

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
June, July & Aug 2024**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
June 2	Rev. Jim Hatt	<i>What's Happenin' at the Downtown Mission</i>	Lorie Lyons
June 9	Sarah Wert	<i>Stone Soup Redux</i>	Toni Janik
June 16	Sarah Wert	<i>Flower Celebration: The Sacred Garden</i>	Toni Janik
June 23	Dr. Caroline Schleier Cutler	<i>Isn't it ironic? Humour and Irony in the Gospel of Mark 10:32-45.</i>	Spectrum String Quartet
June 30	Carrie Ann Peters	<i>Caldwell First Nation</i>	Lorie Lyons
July 21	Ray Stone	<i>Spirituality and Health</i>	Baylis-Stone Trio
Aug. 11	Multiple	<i>Book Club - Books we've read. Contact Bobbye Baylis.</i>	Baylis Duo
Sep. 8	Bill Baylis	<i>Water Ceremony - Bring water, wonders, & tales!</i>	Toni Janik

Annual Picnic on June 9, 2024 at the Church after the Service

Weather permitting, Outside. Otherwise, Inside.

Salads, Sides, and Desserts: Let Mariette Preyde know what you can bring.

Chicken Shish Kebabs will be purchased.

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

Report from the Board

It's hard to believe that we have arrived at the final issue of our Church Outpost Newsletter for the traditional church year that runs from September through June, but the unusually warm weather together with outbreaks of forest fires and tornado swarms confirm the advancing calendar dates! Our audience has comprised both real physical attendees and virtual ones who joined us online. Online contributors were muted in order to minimize cacophony arising from delayed audio signals. Our work on regularly checking the sound connections with Zoom seems to be producing good results, and it was most gratifying to receive compliments last week through treasurer Helen Moore not only on the clarity of sound from the speaker but even on the hymns broadcast from our sanctuary! Many thanks to our diligent tech team!

We have certainly enjoyed several excellent services and talks this season! In May, these ranged from the trials, surprises, and challenges of new motherhood as discussed by Rev. Jessica Rodela, through the stirring expression of spirituality in the music of Johann Sebastian Bach as reviewed by our own Ray Stone, and to the revelation and fresh understanding of our place and role in God's universe as perceived by many friends in the liberal Jewish tradition of process theology.

While we enjoyed our guest speakers, our Ministerial Search Committee, chaired by Toni Janik, was busy working with the CUC and UUA to find us a contract minister who might transition in a few years to a settled position with us. By the end of April, we were delighted to have located an experienced and talented candidate who might fill the vacancy. We discussed the situation with him and listened to several of his sermons, and after discussion with the Finance chair and others, drafted a proposed contract that we felt was reasonable and sustainable by our church, and sought to have him and his wife visit us in person in June. There was little time for further discussion with the candidate, and we were disappointed there was no opportunity for negotiation. However, considering the low number of available candidates and the complications of moving a family to a new country, the result is hardly surprising. We will keep searching and trust the rumors of a fresh batch of potential ministerial candidates, especially Canadian, will open new possibilities.

To conclude our traditional church season, we look forward to a service entitled "See All the People" on May 26 by friend and CUC minister Rev. Linda Thomson, who may provide continued valuable guidance on our search process. On June 2, we welcome a visit by former Olinda member and now United Church minister Rev. Jim Hatt to tell us "What's Happening at the Downtown Mission." Next our Sunday Services Chair Sarah Wert will lead two services: "Stone Soup Redux", a reminder of a memorable sermon by the late Rev. Rodrigo Emilio Solano Quesnel on June 9 followed by a Flower Communion (bring flowers if you can!) on June 16, a return of Dr. Caroline Schleier Cutler on June 23, and indigenous leader Carrie Ann Peters, who will present the annual Howard Pawley talk on June 30. Please remember both the church picnic after the service on June 9 and the open house on May 31 from 6 to 8 pm, both honouring Sarah Wert's wonderful service to UU Olinda before her departure at the end of the month, and described in more detail in this newsletter. Only two services are scheduled this summer. One on July 21 led by Ray Stone and another discussing books on August 11. These will start at 10:30 and are meant to be informal, low-key affairs with the opportunity to discuss new ideas and formats. In case you missed it, congratulations to UU Rev. Nicole McKay for becoming Chaplain of the Canadian Armed Forces and having her uniform patch of a flaming chalice officially recognized! Lt. McKay spoke to our church service on April 11, 2021. Enjoy the summer sun and stay safe!

