

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 December 2023

Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Dec. 3	Ray Stone	<i>Self Care and Spirituality</i>	Baylis Duet
Dec. 10	Karen Miller	<i>Animals and Spirituality</i>	Lorie Lyons
Dec. 17	Bill Baylis	<i>Edmund Hamilton Sears and His Carol of Peace in a Time of War</i>	Toni Janik
Dec. 24	Bill Baylis, Multiple Contributors	<i>UUs and a Celebration of Christmas Joy</i>	Baylis Family & Ray Stone
Dec. 31	No Service	<i>N/A</i>	N/A
Jan. 7	Sarah Wert, Multiple Contributors	<i>Looking Forward and Looking Back</i>	TBA

The Olinda church building is open for in-person services. Masks are available should you chose to wear one. The services will also continue to be broadcast via Zoom. A link to the service is emailed to those interested on Saturday afternoons. If you would like to be included, email Bobbye Baylis at bbaylis@cogeco.ca.

Report from the Board

The sinking path of the Sun across our skies heralds the coming Winter Solstice. The U.S. Thanksgiving is over, and by the forecast this weekend, we should get a reminder of the winter weather to come. It's time for some Christmas cheer including UU contributions such as Dickens's story *A Christmas Carol* and Sears' carol *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*. Do you have a special trinket or meaningful decoration to add to the tree? Bing it along! And please join us in singing carols, and sipping cider on Saturday afternoon December 2 at 4 pm, and learn more about UU Christmas contributions and traditions during the Sunday services on December 17 and December 24 at 10:30 am. **We will have time for a few contributions from the audience, so if you have favorite readings or music pieces you are willing to perform, please let me know so that we can try to squeeze you in.** The Sunday services will be available both live in church and online, but the virtual online experience is a poor substitute for in-person greetings and tasty refreshments!

After the tragic death of our popular minister, Reverend Rodrigo Emilio Solano Quesnel ("Rev. Rod") last summer, our church has continued to present church services, both Sunday services and special-occasion ones, encountering occasional challenges with Zoom connections and faulty equipment as we learn the ropes. In spite of a few stumbles, we have been blessed by excellent speakers. Some of their sermons have been recorded and are now available on our website <http://uuolinda.org> as downloadable mp4 files. Most modern computers can play these directly but they are currently raw and unedited. If there is a need, we can transform them into YouTube videos with basic editing. Some text transcripts are also provided for sermons.

With the guidance of both the American Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), the Board has begun the search for a new minister. A search committee has been formed by Toni Janik, Chair; Michael Hoffman, co-chair; Sue Markham; Ray Stone; and possibly one additional member. I will be active but non-voting as Board President. The committee will be seeking the views of church members and friends both on our goals and how we describe ourselves, and on what we are looking for in a new minister. On the advice of Rev. Keith Kron, Transitions Director for UUA, and Rev. Linda Thomson, Congregational Life (CL) Lead for C/E Region of the CUC, we are following the procedure to search for a **Contract Minister**. Such ministers are appointed by the Board to serve renewable contracts of initially only a few years. These contracts were common for part-time or shared ministerial positions, but now with a shortage of full-time ministerial candidates, they are also recommended for all churches of fewer than about 125 members. The search for a settled minister for a larger church is a longer procedure involving an interim minister who may serve for up to two years as Rev. Fran Dearman did for us after the death of Rev. Christine Hillman, but interim ministers cannot be called as settled ministers where they have just served in an interim position. However, if a contract minister and the church being served both agree, the contract minister can be called by the church. The point, I think, is that after contracts of a year or more, the minister and the church become well enough acquainted to learn how suitable the minister would be for a more permanent position with that church even without going through the interim-minister stage. There is a good description of the possible options and procedures for ministerial appointments in the UUA's *Ministerial Transitions Handbook*.

This may be an important and eventful year for our historic church. Happy Holidays! As light and warmth return, I wish us well!

Food Banks are More Important That Ever

It is again the Holiday Season and our thoughts often go to the people who are less fortunate. Those who deal with the effects of food insecurity are sometimes close to the top in our minds. In a world of increasing food prices and relatively stagnant wage improvements, families are finding it challenging to be able to afford enough food to put on the table. It is now necessary for food banks to be constantly and consistently filling the gaps for families.

