

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 2024



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Dec. 1	Rev. Lexie Chamberlain	<i>When Story and Truth Walk Hand in Hand</i>	Toni Janik
Dec. 8	Patricia McGorman	<i>How can we preserve our beautiful world?</i>	Lorie Lyons
Dec. 15	Irene Moore Davis	<i>Thoughts on the Season of Hope and Expectation.</i>	Toni Janik
Dec. 22	Rev. Janet Brigham-Turowski	<i>Shining our Light in Challenging Times</i>	Lorie Lyons
Dec. 24	Bill Baylis	<i>Christmas Eve Service</i>	Baylis-Stone
Dec. 29 *new!*	Rev. Samaya Oakley	<i>We All Belong</i> (Meaning Making service #3 in the 2024-25 Roots of Resilience series: <i>Radical Inclusion</i>)	various
Jan. 5	Rev. Julie Brock	<i>Our Deepest Callings</i>	Baylis-Stone

December 1st
Congregational Budget Meeting
Immediately After the Service
Please Attend: A Quorum is Needed
Christmas Potluck to follow the Budget Meeting

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

As winter and the Christmas season approach, we are still searching for a new minister, someone to fill the large spiritual shoes of Reverend Rodrigo Emilio Solano Quesnel after cruel fate claimed his life in a tragic car accident almost a year and a half ago. Our search committee has certainly been active and has even offered positions to two prospective candidates, but there seem to be too few Unitarian ministers looking for positions in Canada and the current exchange rate of 1 Cad\$ = 0.71 USD does not help attract American ministers! We need more Unitarian ministerial candidates in Canada! If you might be inclined to give the profession a try, consider starting with UU chaplaincy training. We hope our current wonderful chaplain, Sue Markham, can continue in the position, but she will eventually retire and even now can use an occasional backup! Please talk with Sue if you might be interested!

Our Sunday Services Committee, led by acting chair Ray Stone, has done an excellent job lining up guest ministers and speakers for our weekly Sunday services. However, the important role of providing pastoral care to church members inevitably suffers without a regular minister in place. As a compromise solution, our search committee is actively investigating the possibility of hiring a part-time minister who would provide not only occasional Sunday services, but also get to know our members and offer pastoral care when needed. Stay tuned!

As most attendees can attest, our roof has needed to be re-shingled for months. This required first removing the solar panels, and when that was accomplished, some degradation—a defoliation of layers in nine of the panels was discovered. Fortunately, the panels, now 12 years old, were still under warranty and could be replaced by seven new, larger panels of equivalent power generation. This in turn required a revised layout of the panels, but this coincided with the opportunity to upgrade the system for mounting the panels without penetrating the new roofing tiles. This has been completed by our installer Green Sun Rising, and we are just waiting for a “haircut” for a few of the tall cedars on the south side of the church to prevent their shadows from shading the panels from the sunlight they need to generate electrical power. With the repair and reinstallation, our solar panels should continue to serve the church with improved energy production for another couple of decades.

Thanks to John Upcott and helpers, we should have a Christmas tree ready to decorate by Saturday, November 30. To raise the holiday spirit, join us in decorating the tree and singing Christmas carols, starting at 2 pm on that date. December 1 is First Advent. It will be a busy time as we welcome a new family, the Pozzobons (with four children!) into the church and then hold a congregational meeting to approve the new budget for 2025.

Happy Holidays!

Bill Baylis, President

Membership & Publicity

The November Lunch in the County will be on Thursday, November 21 at 11:30 at Jose's Bar and Grill in Leamington. Details below. Please email or call Trudy to reserve your spot.

Christmas Social event Friday Dec. 20th. Details below. Contact Toni to reserve your spot for dinner and/or the show.

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. If you would like your contact information to be included please connect with Bobbye or Toni.

On December 1st we will be welcoming a new member into our church family and all members are asked to participate in the ceremony. It will take place within our Sunday Service. Welcome Melanie.

Toni Janik
Membership & Publicity Chair

Christmas Social Event

Friday, December 20, 2024

Musical Variety Show

Bank Theatre, Leamington 10 Erie Street South

7 PM ~ Admission—Pass the Hat

Tickets for this event sell out quickly

Dinner before the Show

at Cancunsito— 5 PM

69 Erie Street North, Leamington

To Reserve Your Ticket and /or Dinner Reservation contact Toni
(djanik1@cogeco.ca) or 519-966-6434 before Nov. 30th

JOIN US FOR LUNCH IN THE COUNTY

Thursday, November 21, at 11:30 a.m.

JOSE'S BAR & GRILL

215 Talbot St. West, Leamington, Ontario

Please e-mail or call me a week before if you plan to attend so I can reserve a table: Trudy 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.

