

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
May 2025**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
May 4	Dr. Eleanor Maticka-Tynedale	<i>How, Why, What next?: Reflections on Events Next Door From an American/Canadian UU</i>	Lorie Lyons
May 11	Rev. Stephen Atkinson	<i>Grace 6 Ways</i>	Baylis-Stone Duo
May 18	Rev. Ray Drennan 2004 Confluence Lecture	<i>From Possibility to Practice – National UU Service</i>	Baylis-Stone Duo
May 25	Rev. Jim Hatt	<i>What are we called to do in this crazy world? Be controlled or not accept any control? Provoke or Challenge?</i>	Lorie Lyons
June 1	Andrew Innerd	<i>Earth, Wind, Fire, Water, 4 Lessons from a Climate Change Scientist</i>	Baylis-Stone Duo

Announcement

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

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

April was surely one of the busiest months ever for our church. It began with a highly anticipated visit from our new ministerial candidate, the Reverend Paul Langston-Daley from New Bedford, Massachusetts. Rev. Paul graduated from the Andover Newton Theological School and holds a masters degree from the International Institute for Restorative Practices. He was ordained in 1997 and has served congregations in six states in the U. S. Most recently, for the past four years he has served as the Minister for Social Action at the First Parish Church in Concord, MA. He is also trained in community organizing and offers Restorative Circles to congregations in conflict.

Ever since the tragic car accident in July 2023 that took the life of our much-loved past settled minister, Rev. Rodrigo Emilio Solano-Quesnel, our ministerial search committee, as described in the church Annual Report for 2024 and composed of Toni Janik as Chair, Michael Hoffman as vice-chair, Joyse Gilbert, Ray Stone, Sue Markham, plus myself as Board chair acting in a non-voting ex-officio role, has been working with both the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of America in search of a new minister for our historic UU Church of Olinda. On the basis of interviews, recommendations, and videos of several of Rev. Paul's sermons, the search committee decided to offer Rev. Paul a two-year contract ministry and asked Bobbye and Bill in December 2024 to draft an offer based on our experience with three previous but eventually unsuccessful attempts with other potential candidates. After some preliminary discussion of acceptable terms, our search committee, in consultation with Barry Coburn, the compensation consultant for the CUC and UUA, and on behalf of our Board of Directors, sent Rev. Paul an offer of a two-year position as contract minister for our church on Valentine's Day in February of this year. The contract ministry differs from the settled ministry into which Rev. Rod was hired, but it is what the UUA now recommends that churches with fewer than about 150 members use when hiring a new minister. It gives both the minister and the congregation a chance to see whether the match will really work well over the long run, and if it does and both the minister and voting members of the congregation agree, it can be renewed or converted into a settled ministerial position. (See also Toni Janik's report on the Search Committee in this newsletter.) We look forward to this new chapter in the evolution of our church and hope it will be fulfilling and joyous for all involved!

During his visit here, Rev. Paul also met with many members and committee chairs in our congregation, discussed his plans and potential approaches, and also looked at available housing for himself. On March 30, he led the Sunday Service and presented the very relevant sermon "Staying Grounded in Uncertain Times", which was followed by a Q&A session. On April 11, 2025, after returning home, he signed and accepted our contract offer as written.

The end of March also marked the official start of our annual aUUction, and thanks to delicious offerings of pies, cakes, cabbage rolls, beautiful paintings, etc. and enthusiastic bidders, it added over 3k\$ to church coffers. Many thanks to Toni Janik, John Upcott, Brent Campbell, Mireya Campbell, Helen Moore, Bobbye Baylis, and all others who helped and joined in the fun!

In addition to the aUUction, April was filled with events leading up to Easter Sunday, April 20 and Earth Day on April 22. Our part-time minister Rev. Jim Hatt had returned from vacation in Florida and was busy providing our UU church with what for it was unaccustomed emphasis on experiences of the Christian Holy Week. In addition to Rev. Jim's popular biweekly Tuesday morning virtual "Tea with Rev. Jim" sessions, Rev. Jim held evening services on Holy Tuesday (April 15) and Maundy Thursday (April 17). On Tuesday, he emphasized the vital importance of hope and the role music can play in sustaining it, and on Thursday, we practiced washing each others' hands as a symbolic recalling the biblical washing of his disciples' feet by Jesus—a new and humbling experience and revelation for some of us Unitarians! Of course we celebrated Easter on Sunday with Rev. Jim reminding us of the many kinds of resurrection to be thankful for.

Minister's Report

Here we are beginning the fifth of my six month sojourn as your half time minister. It has been a joy to serve. Arleen and I have renewed some old friendships. We have made some new friends. We are back in Canada to stay for the next few months. I look forward to meeting more of you as we sojourn here.

Ministry is one of those callings that never ends. Whether it is eating together, studying together, praying together, meeting in a study circle or just plain chatting it is always about serving in this world. I continue to hope that I may listen and support the wonderful work you do as “ambassadors of **love**”.

Messages that will be useful and challenging has been a prime focus of my time. Researching some materials on both the Canadian Unitarian site and the denominational site has taken some effort.

