

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 2023

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Jan. 1	Congregants	<i>New Year's Gifts (online only)</i> - An opportunity to start the year by sharing your messages of hope, blessings and inspiration, with musical interludes, from the comfort of home.	Lorie Lyons
Jan. 8	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Links in the Description</i> - The interrelated web has many unseen parts. And the new year might be just the time to explore them!	Lorie Lyons
Jan. 15	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Special Occasions</i> - Have you been saving something for a special occasion? Looking for a time to reconnect with someone? What if that time is today?	Baylis-Stone Trio
Jan. 22	Glen Jackson	<i>Stories of Haiti</i> - Glen Jackson, our returning guest speaker active in Haiti with Hearts Together for Haiti returns to tell of his work.	Toni Janik
Jan. 29	Rev. Rod Solano-Quesnel	<i>Down a Notch</i> - Self-improvement tends to indicate "scaling up", but what if it sometimes means scaling down?	Lorie Lyons
Feb. 5 1 pm	CUC National Service	<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. 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?" 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!	CUC

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 we now enter our third year of the covid-19 pandemic in Canada, most of us want to forget about masks and social distancing and return to in-person gatherings where we chat over refreshments and sing together. Your Board and Minister are indeed taking steps in this direction, but a continuing threat of covid is still present and we must move with care. Indeed, a new virulent omicron subvariant XBB.1.5, nicknamed the “Kraken” variant, is rapidly spreading in the northeast of North America. It now accounts for 75% of new confirmed cases there and 40% of American cases overall. Although it seems effective at evading attacks by the immune system, booster shots, especially the bivalent one, do apparently reduce deaths and hospitalizations. The upshot: we will move forward toward more in-person events while still exercising the annoying cautions required to protect ourselves and our community.

Of course, the pandemic has not been our only concern! Unprovoked and unconscionable war, claiming homes, lives, history and culture, the widely varied impacts of climate change across the globe, hunger in a world of now eight billion people, and the suppression of human rights and freedoms are all high on the list of global concerns, while inflation, habitat destruction, drug overdoses and the need to deal with mass migrations can dominate local effects. We are grateful to be part of a community based on principles of love, compassion, and understanding as together we seek truth and meaning in our lives with service to humanity.

Although we still face some cold days ahead, we have by now survived the Winter Solstice and welcome a new calendar year with days of increasing light as the sun’s path rises higher in the sky and its rays warm our lives and initiate a rebirth of Nature. We have been fortunate here to have escaped the storms, floods, droughts, and fires that have disrupted many holiday travel plans and taken away homes and lives across North America. At Olinda, we can now look forward to more in-person gatherings including an Auction, International Dinner, and other meals in church, perhaps even facilitated by the acquisition of a new dishwasher.

Happy New Year 2023 to all who have done so much to keep our UU Church of Olinda alive, resilient, and welcoming during difficult times, with special thanks to the Board, its committees, and our minister, Rev. Rod, for their leadership and guidance on cautiously returning to more community with live gatherings, refreshments, and singing. Thanks also to our treasurer Helen Moore and the finance committee, who, with the backing of generous donors and support of the minister, have approved a positive and realistic budget for the coming year.

Bill Baylis, President

Clergy Connection

I am finding a growing sense of personal interaction as in-person options are becoming more practical. This was nicely enhanced with some of the activities that came around Christmas and holiday times, such as our **Christmas Tree Decorating**, which had a convivial attendance on Dec. 9, as well as **holiday package** deliveries to homebound members, by the **Caring Committee**.

Our remote events, of course, continue to offer options, so that people may gather as practical. I look forward to the touchless **Soup Lunch** on Jan. 25 (deadline for orders Jan. 17).

And I continue to be pleased with the improving quality of our shared multi-platform Sunday services, which now offer opportunities for **live singing**, as well as a better sound experience for those joining us from home. We are also looking to re-initiate some **hospitality offerings** after the morning service, such as hot beverages.

Of course, the online option remains available, and was very helpful toward the end of the year, as we saw during our Saturday afternoon Christmas Eve service on Dec. 24, which had to be held exclusively online, after Winter Storm "Elliot" snowed in our building. While access to the building was limited, our building manager John Upcott was able to look after its maintenance during the storm. Along with our Jan. 1 online-only service, we hope that our members and volunteers had an opportunity to stay at home and "hibernate", while still having a time for shared worship on both those weekends.

This month, I invite us to explore areas of re-connection, both in-person and over long distances. All the while, we also continue to consider balance as we challenge our edges while remaining mindful of our limitations.

Warm regards,
--Rev. Rod

Annual Report Deadlines

- January 15: Non-Financial Reports Due to Carmen & Bobbye
- January 29: Financial Reports Due to Helen, Bobbye, & Carmen
- 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. 12 7 pm
Board Meeting

Jan. 15 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Jan. 15
Non-Financial Annual Reports Due

Jan. 22 Noon
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Jan. 23
February Newsletter Reports Due

Jan. 26 10 am
Membership Committee Meeting

Jan. 29
Financial Annual Reports Due

January Soup Fundraiser

Details for this Year's Soup Fundraiser are on page 7 in this Newsletter. Elaine Stevenson and Toni Janik are hosting this Contactless Soup Fundraiser again this year . All you need to do is (1) Choose your soup or soups, (2) Choose regular or sugar-free dessert option, (3) Decide whether you want to pick it up from Toni's Porch in South Windsor on January 25th, or Elaine's Porch in Olinda, (4) Call or email Toni to place your order before January 17th.