Dec 1 Noon

Congregational Budget Meeting followed by Christmas Potlunch

Dec 8 Noon

Sunday Services Meeting

Dec 12 7 pm

Board Meeting

Dec. 30

January Newsletter Reports Due

Jan 9 10 am

Membership Committee Meeting

Jan 12 Noon

Social Responsibility Committee

Jan 15

Non-Financial Annual Reports due

Jan 23

Financial Annual Reports due

Limits of a Lay Chaplain

Last month I submitted an article for the newsletter that included some of the duties and responsibilities of lay chaplains but perhaps what was omitted was a responsibility that lay chaplains don't and shouldn't have, pastoral care. I know there is some confusion on this matter and I do understand but the CUC prohibits lay chaplains from performing the duties expressly inherent in the role of a minister. Pastoral care is one of them. We are not to counsel congregants in any way because our training has not allowed for that expertise.

However, if asked to visit a congregant, nothing stops a lay chaplain from doing so as long as the interaction reflects care and concern from congregant to congregant, not in any "official" role. Personally, if available, I would make every effort to visit someone in need and offer what assistance I could as a compassionate and caring friend and I am sure any lay chaplain would do the same.

If you have any further questions I am happy to assist!

Respectfully,
Sue Markham
Lay Chaplain.



It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!

On November 30th gather with us to decorate our Olinda Christmas tree! The fun will start at 2pm. Bring your festive Christmas voice to sing a few well-loved carols led by Bill Baylis.

If you have any snacks or treats you would like to share with hot apple cider, all will be welcomed. There is no need to RSVP but if you know you are planning to attend drop me a line. See you there!

Sue Markham

Caring Committee Report

December has arrived bringing the magic of the season with it. May every heart be filled with peace and joy.

The caring committee elves are busy once again, preparing their special Christmas packages, which will be delivered in time for the holidays.

Sending greetings to all congregants and friends who are coping with health issues. May we continue to reach out to each other when needed.

As Caring Committee chair, I would like to extend a special thank you to Carmen Smith for her continuing support throughout the year, and welcome anyone else that wishes to join the committee. We try to visit or make a friendly phone call once a month to stay connected with the homebound folks. All are welcome.

The end of the calendar year cannot but help us think of what is to come. Kindness is like snow, it beautifies everything it covers. Wishing all a Merry Christmas.

Submitted: Linda Upcott



Mitten Tree

In the spirit of the season and helping others, the Membership Committee has suggested reinstating the Mitten Tree, which is an opportunity to bring mittens, hats, scarves or socks to church to be collected and then taken to the Angel Clothing Cupboard at St. John's Anglican Church in Leamington.

Thank you for your contributions.

Helen Moore

Caring Committee Members

Carmen Smith

Linda Upcott

“Have Yourself a Mary Little Christmas!”

Years ago, I had a good friend named Mary, who attended the same High School. She was a grade higher than I was, and I made her acquaintance quite by accident, when we both ended up at the Vice Principal’s office, having committed the sin of making other students in the class laugh, instead of paying attention to the teacher. Mary was an “old soul”, a sage and a realist to boot. Mary mostly kept to herself, but if you were welcomed to her inner circle, you were beyond privileged, you were darn “cool”! After our impromptu meeting in the VP’s office, we became fast friends, although Mary would never admit to having friends. Mary “took me in”, as I was a black sheep who was new to the school, my folks having moved to the area just before the start of school. It seemed I was always in trouble for something, and I always said I was on a first name basis with Kevin, the VP. Seemed everyone was already in some kind of clique, group, sports team or club, and they didn’t need or want to add anyone new. Mary understood that “fooling around”, entertaining the class, was my way of getting attention, and, as the saying goes, “getting bad attention is better than not getting any attention”. She did sometimes enjoy my warped humour and told me I could get a laugh out of a burnt piece of bacon. Mary never hesitated to say exactly what was on her mind, a quirk I quite admired. One day, we were sitting outside, having a smoke, and she turned to me and said : “What do you want to be when you grow up? A stand-up comedian?” she said with a growl of disfavour. I just laughed, not a surprise. Mary, who was pretty much an “A” student, then said:” You’re smart, and you aren’t going to get anywhere good taking the path you’re on. And that’s too bad, because you do have talents, besides acting like an idiot”.

