

# 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**  
**March 2025**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
March 2	Rev. Darrow Woods	<i>Thin Places and Shining Faces</i>	Lorie Lyons
March 9	Rev. Jim Hatt (Zoom)	<i>You have a story to share - What does your life story have to tell other people?</i>	Baylis-Stone Duo
March 16	Rev. Dr. Jonipher Kūpono Kwong. (Zoom)	<i>Spiritual Grounding: Be Here Now</i>	Toni Janik
March 23	Rev. Jim Hatt (Zoom)	<i>The “Me” I want to be - How do we decide who we want to be?</i>	Lorie Lyons
March 30	Rev. Paul Langston-Daley, Ministerial Candidate	<i>Staying Grounded in Uncertain Times - There is a global sense of tension in the world, and we are all affected by it. How can we find ways to stay grounded, connected, and safe in a changing world, both as a community and as individuals?</i>	Baylis-Stone Duo
April 6	Dr. John Cappucci	<i>Islam: One Tree, Many Branches - The Schools of Islam</i>	Baylis-Stone Duo

## 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](mailto:bbaylis@cogeco.ca).

## Report from the Board

The report from the Board this month marks the official yearly transition, where we thank the Board of 2024 for keeping our church running well in the face of multiple physical and fiscal challenges and welcome the new Board of 2025, wishing them well in their efforts to keep us prospering for another season! The physical challenges included the water leaks into the coffee area that required new roofing and the replacement—under warranty—of several deficient solar panels, as well as the installation of a new fibre-optic cable for our internet, wifi, and telephone connections. Now that the new system has been successfully tested, posted on our website, and we have had the opportunity to try the new system and note its new telephone number **(548) 324-4352**, the older phone connection with Rogers can be discontinued.

The recent cold, snowy and icy weather has been another physical challenge. After having just experienced the warmest year of global temperatures on record, we were generally not happy to experience the lesson that higher temperatures cause the evaporation of more water vapour that can fall as snow and ice as temperatures cool down! Conditions in the midwest were extreme last week and caused whiteout snow and power outages.

We have survived some of the fiscal challenges partly because we volunteer to do much of the work, whether that is sweeping snow, washing dishes, or singing in the choir: we recognize that if we don't take on some chores they might well not get done! (And of course singing together is great fun—not a chore at all!) Perhaps it helps that we are a small rural congregation whose members traditionally have helped each other, but it's an attitude worth preserving as we seek to grow in size. We look forward to the arrival of Spring on March 20 and the increasing daylight hours that we adapt to by switching to daylight savings time on March 9.

Our fiscal challenges include covering operating expenses while facing significant inflation without a full-time minister to attract and engage a generous congregation, not to mention the threat of sizable tariffs from Canada's major trading partner to the South. Fortunately, there is good news on this front. After a couple of years with little success, our ministerial search committee has now found a promising candidate for our position of a 2-year contract minister, and he is scheduled to visit us at the end of March, as described in Toni Janik's column in this newsletter.

Please remember and join us in several events, starting with the memorial service on Saturday, March 1, at 11 am for Eunice and Emil Buhne, organized by their son Neil and given by Rev. Conrad Dippel. There's another virtual Tea with Rev. Jim at 10 am on March 4, our Annual Congregational Meeting starts around 11:40 on March 9, and our annual AUUction from March 31 to April 5. It's great FUNdraiser for us. See the descriptions on pp. 6-9.

Bill Baylis, President

## Minister's Report—Olinda UU Church

I want to say again that it is good to be serving with folks here at Olinda. It is good to be back in active ministry after being in semi retirement for some time. It has taken some realignment of my life and Arleen's too. It takes meeting deadlines to be a little more real. I continue to hope that I may listen and support the wonderful work you do as "ambassadors of **love**".

I have spent my time since mid January thinking about messages that will be useful and challenging over the next two months. Researching some materials on both the Canadian Unitarian site and the denominational site has taken some time.

I reported to the Board last week that since mid January I have offered 3 services in person, 3 coffee hours/chats online, 3 committee meetings, 3 lunch/dinner occasions, 2 United Church zoom meetings which were relevant to justice and our Olinda ministry and one on Black History month.

Several hours were spent on sermon/message preparation as well as meeting preparations. The chat times and meal sharing I have found interesting and a time to get to know each person better.

