

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 2025



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Feb. 2	Sister Pat St. Louis	<i>Art and Spirituality</i>	Baylis/ Stone Trio
Feb. 9	Rev. Jim Hatt (Zoom)	<i>The Eight Principles Unitarian Universalists Try to Live By. We will try to explore meaning and how we are doing at Olinda.</i>	Lorie Lyons
Feb. 16	Rev. Fiona Heath	<i>Beacon of Light: The Aspiration of Theological Aliveness. (Virtual Sermon via Zoom)</i>	Toni Janik
Feb. 23	Rev. Jim Hatt (Zoom)	<i>Black History Month. How do we celebrate in our community as humanists?</i>	Baylis/ Stone Trio
March 2	Rev. Darrow Woods	<i>Thin Places and Shining Faces</i>	Lorie Lyons

Annual Congregational Meeting

Vote on the Annual Report
Election of 2025 Board of Directors
and Nominating & Auditing Committees
March 9, 2025
At 11:40 AM following the Church Service
Please attend! We need a Quorum!

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

Change is in the air! Not only in the climate, but in technology and politics as well! As we wait to learn of U. S. President Trump's existentially critical decisions on tariffs, trade, Tik-Tok, immigration, and the environment, we need to be flexible, strong, and resilient in our action and response. As we welcome our part-time interim minister, Rev. Jim Hatt, and try to prepare for a new contract minister who could possibly evolve into a settled minister for our church, we also face technological changes that will no doubt challenge us! We can celebrate new discoveries and experience if we remember how we extinguish our chalice every Sunday, we have the strength of being together: "We close now, the flame lit within us, with heart and mind and voice and hand, we know we are not alone!"

As mentioned here and on our website "uuolinda.org" we have a new high-speed fibre-optic connection to the internet, and with it,

a new phone number for the church: 548-324-4352.

You will note that the last four digits are the same as before, but our old area code was becoming filled up, so we have a new one. You can leave telephone messages for us there. More details can be found on the Gosfieldtel website: <https://gosfieldtel.ca>, and membership chair Toni Janik has discovered a more direct method to retrieve messages.

Our Sunday Services Committee and its chair have been working overtime to fill our roster of interesting and relevant services for us. The first one on Feb. 2 is a live presentation by Sister Pat St. Louis on "Art and Spirituality." Rev. Jim Hatt will be giving two sermons by Zoom this month on Feb. 9 and 23, but no live ones. His sermon on Feb. 9 is about the 8 principles of UUism and how well our church is living up to them. (The first 7 principles are those enumerated in the front of our gray hymnal and the 8th is one added at a special meeting of Canadian UUs on November 27, 2021, to dismantle racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions. Rev. Jim's service on Feb. 23 is about Black History month and how we celebrate it. In between, on Feb. 16, Rev. Fiona Heath will present a sermon entitled "*Beacon of Light: The Aspiration of Theological Aliveness.*" Finally, on March 2, Rev. Darrow Woods will give a sermon "Thin Places and Shining Faces." Rev. Woods is the husband of Rev. Lexie Chamberlain who spoke at our church on December 1 and reminded us that a fictional story can be a good vehicle for relaying an important truth.

Thanks to Stuart Miller and our property committee for completing the repair of our roof with the removal, upgrading and replacement of our solar panels. It's comforting to know that the new solar panel array replaced a few units that had deteriorated under warranty and has restored their efficiency. And now, we're enjoying our coffee hour without having to worry about water leaks and blue tarps on the floor!

Minister's Report—Olinda UU Church

It is good to be serving with folks here at Olinda again, this time in a ministry position. I am hoping that my “ministry of presence” will be helpful to the people of Olinda UU church. I have attended many services in the past here and a few in the last few weeks. Rev. Rod was loved and I know is missed by you folks. It is my hope that I may listen and support the wonderful work you do as “ambassadors of love”.

I have spent my time since mid November thinking about the next six months. I have spent several hours thinking about topics for messages that will be useful and challenging. Researching some materials on both the Canadian Unitarian site and the denominational site has taken some time. I also hope that I can be some comfort to those who suffer loss.

My time with you will be one of reflection, some administrative work, attending meetings, social gatherings, pastoral care and meaningful messages/sermons. Creation is a gift and one in which we each have our part to do. I pray that my offerings will be useful and fulfilling for each of us.

Blessings
Rev. Jim

Note of Thanks

Thank you for all the cards, letters, gifts of food, and phone calls of support on the passing of my partner Judy. Judy would have been so deeply touched by our church family.

With Gratitude
Anne Purtell

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.

Feb. 9 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Feb. 13 7 pm
Board Meeting

Feb. 16 Noon
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

Feb. 17
March Newsletter Reports
Due

March 9 11:40 AM
Annual General Meeting

March 13 10 am
Membership Committee
Meeting

March 31, April 1 –2
10 am - 6 pm
Silent aUUction

April 5 1:30
Live aUUction
Lunch Noon

Dreams and Hopes 2025

This week I read an article by a favourite author/minister, King Duncan. I want to share highlights of his challenge.