I was both hurt and embarrassed that my friend thought I was going nowhere. She then told me that I needed to get outside myself, think of others, those who were in dire straights, and less fortunate than I was. Yah right, I thought, I was pretty less fortunate myself. This conversation took place a few weeks before the Holidays, and Mary then took me (dragged) on “a tour” of folks who really WERE less fortunate. She dragged me to a local Community Centre soup kitchen, where she made me dole out soup and sandwiches to folks who were homeless, and in desperate need of a shower. I had to hold my breathe when I leaned forward to put the bowl of soup on their tray. In many cases this was their only meal of the day. As I was cleaning up the tables after lunch was served, an older woman, unkept, toothless and dressed in torn dirty clothes, suddenly grabbed on to me and issued a hug, telling me I was truly one of God’s angels, as she wished me a Merry Christmas. I was trying hard to resist her hug, when Mary told me to stop pulling away and hug her back. That was probably the only hug that lady got that day, and me too. Then a little compassion crept over me, as I asked the woman if she would like to use the Centre’s shower facilities, while I roused up some clean, warm clothes for her, and perhaps even a warm coat. She started to cry, and I didn’t know what to do. From a back corner, Mary yelled to me to get moving and find the woman what I had promised.

"Have Yourself a Mary Little Christmas!" ...continued

While I was going through the clothing, I found a Christmas Stocking, with the name Mary on it. When no-one was looking, I filled the stocking with some fruit, snacks, water, soap, toothbrush, mitts and some candy, and gave it to the woman on her way out. I even said I hoped I'd see her again tomorrow, but I had no plan to be at the Centre the next day. It turns out her name was Mary too (or two.) Mary and I kept in touch, even though we went our separate ways, and lived in different parts of the country. Many years later, Mary passed away from the ravages of breast cancer, which had metastasized to her lungs.

When Mary, my friend, was quite ill from the cancer and chemo, and knew she was "on her way out", as we called it, we visited, & she handed me a Christmas stocking with the name Mary on it, as she told me decisively that I was going to turn out just fine. I put that stocking up every year before Christmas, and although Mary is no longer physically with me, she often lingers over my shoulder, especially during the Holidays. It is a joyous moment when I hang that stocking. And she was right...I did turn out fine.

Happy Holidays to you and yours. Treasure your friends...

Sincerely, Judith L. Carter



Treasurer's Report

Lots of opportunities to be generous and share our good fortune as we approach December and Christmas.

The Letter of Appeal, record of your donations to date, pledge cards and the budget have all been printed and since the mail strike began on November 15, some have been distributed in church or will be delivered by church members and some information will be sent by email if you have email.

There are opportunities to give to the church for its continuing ministry and church maintenance but also to programs that the church supports such as the two Children's Aid Society Christmas Families and the Mitten Tree described elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thanks for your ongoing offerings and your gifts of service. Donations can be made by:

1. etransfers to treasureruolinda@gmail.com or uolinda@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

Christmas Families and Mitten Tree

This Christmas the church is once again providing Christmas gifts for two Children's Aid Society Christmas Families. John and Linda Upcott have generously offered to shop for the two families buying for one family with 2 male children age 2 1/2 and 1 1/2 and another family with a 2 year old male child and a five month old female child. The family's wishes for gifts for the children are listed and the church always gives gift cards for grocery stores of the family's choosing. If you wish to contribute to the families, make an etransfer or give a cheque or cash made out to the church, noting that the amount is for the Christmas Families. The amount you give will count toward an income tax receipt.

The Mitten Tree has been reinstated. Toni and Dan Janik's granddaughter Daphne has decorated a box to hold the donations to the mitten tree which can include mittens, gloves, scarves, hats, socks in sizes for children and adults. The gifts for the Mitten Tree will be placed on the Christmas Tree after it is set up and decorated and then the gifts will be placed in the box to be delivered to the Angel Clothing Cupboard at St. John's Anglican Church in Leamington.

The Christmas Tree will be decorated on Saturday, November 30 at 2:00 p.m. Come if you wish to decorate.

Thanks for your contributions.

Helen Moore

Property Report

We have great news ...

The last several newsletters have provided updates on the first major building expense that we've had at Olinda for many years. Our little church has been lucky, but primarily has been well taken care of over the years by the church fathers, and the overseeing of the property committee.

Our church roof was last fully repaired over thirty years ago. Since then, numerous small fixes have been performed to resolve small and localized leaks. These occurred more frequently recently, until the quick fix-ups just didn't solve the drips.

During the last year we accepted quotations from four different local roofers. All Quality Roofing and Reno's had the lowest price, and was able to modify their standard procedures, to provide a custom sealed series of vertical mounting beams, that would allow the 40 solar panels on the west and south roofs, to be attached without penetrating the shingles, at the back of our church building. This has allowed the roofer to provide a full warranty of the complete roof.

Green Sun Rising, the original supplier of the solar panels, has removed, and re-installed the solar panels on the completely new shingled roof. Seven of the panels have been replaced, the cost being covered by their warranty, as they had begun to delaminate, receiving and converting less sunlight and solar energy.

So with the end of 2024 at our door, we are now set to venture into the new year, assured that weather, especially rain and water, will remain on the exterior.

Stuart Miller, Property Chair



Property—Pics of Roof Installation of Solar Panels