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

## 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.

**March 9 11:40 AM**  
**Annual Congregational Meeting**

**March 13 10 am**  
Membership Committee Meeting

**March 13 7 pm**  
Board Meeting

**March 14 Pi Day**  
What's that? Ask an Einstein buff.

**March 16 Noon**  
Sunday Services Meeting

**March 24**  
April Newsletter Reports Due

**March 29 10 - Noon**  
Drop into the church to meet with Ministerial Candidate

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

**April 5 1:30**  
Live aUUction  
Lunch Noon

## Confrontations with Tigers

I recently read this story with a moral for us. I hope you find it as helpful as I have.

One night at a circus the tent was packed with thousands of people. It was time for the tiger trainer to come out and perform. He bowed to the audience then went inside the cage. A hush drifted over the audience as the door was locked behind him. The trainer skillfully put the tigers through their paces. Suddenly there was a huge pop, followed by a complete blackout of power. For several long minutes the trainer was trapped in the cage with the tigers in total darkness. The trainer knew the tigers could see him with their powerful vision, but he could not see them. All he had was a whip and small chair as a means of protection.

Finally, the lights came back on, and the trainer finished his performance. Everyone was amazed that he wasn't attacked and feared for him in the darkness. After his performance the trainer was interviewed by a local television reporter. He admitted how scared he was. But during the blackout he realized that the tigers did not know that he could not see them. He just kept cracking his whip and talked to them until the lights came back on.

There are times when all of us are confronted with tigers in the dark and we lose trust. We don't trust the government. Some don't trust the Church. We lose trust in relationships, in spouses, even our children.

The lights have gone out seemingly in our world. The time to keep attention on the darkness is our task at hand. How do we keep cracking the whip?

When the lights go out and darkness prevails, trust that the love and the Universe has got the tigers under control.

Rev. Jim

## Interesting programs for Unitarians by Unitarians

**Look for UU expressions online...then podcasts and look for "Wild Flowers"...for churches looking at growth and change.**

### **Dismantling Barriers: Lessons from Africville**

[Feb. 19](#): 4:00 pm PT | 5:00 pm MT | 6:00 pm CT | 7:00 pm ET | 8:00 pm AT | 8:30 pm NT (90 minutes)

Join us to learn about Africville, an important and often forgotten aspect of Black Canadian history. After watching a short documentary, provided as a resource in advance, you're invited to come, learn more, and get inspired about how our actions as UU's can be shaped from these lessons in light of our principles.

### **Rising Together: Unitarian Universalists of Colour**

[March 12](#): 4:30 pm PT | 5:30 pm MT | 6:30 pm CT | 7:30 pm ET | 8:30 pm AT | 9:00 pm NT (90 minutes)

[April 9](#): 4:30 pm PT | 5:30 pm MT | 6:30 pm CT | 7:30 pm ET | 8:30 pm AT | 9:00 pm NT (90 minutes)

Indigenous folks, Black folks and people of colour (BIPOC) are often in the minority in Unitarian Universalists congregations and communities. Gathering together with others who share similar identities and experiences can reduce isolation and support us in getting our spiritual needs met. Rising Together is the place where we can find each other!

## Search Committee

After interviewing many candidates, we have selected one who we believe will be a great fit for our ministry needs here at Olinda. This individual is considering the board's offer of a two year contract with the option in two years to enter into either a renewal of the contract or a call to be our settled minister at the mutual decision of the congregation and the minister.

This candidate would like to meet and get to know our leadership team in small group meetings over the last weekend in March and have an opportunity for the congregation to drop in to meet them at the church. He will also be preaching the service on Sunday March 30th at 10:30 AM with an opportunity for a 30 minute Q & A session after the service and a potluck lunch with the congregation.

The drop-in time will be Saturday, March 29, from 10 AM to Noon at the Church. Please take advantage of this chance to meet the candidate.

While the candidate is here, he will also be getting to know our area, looking at potential places to live and becoming familiar with our congregation.

Note: Unlike the process of a settled ministerial contract, there is no vote by the congregation. The contract is between the Board of Directors and the minister.

### ***Come in from the Cold—Join Us for LUNCH IN THE COUNTY***

Thursday, March 20, at 11:30 a.m.

Rose's Kitchen Restaurant  
(Located in the Foodland Plaza)  
189 Talbot Street South, Essex, 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](mailto:waret@mnsi.net)

## It's Time for our Annual AUUction

### 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

Auction Chili Lunch Saturday April 5th at Noon

Purchase your tickets in advance

Call or email Toni to order your tickets



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](mailto:djanik1@cogeco.ca)

The list of items available for **Silent AUUction** ordering is in this issue of 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 is on pages, 8, 9, & 10. in this 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.