You are welcome to place an order for more than one soup meal. Each meal is \$20 which is going to the UU Church of Olinda Operating Budget.

Arts Collective Theatre and the Social Justice Theatre Project.

I seem to frequently have my ear to the ground searching out social justice initiatives and activities, especially when it includes the performing arts.

Recently, I stumbled upon the Art Collective Theatre associated with the University of Windsor. Checking into their website this is what I learned. "Arts Collective Theatre is a not-for-profit organization dedicated and committed to enhancing the well-being of the Windsor-Essex community through theatre, education, mentorship, and by bringing awareness to social justice issues in Windsor and beyond. It is run by a 9 member Board of Directors and has a Management Governance Team model. They have no paid staff members unless they are awarded grant funds for paid positions and specific projects. They are run by a group of dedicated, eager volunteers who want to be part of the growth of the Windsor-Essex performing arts community".

One of the projects they presented was the ACT Social Justice Theatre Project: a series of collaborative workshops to create a one act play. The project's focus was to make audiences aware of the many social issues we face. Some past shows have dealt with themes of bullying, LGBTQ2S, refugees, newcomer barriers and stereotypes, elder abuse, mental health stigma, marginalized youth and homelessness. With some audience involvement this project used brainstorming, discussion, healthy dialogue, visual arts and improvisation to create an original, honest play.

Some of their drive to do this work was stymied with the pandemic but I hope they are back into full swing in the near future. I think that once they are, I will try to become a regular patron. You can go to their website and sign up for their newsletter: a great way to get involved and informed of the inspirational work they do!

For your information,
Sue Markham

Chair, Social Responsibility Committee

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, Tina Van Hinte, Cathy Dewhurst

Note from the Treasurer

Thanks for all your generous donations. Though all the information for year end has not been received as I write this, it now appears that instead of a deficit of \$7,191, as forecast in the budget, the deficit will be less than \$3,000.

Also thank you for your donations for Christmas Families. The Board voted to collect money for Children's Aid Christmas Families who live in Essex County and have the greatest need. Children's Aid chose two families, one with a mother with a 3 year old girl and 2 year old boy and a father with a 5 year old girl and 4 year old boy. John and Linda Upcott again volunteered to do the shopping and provided excellent gifts which included winter boots for children and the father, winter coats, toys, pajamas, sheets and towels. Each family also received a \$200 gift certificate for groceries from their store of choice. Thank you very much for your donations and thanks to John and Linda for all their good purchases.

Helen Moore

Finance Committee Report

The 2023 Budget as approved by the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors was passed at the Congregational Budget Meeting on Dec. 11. Many thanks to the 31 members who participated in the vote, in-person, via Zoom, and via phone or email. 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

Caring Committee Report

As 2022 comes to a close, there is a lot to look forward to in the year ahead. But before we jumpstart the ride into 2023, the entire Caring Committee team wants to thank everyone for helping the committee to stay connected with the congregation. We wish you all a prosperous New Year. We extend our deepest sympathies to all who has recently lost friends, loved ones, or relatives. For right now and all the days ahead, wishing you all strength and peace.

 Birthday wishes to Evelyn Dresser as she celebrates on Jan. 10th.

 A cheery hello to all homebound folks, may you stay warm and healthy through these cold winter months.

 Special thanks to the committee members, Carol Hylton, Carmen Smith , and Anne Purtell for all their assistance.

 Remember as you journey through another year, know that you are not alone.

 Submitted By: Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carol Hylton

Carmen Smith

Anne Purtell

Linda Upcott

Property Committee Report

It's 2023 ... and we're ready to move ahead !

The woes of the pandemic are behind us, *despite rumblings in the shadows, still lurking.*

The little white church in the County, is ready to open our doors wide, and invite our rested congregants back, and introduce new curious individuals and families, into our historic premises.

To make this easier, your property committee has received the support, and skills of some of our own talented members.

 A) The old wooden front entry ramp is to be replaced with a modern code compliant concrete structure. Stay tuned, and watch this be come reality.

 B) To facilitate (the clean-up) of our famous coffee hour, and in-person meals, we'll be adding a dishwasher in the main floor kitchen. Our extended team is out pricing this now !

These are just two of our current projects, but this committee is 'on-guard', and ready to provide the best that our building can be.

Please provide any new ideas, concepts, and requests, to ...

Property Chair,
Stuart Miller

January Soup Meal Order Form 2023



Toni Janik and Elaine Stevenson are thrilled to offer a contactless fund-raiser for congregants and friends. Pickup will be on Wednesday, January 25, 2023. 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 25 from 11 AM to 6 PM.

Please specify what time you would like to pick up your luncheon.

If you require pickup outside of these hours please call Toni.

To Place Your Order(s) - Call Toni at 519-966-6434 or

email djanik1@cogeco.ca