Since beginning in January I have offered 8 services, 5 in person 3 online, 6 coffee hours/chats online, attended 6 committee meetings, 4 lunch/dinner occasions, 3 United Church zoom meetings which were relevant to justice and our Olinda ministry and one on Black History month.

Last week was a busy week for Olinda folks who wanted to spend community building time together. I talked about “Holy Week” in Unitarian/ Universalist style according to my understanding of the beliefs.

We had time to share where we are at on our journey of faith and talked about what hope means to each of us. We listened to some Easter type music. We shared in some readings. We shared in an apple and honey communion. Thanks to Scott Brey for his music contribution. On Thursday night, a hand washing was part of the evening in which we again shared music and our journey highlights and the meaning of justice.

Creation is a gift and one in which we each have our part to do. I pray that my offerings have been useful and fulfilling for each of us. Thanks to those who have shared feedback. It is helpful.

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.

May 4 Noon
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

May 8 10 am
Membership Committee
Meeting

May 8 7 pm
Board Meeting

May 11 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

May 15 Noon
Lunch in the County
Mettawas Station,
(Kingsville)

May 19
June Newsletter Reports
Due

Easter Service, April 20, 2025

Here we are Easter morning, April 20, 2025. A group of people of different backgrounds, different races and different beliefs but all together as one group to think about Easter and what it means to us. My thinking when I titled the sermon more than a month ago was a thought I had come across in some UU info I read that there are many kinds of resurrections in life. Well, I want to look at some of that today.

Unitarian Universalist families who want to celebrate the secular aspects of Easter can approach it from the perspective that they are commemorating the arrival of spring through the symbols of ancient pagan traditions. Parents can talk about the annual resurrection of life through plants, flowers and trees—and if they wish—encourage their children to colour eggs and participate in egg hunts to celebrate the coming of spring and the changes the Earth brings. They can also approach this holiday as a time to share about their personal beliefs and be open to questions children may have about the man called Jesus—and how other families may perceive him differently than their family does.

Now few Unitarian Universalists believe there was a physical, photographable resuscitation of Jesus's corpse. Few believe that Jesus knowingly sacrificed his life to atone for the sins of humanity or that only by his sacrifice and our belief in him as our Lord and Savior can each of us, individually, be saved. There is also very little biblical evidence for those claims. Many Christians also share those feelings. Some of us simply say we do not know and do not want to waste precious time debating such ideas.

Unitarian Universalists primarily speak, if the term is used at all, speak of resurrection within our own lives, before our physical death. This type of resurrection, of course, includes the Apostles' experience—perhaps by vision, or dream, or mystical experience, or otherwise altered state of consciousness. It's possible but not likely how UUs understand resurrection.

I liked this reference that I came across when researching. The Rev. Carl Scovel, a UU minister, explains in *An Easter Faith* that the resurrection comes with the recognition that any of our lives can always be transformed and begin again. The resurrection comes with the Christ within us breaking forth, as if from the tomb, inviting us to be reborn by enacting the Christ-self we had forgotten or never known. Innumerable resurrections have happened again and again. By experiencing the risen Christ or love in their lives, people have stopped drinking, changed jobs at great risk, and held their ground before dictators. And so much more.

The website of the Unitarian Universalist Association, as I said, speaks of many different kinds of resurrection, including the rebirth of nature, the resurrection of hopes and dreams, and the renewal of dead relationships. Most UUs begin by simply seeing Easter as a spring equinox holiday.

(Continued on next page)

Easter Service, April 20, 2025, Cont'd

Think of the way we often domesticate Easter. How many sermons have been preached on springtime themes of how good it feels for the earth to come alive again all across America and the rest of the Northern Hemisphere? How many times have I heard gentle stories about this season of fertility—of Easter eggs and Easter bunnies, of chicks and ducklings and lambs?

But there is also the other side of beliefs, our Universalist backgrounds ... these followers of Jesus had just gone through an unimaginably traumatic experience. Their beloved leader, who had been called the Messiah of Israel and the King of the Jews, had been horribly tortured by Roman soldiers in Jerusalem only three days earlier and then publicly executed by the hideous act of nailing him to a cross. These were **demoralized people** who scattered and tried to avoid being associated with Jesus at the end, leaving only a few loyal women like Mary Magdalene (and perhaps a single man) at the foot of the cross.

Imagine how utterly astonished the male disciples must have been when Mary and the other women brought the news of the empty tomb. I love this part of the story!!! Astonished, yes, and hopeful, for the women had been told, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." Could it be true? Was there some hope after all? Although these words seemed only an idle tale to most of the male disciples, who didn't believe the women, Peter's astonished hope got the best of him. He jumped up and ran back to the tomb himself, finding the stone rolled away and only the linen cloths in which Jesus's body had been wrapped remaining within. At that point, his astonished hope must have been overwhelming. So women you got into the action and shook up the guys!