We need to stock food banks all year round and now with a variety of items not required before. 60% more Canadians per month are expected to use food banks and other supportive programs in 2023. From Statistics Canada in 2022, 1 in 4 children under 18 in the 10 provinces lived in a food insecure household. That amounts to 1.8 million children, an increase from 1.4 million in 2021. In March of 2023 there were an unprecedented 1.9 million visits to the food banks. This is a 32% increase over the figures in 2022.

With the cost of living rising, new data from Statistics Canada shows more Canadians are feeling “food insecurity” with nearly 7 million saying they are worried about being able to pay for food and close to 2 million saying they are having to miss meals or even go days without eating any food.

I had a chance to visit both the Kingsville Food Bank at 18 Division Street South and Project Hope in Harrow at 243 McAffe Street. Incidentally this food pantry is open 7 days a week from 7-8pm. While talking to the amazingly dedicated volunteers, I asked what is most needed. Anything is graciously accepted but cash or grocery and gas gift cards are a blessing because the banks can shop for what they need, shop for specials and perhaps get better bulk pricing. Valued items are boxed or powdered milk, cooking oils, spices, sugar, flour and interestingly enough, a seasonal favourite is stove top stuffing. Butter, margarine, eggs and feminine hygiene are treasured! Of course canned and dried goods are staples, but one point was shared with me that I had not considered. Maybe throw in with your donation a can opener.

Workplaces are particularly situated to efficiently and quite easily organize food drives. If needed, food banks can also make efforts to pick up the collected items.

There are solutions but it is not easy to solve the food insecurity problem. Reducing household food insecurity requires the commitment of public revenues and resources to ensure that income supports for low wage, working aged Canadians and their families are adequate, secure, and responsive to changing costs of living, irrespective of their income sources. Our seniors are living on a fixed income and when prices increase by large margins the task is daunting.

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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.

Dec. 2 4—5 pm
Help trim our tree while singing carols, sipping cider, & munching cookies!

Dec. 3 Noon
Congregational Meeting on Budget

Dec. 5 10 am
Membership Committee Meeting via Zoom

Dec. 10 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Dec. 14 7 pm
Board Meeting

Dec. 18
January Newsletter Reports Due Promptly

Jan. 21, 2024 Noon
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Membership & Publicity Report

We've had 3 very successful Dinners for 6, 8, 10 - the most recent was on November 18th hosted by Karen Miller. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to host and to those who participated in these great opportunities for community building. We would like to hear from anyone who would like to host in January, February or March. This would be a wonderful way to connect during the winter months and warm our souls with laughter, great food and conversation. If you would like to host a Dinner in early 2024 please contact Toni no later than the 20th of the month before so I can announce this opportunity for our congregants in the next newsletter.

I'm excited that 12 congregants have signed up for the Spirit of Christmas Musical being held on Friday December 8th. Thanks to Carmen for making the arrangements for the tickets and seating so we can all sit together and enjoy the performance.

May all enjoy a Christmas season with great joy, love and laughter that fills your heart with gladness.

Toni Janik
Chair Membership and Publicity



Updated Church Directory—Now Available

The new and updated Church Directory is now available thanks to the efforts of all of you in ensuring that all the listings are accurate and up to date. My gratitude to Bobbye Baylis for the enormous task of creating this updated November 2023 edition. The membership committee with the help of many Christmas elves are ensuring that everyone will receive theirs shortly. To insure everyone's privacy there will NOT be a digital copy for sharing—only the print copies—so that we can do our due diligence in protecting everyone's information.

Note from the Treasurer

Thanks for making a pledge for 2024. If you have not yet done so and wish to make a pledge, please mail the card, put it in the offering plate at church, email the amount to me or call me with the amount.

A copy of the budget has been emailed to each member or donor who has email while those without computers have been mailed a budget. Budgets are also available on the table in the hallway at church. We will vote on the budget at our Congregational Meeting on December 3.

Donations to the church can be made by etransfer, mailed cheque or cheque or cash deposited in the offering plate at church.

Thanks for your ongoing offerings and gifts of service.

Enjoy Christmas and New Years!
Helen Moore

Caring Committee Report

Cheers to a month of celebration, togetherness, and spreading holiday cheer. Wishing all the congregants a month filled with joy, love and festivities.