Toni Janik, AUUction Committee Member



## 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

March is often called the month of changes. As winter fades and days grow longer, spring is on the horizon. Some say that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb. Waiting patiently for the arrival of the lamb.

According to the calendar March 9<sup>th</sup> is daylight saving time , so we all must remember to turn our clocks one hour ahead.

It is with great sadness we report the passing of Charles Whittle on Feb.9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. He was a special uncle to Brent and Mireya Campbell and also extremely well known as a community leader. He and his brother John helped with many church projects, including building the first church ramp. Our deepest condolences to his family at this most difficult time.

A special St. Patrick hello to all the church family and friends, especially those in retirement homes and those just at home and all those folks struggling with individual health issues. Hoping all are doing as well as can be expected.

Stay warm everyone, and hoping for an early spring. See you in church or on zoom.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

### Caring Committee Members

Carmen Smith

Linda Upcott

## Silent Auction Items

Item #	Donor	Item	Quantity	Price	Date
1	Michael Hoffman	Dinner at Spago's on Dougall	4 tickets	\$40.00	Friday, July 11 at 5:30 pm
2	Kris Brown	Zoom Baking Class—Microwaved Gluten Free Flax Biscuits Recipe and Ingredient List will be	8 tickets	\$8.00	Friday, April 25 at 7 pm
3	Elaine Stevenson	250 Peach ml Jam	4	\$10.00	April 5
4	Elaine Stevenson	250 ml Spiced Pear Jam	4	\$10.00	April 5
5	Elaine Stevenson	250 ml Cherry Jam	24	\$10.00	April 5
6	Toni Janik	250 ml Bumbleberry Jam	2	\$10.00	April 5
7	Toni Janik	Pickled Green Beans	3	\$10.00	April 5
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	Cathy Dewhurst	Raspberrry Jam—250 ml Jam	6	\$10.00	April 5
13	Cathy Dewhurst	Apple Jam—250 ml Jam	6	\$10.00	April 5
14	Cathy Dewhurst	Cranberry Sauce—500 ml Jar	6	\$8.00	April 5
15		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 Hoffmann	Keg Gift Card	1	Value \$50	April 5
11	Michael Hoffmann	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

## LIVE Auction Items—Page 2

Item #	Donor	Item	Quantity	Price	Date
24	Linda Upcott	Meaty Lasagna	1		April 5
25	Kathy Brennan	Vegetarian Lasagna	2		April 5
26	Joyse & Peter	Ultimate Dining Gift Card	2	Value \$50	April 5
27	Joyse & Peter	Superstore ( Zehrs) Gift Card	1	Value \$100	April 5
28	Jane Innerd	Book Collection—A Louise Penney's mysteries			April 5
29	Jane Innerd	Book Collection - B 20 + Mystery Novels			April 5
30		2 place settings dishes with serving bowls	1		April 5
31	Melanie & family	Shopper's Drug Mart	1	Value \$50	April 5
32	Melanie & family	Two dozen Chocolate Chip Cookies	1 pkg of 24 cookies		April 5
33	Melanie & family	Two dozen Peanut Butter Cookies	1 pkg of 24 cookies		April 5
34	Stuart Miller	Carrot Cake	1		April 5
35	Stuart Miller	German Chocolate Cake	1		April 5
36	Stuart Miller	Chocolate Butter-Cream Cake	1		April 5
37	Sue Markham	Tiramisu	1		April 5

## Note from the Treasurer

Thanks for your ongoing offerings received by mail, at church or by etransfer. Annual Reports are printed and ready for distribution at church. Remember the Annual Meeting on March 9.

Donations can be made by:

1. etransfers to [treasureruuolinda@gmail.com](mailto:treasureruuolinda@gmail.com) or [uuolinda@gmail.com](mailto: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 Hylton

## Announcement

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



This is the “Love at the Center” graphic designed by artist Tanya Webster (of [chalice-days.org](http://chalice-days.org)) for the UUA’s Shared Values Description of Unitarian Universalism. The depiction of Love at the Center seems especially fitting for a UU church like ours that was founded (in 1880) as a Universalist church with Love as a central focus. It may also suggest an attractive image of UUism more colourful than a list of UU principles. *WB*