saturday March 18th**. If you signed up for this one, connect with Judy and Anne. If you are

interested in attending a **Dinner for 6 or 8** now is your chance. Mariette Preyde is hosting one on **Saturday March 25th**. To register for this dinner call Mariette.

Interested in hosting a dinner for 6 or 8? Set a date, a menu, and connect with Toni Janik and she will advertise your event in our church newsletter. These dinners are a great way to get to know your fellow UU's in a social setting and have a lot of fun. Each participant brings one dish of the meal to share with the group. The host sets the theme and the menu, and you volunteer for the dish you would like to bring. Have fun everyone!