Bill Baylis, President

Membership & Publicity

Fourteen Congregants gathered at the Kingsville Golf and Country for our “Lunch in the County” on May 16th. Thank you Trudy for making all the arrangements. We had a delightful time with great food and inspiring conversation. On Thursday June 13th we are dining at Cancunsito Mexican Cuisine, which was the restaurant that won the Battle of the Tacos in 2023 at the Bank Theatre competition. Details below. Its sure to be a wonderful place to get together with friends from church. Contact Trudy to reserve your spot.



Membership Committee is working on updating the Church Directory. Kindly check your listing and if you have had a change in mailing address, email address, phone number or other information, please share that information with Bobbye Baylis who works tirelessly to keep our directory current.

Are you interested in becoming a member of our UU Church of Olinda? If so, please reach out to Toni Janik and I will send you the membership form and answer any questions you have to the best of my ability.

I wish everyone a safe and happy summer ahead filled with opportunities for renewal, enjoyment and time with friends and family.

Toni Janik
Membership & Publicity Chair

Lunch in the County

For those who wish to have lunch with friends, the next “Lunch in the County” is at 11:30 am on June 13, 2024

**at Cancunsito Mexican Cuisine
69 Erie Street North
Leamington, Ontario**

**Please let me know by June 9th if you plan to attend
Trudy**

Phone/email 519-733-2706 or waret@mnsi.net

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.

June 12 2 pm
Membership Committee Meeting

June 13 7 pm
Board Meeting

June 16 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

June 23 Noon
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

August 26
September Newsletter Reports Due

September 8 10:30 am
Weekly Fall services begin

Treasurer's Report

Thank you for your ongoing donations which may be made by

1. e-transfers to treasureruuolinda@gmail.com or uuolinda@gmail.com
2. cheque mailed to church or 290 Lester Drive, Essex, ON N8M 3G9
3. cheque or cash put in offering plate at front of church.

Helen Moore, Treasurer

Announcement!

Sarah Wert will be holding an Open House at 101 Robson Road, Apt # 408, Leamington, on **Friday, May 31**, between **5 and 8 pm**, as a token of her deep gratitude for the Olinda community's support and warmth.

Please RSVP at Sarah.k.wert@gmail.com or 416-738-1353 by Sunday, May 26. Please also let Sarah know if you would like to bring a dish of finger food.

Flower Communion Sunday June 16th

Please bring flowers to share in our Flower Communion Service



Caring Committee Report

May this month bring you all peace, happiness and all the good things life has to offer. Happy June. June is also Father's Day month. A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow. Wishing all fathers a Happy Father's Day.

A special birthday wish to June Blacker on June 24th, wishing her a year that is filled with good health and happiness.

A summer hello to all congregants in retirement homes and nursing homes and just at home. Hoping to see you through the summer months.

This is the last edition before the summer break, therefore, on behalf of this committee, we wish everyone a safe and healthy summer, and please let's stay in touch.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carmen Smith

Linda Upcott

Social Responsibility Committee Report

Local Food Banks are now the Norm and will always need our Help.

The need for food and other essentials is growing dramatically in these days of high prices and high inflation.

In 2022, Windsor-Essex Food Bank Association which operated 15 regional food banks, served 190,000 people, over a 20% increase. From January to June, 2023, only 6 months, the hub served 100,000 people, an increase of 15% over the same period last year. The hub, which offers 26 programs and services including skills training, newcomer settlement programs, a community kitchen and food banks, is no longer an emergency resource but has become a necessity.

Let's continue to do our part to fill up the food banks with nutritious food and other essentials. Think of items that families would need that is beyond their limited budgets such as hygiene products, batteries, baby food, formula...maybe even cleaning supplies.

We can do this together!

Sue Markham, Chair, Social Responsibility Committee

“Leave Nothing Unsaid ...”

As many of you know, my brother Sandy passed away from a severe stroke on April 13th, 2024. His passing was sudden and unexpected. It was quite a shock to all of us in the family. My brother and I were our only siblings, and we were very close, despite the fact that as adults we lived far apart. I honestly don't think any of us have fully processed what happened. We are just putting one foot ahead of the other, one day at a time, which is about all you can do when dealing with the loss of a Loved One. In the course of dealing with this tremendous loss, I have realized, and learned a number of things that I'd like to share with you.

