

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 2025**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
June 1	Andrew Innerd	<i>Earth, Wind, Fire, Water, Four Lessons from a Climate Change Scientist</i>	Baylis-Stone Duo
June 8	Rev. Jim Hatt	<i>The Ways We Love Each Other</i>	Toni Janik
June 15	Rev. Arran Morton	<i>The Practice of Cultivating Joy</i>	Baylis-Stone Duo
June 22	Rev. Jim Hatt	<i>Special People in Ordinary Places</i>	Scott Bley
June 29	Dr. Christopher Waters	<i>Challenges to the International Legal Order: What can Canada do? The international legal order is being challenged on several fronts: armed conflicts, threats to sovereignty, breaches of humanitarian and human rights law, climate change, and trade wars. This talk will discuss how Canada can show leadership in the face of these challenges.</i>	Lorie Lyons



June 8 ~ Celebrations

Flower Communion—Please bring a flower from your garden to exchange in Our Communion.

Volunteer Recognition

Picnic following the Service. Please bring a dish to share.

Dessert will be provided.



The Olinda church building is open for in-person services. The services are also 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

Our church, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda, like other UU Churches in Canada, is a member of the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC). The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the CUC is scheduled on Saturday, May 31 from 1 to 4:30 pm ET this year, and will vote on a budget including our dues while recommending courses of action for our future. This year as our church welcomes a new minister, Rev. Paul Langston-Daley from Massachusetts on a two-year, renewable contract ministry starting on August 1, our attendance at the AGM is particularly relevant. Indeed, the CUC has been providing critical guidance for us through the red tape involved of arranging a work permit and immigration documents needed by Rev. Paul for the move.

Fortunately, our delegate(s) to the AGM can attend by Zoom and do not need to travel. Because of the relatively small size of our congregation, we can send only two voting delegates. The Board was not flooded with volunteers to represent us, but we were happy that our new Board secretary, Melanie Pozzobon, did volunteer. While travel is not required, some computer experience with Zoom is needed. I have attended AGMs in the past, and it is an interesting experience and a lesson in CUC governance. I did not initially volunteer this year, hoping that another member could join Melanie to represent our church. But when no one else volunteered and I learned that I could ask to be replaced by another delegate at the meeting, I did put my name forward on the deadline date so that we could have as much representation there as allowed.

Part of the immigration process for Rev. Paul involves reviewing our history and status as a charitable religious organization in Canada, and for this, the book *Universalists in Ontario* by Louise Foulds, (second edition together with a 2020 supplement by Jane Innerd) has been invaluable as well as educational and fun. We also saw the need to refresh our sign and historical marker, and like other UU congregations in Canada we needed to decide whether our current name, the “Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda” best represent who we are and have become. We were founded in 1880 as a Christian Universalist church, and while we cherish that history, we now also welcome other faiths, arguing that creeds and lists of beliefs are not as important as principles, actions, and how we live our lives. Some members of the CUC have dropped the label “church” for such terms as “congregation” or “assembly.” At the same time, the very meanings of “church”, “creed”, and related terms have evolved. The discussion/debate will continue and as long as done in an atmosphere of understanding, discovery, respect, and love, it will probably be healthy!

When Rev. Paul arrives here this July, he will need a Canadian address, and for this, the history of the church parsonage is interesting since it was initially constructed to house our ministers. Soon after the construction of the church in 1881, a horse barn and the Grange Hall were added. According to Fould’s book, In June 1916 the ministerial couple of Martha and Leon Jones joined the church to offer Sunday services full-time every Sunday. They took up residence in Grange Hall apparently located on the south side of the church. Construction of a “parish house” or parsonage was undertaken in 1918-21, and its basement was used for games, plays, and social events (pp. 94) for all faiths in the 1920s. See photos of the church and Grange Hall during quarterly conventions in 1896 and 1921 on pp 91 and 92 of Louise Foulds’ book, *Universalists in Ontario*. Rev. Conrad Dippel was the last minister to use the parsonage and although we knew it was not ideal, the Board was willing for Rev. Paul to try it at least temporarily as his residence. However, I am relieved that he opted for a more comfortable rental just south of Leamington. Welcome to the region, Rev. Paul!!

Bill Baylis, President

Minister's Report

As I write this piece for our June newsletter, I am looking ahead and thinking about my last month with you as your minister. It has been a wonderful time for both Arleen and me getting to renew some old acquaintances and meeting new friends. We have enjoyed having lunches and dinners with county folks and city folks. We have enjoyed our zoom tea times that we have tried to do several of over the six months. Those conversations have always challenged me to think about my faith and who I am. I say thank you for that.

I am reminded often that ministry is one of those callings that never ends. Whether it is eating together, studying together, spending times of joy or sorrow together or just plain chatting it is always about serving in this world. I continue to hope that I may have helped with the wonderful work you do as “ambassadors of love”.