We need to be open to resurrection—looking up, not down; listening, not stopping up our ears; tasting before we swallow; smelling the flowers, not passing them by; feeling deeply rather than numbing ourselves with the daily routine. As another Unitarian Universalist minister, the Rev. Dr. Richard Gilbert, [has written](#),

A tomb is no place to stay
When each morning announces our reprieve,
And we know we are granted yet another day of living.
A tomb is no place to stay
When life laughs a welcome
To hearts which have been away too long.

Let us celebrate that there are many kinds of resurrection!!!!

Blessings,
Rev. Jim

Note from the Treasurer

Thanks very much to everyone who took part in the Annual Auction which yielded \$3,327 for dining room ceiling repair and archives closet repair.

Thanks to Toni Janik and Bobbye Baylis who organized and planned the Auction. Thanks to our auctioneers John Upcott and Brent Campbell. Also thanks to Bobbye Baylis, Mireya Campbell and Bill Baylis for bookkeeping. Thanks to all donors of items, bakers, canners, chili makers for our lunch, and thanks to all purchasers of goods as well as all who attended. Another wonderful success. Congratulations!

Thanks to member Joyce Gowanlock of Sooke, British Columbia who donated nine dozen daffodils from her garden to the local Seniors' Residence.

We haven't been passing the collection plates at services since Covid since our church was initially closed after March 15, 2020. Following reopening, members made donations by mailing cheques or making etransfers. The offering plates are available at the front of the church and if you do not make a donation by cheque mailed to the treasurer or church or make an etransfer, please place your donation in the offering plate at the front of the church.

Thanks for your donations and gifts of service.

Thanks for your ongoing offerings received by mail, at church or by etransfer.

Donations can be made by:

1. etransfers 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

Search Committee

After a search of almost 2 years, many candidates having been interviewed, Rev. Paul Langston-Daley has accepted the Board's offer to be our contract minister for the next two years starting August 1, 2025.

Many of you came out to get to know him the last weekend in March when he came for an extended weekend to get to know the congregation and the area. He preached a service on March 31st that was well received.

Rev. Paul comes to us with many years of experience and is looking forward to providing us with pastoral care and thought provoking sermons from the pulpit.

Rev. Paul Langston-Daley is a graduate of Andover Newton Theological School and holds a master's degree in restorative practices from the International Institute for Restorative Practices. He was ordained in 1997 and has served congregations in 6 states in the US. He has been serving the First Parish in Concord MA part time as their Minister for Social Action since 2021.

He served in numerous positions over the years in UUMA chapters and on UUA committees. Currently, Rev. Paul is serving on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee.

He currently lives in New Bedford MA with his two cats Odin and Loki.

Toni Janik, Chair, Search Committee

Come —Join Us for **LUNCH IN THE COUNTY**

Thursday, May 15, at Noon

Mettawas Station Restaurant
169 Lansdowne Ave, Kingsville, Ont.

The restaurant does not open until 12:00 noon.
Please call or e-mail me to let me know if you wish to join us so I can confirm the count with them. Thank you.

Trudy at 519-733-2706 or waret@mnsi.net

Directory News

I have been promising an updated Directory for months! Please help me finish it by the end of April by attending to the following:

- If any aspect of your contact information (phone numbers, email address, home address) has changed in the past 3 years, email the new information to me at bbaylis@cogeco.ca. Do this even if you are sure I already have the new information. It is possible that my notes are buried in old emails.
- If you think someone else might want to be included in the Directory, please either ask them yourself or email me with the suggestion. Include some way for me to contact them!
- If you think someone might want to be removed from the Directory, ditto.

Thank you for helping the Directory be as accurate as possible, making it optimally useful for as long as possible!

Bobbye Baylis



Announcement

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

Caring Committee Report

May is here, time to dust off the BBQ and hope it doesn't rain! May is when your wardrobe is winter at 8 am. And summer by noon. May is the month of promise and the sweet beginnings of summer. May also reminds us of Mother's Day. Here is an article I would like to share. "What Mothers Know."

4 yrs. of age - My mommy can do anything! 8 yrs. of age - My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot! 12 yrs. of age - My mother doesn't really know everything. 14 yrs. of age - Naturally, Mother doesn't know that either. 16 yrs. of age - Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned. 18 yrs. of age - That old woman? She's way out of date! 25 yrs. of age - Well, she might know a little about it. 35 yrs. of age - Before we decide, let's get mom's opinion. 45 yrs. of age - Wonder what Mom would think about this? 65 yrs. of age - Wish I could talk it over with Mom. Wishing ALL Moms a Happy Day.

Condolences goes out to the family and friends of Pat Haynes, as she passed away April 6th 2025. She was an active member of our church and will be greatly missed. Also sympathies to Patrick Impens and family in the passing of his brother and Rev. Jim Hatt in the passing of his brother-in-law. May all of you find comfort from the entire congregation that we acknowledge your sorrow.

A cheery spring hello to all the church friends and family, may the spring sunshine brighten your days.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carmen Smith

Linda Upcott





This is the “Love at the Center” graphic designed by artist Tanya Webster (of chalicedays.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.