First of all, from what is a very sad, negative event, very positive, happy things appear... many folks have given needed support, by cards, calls, emails, flowers, hugs and texts. Many of you in the Congregation have expressed and shown support in many ways, and we thank you. It does restore your faith in your fellow Man (or Woman) when folks appear out of nowhere to spread kindness, concern and thoughtfulness. In a world where there is often a lot of divisiveness, anger and negative forces at work, it is a beautiful thing to be the receiver of such wonderful out-pourings. I cherish the stories and memories folks who were connected to my brother in some way, have shared about him.



My brother and I had a very special, but sometimes complicated, relationship. When we were growing up, we were each others best friend, especially in the summer months, when school was out, and we spent the summer at my grandmother's cottage in Kincardine, Ontario. My brother was two years older than me. Although we had other "Summer Friends" we shared a lot of time together on mutual interests, like building forts, building "punts" (floating docks), climbing trees, swimming, playing golf, trips to the Library and reading, playing Cowboys and Indians, playing in the sand dunes, and searching for "treasures" that had washed up on the miles of beach north of my grandmother's cottage. We shared our dreams for the future, I wanted to be Lion Tamer at that time, and he wanted to fix cars. We, along with almost everyone around, went uptown to listen to the Pipe Band each Saturday night, marched in the Parade, and got two scoop ice cream cones to devour after the Pipe Band. The sunsets were beautiful, and it was probably the most special time in our lives together.

“Leave Nothing Unsaid ...” continued



My brother could fix ANYTHING from a toaster to a car engine. I'm not sure where he got that talent and skill from, as my father couldn't fix a sandwich. But, like my father, Sandy was a voracious reader, and long before the Internet, he would search for books on any topic and read up on how to fix most complicated things. He fixed watches,

clocks, many small appliances, the lawn mower, and many, many cars. He taught me how to drive a stick shift car, which many cars were at that time. When our folks were gone on errands, we'd take my grandfather's old Austin out for a drive on the back concession roads. Neither of us were old enough to have a license. When he owned a number of sail boats, and yachts, he learned how to fix them, so he wouldn't have to rely on the Marina mechanics. He would fix things for many people, and never charged them a dime. He had a good heart that way.

When friends, work colleagues, and neighbours in the community my brother and sister-in-law lived in, heard that my brother had died, many of them planted trees in my brother's honour, something he would have loved. To a person, Sandy was described as kind, generous, and thoughtful. A shoulder to cry on, and an everlasting friend. I had no idea that he had made such an impression on so many people. He was not a person who held a grudge, and was a positive thinker. There is a saying "Leave Nothing Unsaid". My only regret is that I never told my brother how much I loved him, and how truly blessed I was to have had such a special brother. I miss him lots...

Respectfully submitted,
Judith L. Carter



Sunday Services Committee Report

The end of another program year (and my last as a consistent congregant at Olinda) is swiftly approaching! It's been such a privilege to work with the dedicated and open-minded members of the SSC for the past couple of years. Their unflagging efforts are a major part of what have kept the services happening every Sunday at Olinda despite the calamity of Rev. Rod's unexpected death.

With Rev. Rod no longer being there to speak 3 services per month this past year, the committee was responsible for finding 4 or 5 speakers (guest or homegrown) each month. Everyone on the committee put on their thinking caps to source potential speakers and did the crucial work of reaching out to and confirming speakers. They also coordinated with the speakers and all the other participants in each of the 42 services that Olinda held during the 2023-2024 program year. Major kudos to those involved!

Since February of this year, the congregation has heard from many guest speakers familiar and new including Liz James, Dr Caroline Schleier Cutler, clergy and lay leaders including Rev. Meg Roberts, Rev. Arran Morton, Casey Stainsby, and Rev. Samaya Oakley who spoke during several Liminal Times services, Rev. Janet Brigham-Turowski, Rev. John Corrado, Arthur Hillman, Rev. Jessica Purple Rodela, and Hazzan Devorah Fick. In addition, Olinda congregants who generously provided talks include Karen Miller, Charlotte Innerd, Dr. William E. Baylis (Bill Baylis) and Ray Stone.

Tech issues still seem to be part of our "new(ish) normal", but some genuinely helpful tweaks have been (and are being) made to the system that's in place for preventing and dealing with some of the tech hiccups that love to sneak up on us.

I'll be moving back to Toronto at the end of June, and Ray Stone has stepped forward to be the new Acting Chair of the Sunday Services Committee at that time. My sincere gratitude to Ray and may your time in this role be as meaningful and rewarding for you as it has been for me!

Sarah Wert