Since beginning in January I will have offered 11 services, 8 in person 3 online, 10 coffee hours/chats online, attended about 12 committee meetings, 12 lunch/dinner occasions, prayers for ones who have lost family and significant others, 5 United Church zoom meetings which were relevant to justice and our Olinda ministry and one on Black History month.

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. As you await the arrival of your new minister, Rev. Paul, I know there is a lot of work to do to be ready. Blessings on all of you as you continue the journey.

We hope to continue to journey with you as time allows. You are part of our family!

Blessings, Rev. Jim

Announcement

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

This past Tuesday, May 15, I discovered The Moose Hide Campaign. This event began as a BC-born Indigenous-led grassroots movement to engage men and boys in ending violence towards women and children. It has since grown into a nationwide movement of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians from local communities, First Nations, governments, schools, colleges/universities, police forces and many other organizations – all committed to taking action to end this violence. Google it to find out more!

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.

June 1 Noon
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

June 12 10 am
Membership Committee
Meeting

June 12 7 pm
Board Meeting

June 15 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

June 19 11:30 am
Lunch in the County

August 31
September Newsletter
Reports Due

LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP IN LIFE!

I read this week of ways we can show love to other folks....it started out as a way that kids at camp can show love for fellow campers. It got me to thinking. Read these and let me know what other ways you let others know that you love and support them on life's journey. My message in June is about this. *Audrey West who teaches New Testament at the Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania wrote these suggestions.*

- Let others go first in the dining hall
- Invite others to join you
- Don't make fun of people who ask questions
- Encourage others when the challenges are hard
- Make a friendship bracelet for someone, especially if they don't have a friend at camp.
- Offer help even before you're asked
- Remind your friend to bring a water bottle
- Share your bug spray.

It turns out there are many ways, large and small, for us to love one another as the Creator loves us. Many ways, large and small, for creation and earth to meet.

I also found her next piece interesting and decided it follows up on this idea of loving others as we know that we should!

"Jasmin Pittman, notes in her book: The Peace Table: A Storybook Bible, Bigger than Bravery, and Meeting at the Table.

- Each rising sun shines a light on her diminishing capacities. Short of a miracle she will continue to deteriorate until her 93-year-old body no longer supports her extraordinary will to live. Her children and a cadre of caregivers feed her every bite of her food, bathe her body, and treat her sores.
- Age, illness, and the relentless pull of gravity have bound her to that bed for more than two years. But life is still beautiful, and restoration comes in many forms—each a gift from the same God who comes near to the man at Bethzatha through the healing power of Jesus.
- Every Thursday afternoon a neighbour from church drops by the house with a backyard bouquet or grocery store orchid and sometimes a bakery treat decorated with pink frosting or purple flowers. An equally cheerful story from work fills the time of his short visit, which always ends with a kiss on the forehead and a prayer for her well-being.
- A beloved longtime caregiver arrives early before work in order to take Mom's dog for a much-needed walk. Meanwhile, friends from the local dog-training class, in which my mother and her beloved Labrador Retriever were once active participants, schedule a visit every month. They regale her with stories from class while their canine companions show off their tail-wagging skills.
- The smiles and laughter—together with a few well-placed nuzzles from the dogs—bring light and life and connection to her days with the reminder that she is not forgotten nor alone. And even though she does not rise, take up her bed, and walk, those gifts of life and love and connection mirror the healing feeling. And that changes everything!"

What Makes You Happy?

This article was previously published in the November 2023 edition of our UU Olinda Outpost and written by Judy Carter. It was read in part at her Celebration of Life Saturday May 10, 2025 and serves as a great reminder to us all to cherish our "Happy Places"

What makes ME happy? When I first wake up, to a slurpy kiss from one of the Corgis, who then, in return, expects a LONG tummy rub! When I go out at dusk to feed the birds and squirrels, and find them already waiting for me, wondering why I'm so late! On a clear day, when I can see the remnants of the moon, wherever it's at, and at whatever stage it's at. When I see the sun slowly rising in the East, and creating a smorgasbord of orange colours. A sunset, in reverse, particularly over Lake Huron. When I sit down, first thing, with a cup of coconut flavoured coffee, and watch the birds lined up to feed at our window feeders. When I let the Corgis in and they both want to be on my lap at the same time to say "good morning, and where's my breakfast?" when I finally feed them their breakfast, and see a smile on each from ear to ear. When I check the calendar to see what we have scheduled for the day, and we have NO appointments, so the day is ours!