The caring committee elves are busy assembling their one of a kind Christmas treat packages for the homebound congregants, which will be delivered on time for the holidays.

Sincere condolences to the family of Hector (Buster) Ringrose who passed away November 16, 2023, just two weeks short of his 96th birthday. He was an icon of our church, bringing joy and friendship to all. He made an excellent church greeter on Sunday morning and don't forget his interesting shoes, and for many years he portrayed Santa Claus bringing smiles to all. He will be greatly missed.

Our deepest sympathies to the family of Gord Taylor who passed away October 29, 2023. He served on many church committees, including the search committee and social justice just to name a few. He too will be greatly missed.

Special holiday greetings to all the church families and friends. May you all enjoy the beauty and wonder of the season. Merry Christmas from our house to yours.

Submitted by : Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carmen Smith

Linda Upcott

Adult Religious Education

Adult Religious Education The Sacred in Everyday Life

Dates: Mondays at 7:00 p.m., Via Zoom

October 30: Animals

November 20: Leisure

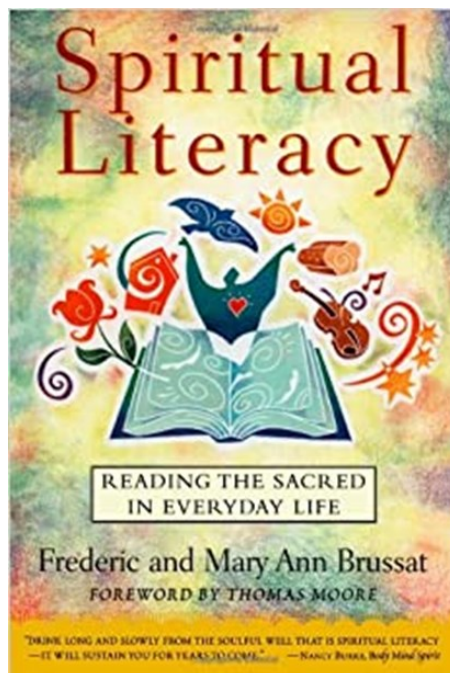
December 4: Creativity

Participants will be reading *Spiritual Literacy: Reading The Sacred in Everyday Life* by Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat. If you do not have it yet, the book may be purchased through Chapters Indigo in Windsor or your favourite bookstore in the area. It sells for \$48.00 Canadian for the soft cover edition.

Led by Karen Andersen Miller, Chair, Lifespan Learning Committee

To register or for questions e-mail

k.a.miller@wavedirect.com or phone Karen—her contact info is in our directory.



All I Want For Christmas...

All I want for Christmas...well, it won't be my two front teeth, as they're already gone, and replaced by a partial, years ago! So, instead, I have a list of the things for SANTA, that I REALLY want for Christmas...

- I want to be able to find things in the house, when I put them down and then forget where I put them.
- I want to be able to sleep through the night and feel rested.
- I want to be able to go to the grocery store and not have to put the fresh fruits and vegetables that I crave, back, as the prices have gotten ridiculous.
- I want to be able to drive from Amherstburg to Windsor without encountering six areas of construction on main routes, that create detours.
- AND when there ARE Detours, I want there to be SIGNS, so I know which route to follow.
- I want traffic circles to be banned!
- I want to be able to sit down in the early morning with my coffee, and not hear that there are places in the world where there are active wars going on.
- I want for the people at war to be able to stop long enough to appreciate that there might actually be a compromise to their differences.
- I want for "Black Friday Sales" to actually be on the day of "Black Friday" (the Friday after the American Thanksgiving) and not start in October.
- I want Christmas music to start in December, and not before Halloween.
- I want to be able to find the moon in the sky when the pups and I get up in the early morning.
- I want for there to be more good will among men, and women.
- I want to be able to do my inside and outside chores in a timely matter, and not take twice as long as they did last year, when my joints were younger.
- I want to be able to see my family and friends more often.
- I want for my friends to be experiencing good health for the coming year.
- I want to be more generous in sharing with the blessings I have.
- I want there to be very little snow this winter, just enough make the holidays look festive, but not so much as Anne and I have to try and shovel it.
- I want for all of you to enjoy the holidays with those you love, and to treasure that love.
- I want our little church to be able to entice a new Minister to join us, who can bring us all together again, help us heal our pain, and be creative, courageous and comforting.
- Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all of you, from me, Anne, Chanel and Oscar.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith L. Carter

Lay Chaplaincy

Have You Ever Thought Of Becoming a Lay Chaplain?