“We all have our dreams, don't we? Our lives have a way of getting dull, flat, uninspired. We fantasize about romance. Did you know that people in love have fewer colds, by the way? That's true, according to Dr. Joyce Brothers. Being in love is good for us--mind, body and spirit. We fantasize about money even though deep in our hearts we know that it can't buy happiness. We remember Little Chap in the musical, ‘Stop the World I Want to Get Off!’ Little Chap is driven by a fantastic ambition to become rich and famous. Finally he succeeds in making a million dollars, and proud, prosperous and successful, he sings, ‘For once in my lifetime, I feel like a giant, I soar like an eagle as though I had wings...’

“Then Little Chap becomes even more wealthy. He makes additional millions. He is elected to parliament, is knighted by the queen, receives the highest honors. He has a series of love affairs. but they are meaningless, for he loves only himself.

“Toward the end of the play, we see him as an old, bitter, cynical man who sings, ‘What kind of fool am I?...an empty shell, a lonely cell in which a lonely heart must dwell...’

“We know money won't buy happiness, but still we dream. We dream that something life-changing will happen to us, that a handsome knight will come riding in on a great white horse to swoop us up in his arms, or that our boat will finally make it to the dock. We long for life to take on new meaning, new purpose, new direction, new excitement. We feel like we've missed something somehow. We identify with the old lady who was celebrating her one-hundredth birthday. She sat rocking on her front porch, her glasses perched on her nose.

" ‘Grandma,’ said one of the visiting kin, ‘you must have seen a lot in the last hundred years.’

" ‘Not much,’ snapped the old lady. ‘Everything was always over by the time I could find these darn glasses!’

“Ann Landers once wrote: ‘Financial success, academic achievement, and social or political status open no doors to peace of mind or inner security. We are all wanderers, like sheep, on this planet.’

“A Harvard scholar, Harlow Shapley, made up a list of ‘possible causes of the destruction of civilization.’ On this list he included nuclear war, natural catastrophe, and widespread disease. Ranked third on this list is boredom!

“Many are the persons who can say with Hamlet:

How weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable

Seem to me all the uses of this world!

“Is there any hope for us--those of us who live dull, listless lives longing for something, anything, that can give meaning, color, purpose to the lives we live?”

Think about that. What are you going to do to provide hope to others! You can; we each have been given gifts to use and share. What can you share?

Membership & Publicity

Our Deepest Sympathies to the family of Emil Buhne who passed on January 17, 2025, with his family at his side just a short 3.5 weeks after his wife Eunice. He was a long time member of our congregation and will be sorely missed. The memorial service for both Emil and Eunice will be held on March 1, 2025 at 11:00 AM at the church with Conrad Dippel officiating.

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.

If you would like to host a Dinner for 6, 8, or 10 in your home this winter please connect with Toni so we can advertise it in the newsletter. These are great social events with each guest bringing one dish—the host sets the theme or menu. Thanks to those who hosted dinners in the fall—everyone enjoyed the opportunity to share in the great food and conversation.

Considering joining our church as a member? Connect with a member of our committee to have them answer any questions you may have and to receive a membership application.

Toni Janik
Membership & Publicity Chair

JOIN US VALENTINE'S DAY FOR LUNCH IN THE COUNTY

Friday, February 14, at 11:30 a.m.

ROMA CLUB - Buffet
19 Seacliff Drive East , Leamington, Ontario

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

519-733-2706 or waret@mnsi.net

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 February 17, 2025.. The final list of items up for bids will be published in the March 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, art work, jams, pickles, pies , dessert.... The possibilities are endless.



UU Olinda AUUction 2025 Virtual Silent Auction by Phone and Email Monday March 31, Tuesday April 1 and Wednesday April 2 & Live Auction in our Church Sanctuary Saturday April 5 Time: 1:30 PM—3:30 PM

What an exciting auction it's going to be this year. We start with the Silent Auction which we will hold on Monday March 31, Tuesday April 1, and Wednesday April 2. 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 March 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 March 31st. My guess is that with the excellent list of items available this year—we will sell out of everything.

See page 7 for details on our AUUction Lunch which will take place at the church before the Live Auction on April 5, 2025, at Noon.

Then... Set your calendars for the **Live AUUction** which begins **Saturday April 5th at 1:30 PM in the Church Sanctuary**. The list of items available for bidding will be published in the March 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 Lunch

Once again we are thrilled to announce the return of the AUUction Chili Lunch prior to the Live Auction.
There will be both meaty and vegetarian chili.



Time: Noon April 5, 2025

Where: At the Church

Price: \$15 per person

To Reserve your tickets:

Call or email Toni Janik

You may place your order for a lunch ticket any day between March 1st and April 2nd. The sooner we know how many are attending the easier it is for the organizers.

Caring Committee Report

This month is the perfect excuse to cozy up with hot cocoa and cheesy love stories. Also a time to dedicate it to hearts, hugs, and Hallmark greeting cards. Let's love fiercely and laugh often.