Our UU Church is looking for a lay chaplain to perform and officiate rites of passage (weddings, funerals, memorial services, child dedication services and others) for the general public and in congregations without ministers, for members of the congregation, following guidelines issued by the CUC and additional policies established by each congregation's Board of Directors.

Lay chaplaincy is an important outreach program of the congregation, and the lay chaplains represent their congregation in the wider community. They are expected to perform rites of passage in a manner that celebrates and dignifies those special occasions in human life, adding spiritual depth to the lives of individuals and communities. Lay chaplains are at all times expected to interact with the larger community in a professional manner, and to understand and be able to articulate and model Unitarian Universalist principles and practice.

Lay chaplains are appointed by their congregation for a term for up to 6 years; they report to Olinda Board of Directors and enter into a contract that is annually reviewed with the congregation.

If you are interested and would like further detailed information please contact Sue Markham: worthysole4u@hotmail.com or 226-350-2879.

Contact Information

Minister: While we are between ministers and seek our next minister, you can contact:

President: Bill Baylis: baylis@uwindsor.ca or (519) 738-2118 or Cell phone (519) 980-2431

Chaplain: Sue Markham: worthysole4u@hotmail.com or (226) 350-2879

Membership Chair: Toni Janik: djanik1@cogeco.ca or (519) 966-6434

More Finance Reports

Congregational Budget Meeting

Vote on the 2024 Budget
December 3, 2023
At noon following the Service

Christmas Families

At our September 14 Board of Directors meeting the Board voted to support Christmas Families chosen by Children's Aid Society.

If you wish to contribute to gifts for the two families, please etransfer or send a cheque or bring cash or a cheque made out to Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda to a Sunday Service. Please note that the donation is for Christmas Families. This year we were assigned two families, one a Mother with two year old and one year old daughters and the other family with a Mother with five and two year old sons. The two year old daughter is visually challenged. Each year we give each family a food voucher to the grocery store of their choice. Those will be especially welcome this year.

Once again, John and Linda Upcott have generously agreed to shop using the families' wish lists which Children's Aid provides.

Thank you for your consideration.
Helen Moore

Congregational Participation Requested!

December 17 Service: If you would like to perform something, let Bill Baylis know by December 13, 2023. (See Report from the Board on Page 2)

January 7 Service: Do you want to present a **Reading** or **Poem** or to **Relate an Event (Past or Future)**? Let both Sarah Wert and Helen Moore know by January 3, 2024.

Food Banks are More Important That Ever—Continued From Page 3

The burden to stock food banks cannot be solely the responsibility of community volunteers, community donations and charities.

The other piece of the total solution is education of both the public and the patrons who frequent food banks. They have to know that food banks do communicate and can optimize their “shopping” at several different locations in one week. Some food banks carry healthier items than others, for example fresh produce. I understand why someone would want to do so... I would too! Additionally, recipients of this food could be taught how to cook to stretch their limited budget with food that can nourish families without meat and dairy products. In fact, one location I visited does offer meat while the other stated without an increase in funding meat will no longer be available.

So this year make it your goal to add items to your food cart. The need is rising and we know that Windsor and Essex County citizens are one of the most generous in Canada.

Here is a hyper-link to many of the Windsor-Essex Food Banks. <https://www.eriestclairhealthline.ca/listServicesDetailed.aspx?id=10572®ion=WindsorEssex>

Please consider contributing to the Food Hamper at our Church. Your donations are given to the food bank in Kingsville and are received with thanks.

Angel Clothing Cupboard- St. John the Evangelist Church

St. John the Evangelist Church in Leamington operates an "Angel Clothing Cupboard" which provides warm clothing etc for those in need. They currently have an urgent need for men's winter coats (all sizes) hats, gloves and blankets for those sleeping outside. If you have any of these items and would like to donate, they can be dropped off at St. John's church on Wednesdays between 11 am and 4 pm at 60 Erie St. North.

You can also call Carmen Smith at (519) 733-0548 to arrange to have items picked up and dropped off at St. John the Evangelist Church, Leamington.