The congregation was saddened and shocked when they learnt of the sudden passing of Judy Carter on Jan. 02, 2025. Our condolences to her partner Anne Purtell. May she find comfort in all the wonderful memories that they shared. Also our deepest sympathies to Pat Haynes on the passing of her brother; may we keep her in our thoughts.

Jan. 17th, 2025, Emil Buhne passed away peacefully with family near by. Emil and his wife Eunice discovered the UU Church and attended regularly. He was skillful at woodworking and offered to replace the post on the church front porch, which still stands today. Our sincere condolences to the entire Buhne family.

A cheery Valentine hello to all church family, whether you are in retirement home or nursing home or just at home.

With this being such a cold month, many folks find it difficult to get outdoors. Please stay connected, and remember the best thing to hold on to in this world is each other.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carmen Smith

Linda Upcott

Silent Auction Items

Item #	Donor	Item	Quantity	Price	Date
1	Elaine Stevenson	250 ml Jam			April 5
2					
3	Toni Janik	250 ml Jam	5	\$10.00	April 6
4	Toni Janik	250 ml Strawberry Rhubarb Jam	3	\$10.00	April 6
5	Toni Janik	250 ml Peach Jam	2	\$10.00	April 6
6	Toni Janik	250 ml Bumbleberry Jam	2	\$10.00	April 6
7	Toni Janik	Pickled Green Beans	3	\$10.00	April 6
8	Jane Innerd	Granola	4	\$12.00	April 5
9	Toni Janik	Ham and Cheese Quiche	2	\$20.00	April 5
10	Toni Janik	Vegetarian Quiche	2	\$20.00	April 5
11	Toni Janik	Palachinta (Sweetened Cottage Cheese filled crepes) 6 per pkg	4	\$15.00	April 5
12					
13	Cathy Dewhurst	250 ml Jam	?	\$10.00	April 5
14	Cathy Dewhurst	250 ml Jam	?	\$10.00	April 5
15	Cathy Dewhurst	Cranberry Sauce	3—1/2 pint each	\$6.00	April 6
16					
17		Chili Lunch Tickets—available now— Call Toni to purchase	50	\$15.00	April 5 @ Noon

LIVE Auction Items—Page 1

Item #	Donor	Item	Quantity	Price	Date
1	Jane Innerd	White Tablecloth trimmed in gold with 4 napkins	1		April 5
2		Christmas Lawn Ornaments			April 5
3		Gold Plated Silverware Service for 12	1		April 5
4	Linda Upcott	Apple Pie	1		April 5
5	Linda Upcott	Cherry Pie	1		April 5
6	Toni & Dan	Pasta Basket	1	Value \$50.00	April 5
7	Linda Upcott	Cabbage Rolls 6 per pkg	4—PKGs		April 5
8	Anne Purtell	Bread Maker			April 5
9	Anne Purtell	Crockpot	1		April 5
10	Michael Hoffman	Keg Gift Card	1	Value \$50	April 5
11	Michael Hoffman	Shopper's Drug Mart	1	Value \$50	April 5
12	Toni & Dan	Cheese Basket	1	Value \$50	April 5
13	June Blacker	Painting A	1		April 5
14	June Blacker	Painting B	1		April 5
15	Lorie Lyons	Flat of Blueberries Pick up at Whaley Farm	3	Min.\$44 per flat	Mid-July
16	Jane Innerd	Apple & Mince Pie	2	Min bid \$30	April 5
17	Linda Upcott	Basket of Assorted Muffins	1		April 5
18	Hyltons	Colasanti Gift Card	1	Value \$50	April 5
19	Hyltons	Swiss Chalet Gift Card	1	Value \$50	April 5
20	Linda Upcott	Meaty Lasagna	1		April 5
21	Kathy Brennan	Vegetarian Lasagna	2		April 5

More Items Coming in the March Newsletter. Let Toni Know if you have something you would like to donate by February 17th

Note from the Treasurer

The year end figures indicate that we have a surplus this year because of our generous donors and having no cost of ministry this 2024 calendar year. We have had the cost of Sunday Services and the maintenance of the church. Our roof replacement and the removal and reinstallation of the solar panels was paid for by Auction and Capital Fund resources.

Thanks for your pledges. This year 24 individual members have pledged \$29,110. Thanks for your ongoing offerings and gifts of service.

Donations can 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

Nominating Committee Announcement

As your Nominating Committee, we are asking you to help us finalize our Board for 2025.

Some of our Nominees who are willing to continue their current duties have served for five (5) consecutive years. Our By-Laws under Term of Office state "No person shall hold any given elected office for more than five consecutive years unless an extension is approved each year by ordinary resolution at the annual or other special meeting of members."

Therefore, at the Annual General Meeting in March, we will be asking you to vote to allow the Directors nominated to continue their duties for an additional year past the five stipulated in this By-Law.

Cathy Dewhurst, Kathy Brennan and Carol Hilton

Announcement

New phone number for the UO Church: 548-324-4352.