When I go to one of my regular follow-up Doctor appointments, and am told everything is FINE! When I go to get gas in town, and the price is DOWN (and cheaper than Windsor). When I go grocery shopping, and actually spend less than \$100! When I go grocery shopping and there are actually some things we like and/or need ON SALE! When I am putzing outside on a summer day, checking on my garden, and seeing the first plants come up! When I pick my first veggies from my garden enclosure, usually beans, and usually by the end of June, and we eat them right away. Playing ball with Oscar (our boy Corgi) who can do that for much longer than your arm will hold out! And watching Chanel (our girl Corgi) try to submarine Oscar as he runs after the ball. Meeting friends for lunch. Having friends or family visit and stay for a bit. Playing (and even winning) at euchre. Going for drives in other parts of The County. Going out to Olinda and getting a dose of spirituality. Going out to Point Pelee Park for a picnic. Buying, and eating, as much corn-on-the-cob as possible, for breakfast, lunch and/or dinner!

Having a nice lazy dinner with my partner Anne. MAKING the nice lazy dinner. Finding new recipes for nice lazy dinners! Football...any kind of, although we prefer US College and NFL games. When the Detroit Lions are WINNING (like now!). Playing cards, jig saw puzzles, or board games. Enjoying our usual fall trip to Oliphant ON (bottom of the Bruce Peninsula) at the cottage we rent at the campground where we had our RV parked for several years. Enjoying the FALL colours. Looking out the window and NOT seeing snow. Getting a GOOD night's sleep. Waking up in the morning, and having a Pulse! Ahhhh.

So, what makes you happy!?

Respectfully submitted,
Judith L. Carter



Judy, Anne and Jane Innerd having lunch at a "Happy

Place"

Period Promise: A United Way Campaign Taking Action, Providing Products

The Social Responsibility and Membership Committees have joined efforts in supporting an essential project that benefits women in both Windsor and Essex County. The project, Period Promise, (formerly Tampon Tuesday) addresses period poverty in our communities and is delivered in partnership with the United Way, Canadian Labour Congress and the Windsor and District Labour Council. Over the years this initiative has been incredibly successful in not only providing menstrual products to people struggling to access them, but has also raised the profile of period poverty and menstrual equity across our communities.

Recent research shows that 1 in 6 Canadians who menstruate have personally experienced period poverty; this rate rises to 1 in 4 in households that earn less than \$40,000 per year. Collected products are distributed to over 25 local partner, schools and other organizations. Taking even this amount of financial burden off struggling families then allows more ability to make ends meet in other household financial areas. No one should have to choose between food on their tables and healthcare products.

Organizers of this project typically collect hygiene products from the many supporting organizations and collect them in one Period Promise Drive for the year, around International Women's Day March 8th. We just missed the March event, but collections and funds can start now to be able to contribute to the next drive.

In the meantime, our committees have decided to start asking for collections to give them directly to a Leamington charity: Angels Clothing Cupboard at St. John The Evangelist Anglican Church. **Please consider contributing one or more boxes of menstrual products this month of June and they will be donated at the end of June to Angels Clothing Cupboard, Leamington.** We will consider contributing to the next United Way and affiliates drive in March 2026.

There are other ways we can help too:

- plan a church event, like a bake sale or raffle to raise funds.
- advertise on our social platforms that we support this initiative.
- make a financial donation of \$500 or more which allows our church to be recognized at the United Way. You can refer to <http://www.weareunitedway.com/whats-happening/periodpromise>.

Toni and I will be announcing this in church and happy to receive your donations.

In faith, hope and charity,
Sue Markham

Membership Committee Report

Its been a busy church year and we've been blessed with so many opportunities to connect with one another. Many of us have enjoyed our monthly Lunch in the County outings to a variety of restaurants in Kingsville, Leamington, Essex and Amherstburg. In June we return to a favourite, the Roma Club in Leamington on June 19th. Please join us. Reserve your seat by connecting with Trudy, her contact info is below.

Many of our members and friends have commented on how much they enjoyed the dinners for 6, 8 or 10. If you would like to host this fall, please contact Toni Janik, and I'll help you advertise the date, how to sign up, your theme, etc. It would be great to have one in October and another in November.

Thinking you would like to join the church as member? We would love to have you join us. Want more information about our church? Contact Toni and I'll send you the membership form/ or information you'd like .

With sadness we recognize the passing of long-time member Evelyn Dresser on Friday May 16, 2025. Evelyn was a very active member of the church. She was a member of the Women's Association, worked on Rummage Sales, Potluck Meals at the church, and much more. Our sympathies to her family on their loss. May she rest in peace.

Toni Janik

**JOIN US FOR THE LAST LUNCH IN THE COUNTY
BEFORE WE BREAK FOR SUMMER**

Thursday JUNE 19, 2025

Roma Club (buffet)

at 11:30 A.M.

19 Seacliff Drive E., Leamington

Please call or e-mail me to let me know 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 June 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

Sunday, June 1 at 7 p.m.

No Other Land,

an Oscar winning documentary film depicting life in the West Bank under occupation.

To be shown at the North Leamington Mennonite Church,
625 Mersea Road 6 west of Highway 77 intersection.

Free will offering

Property Report

I am pleased to report that Men In Kilts completed their job in washing down all the exterior of the Church & adjacent structure. They also did a quick wash on the garage and signs. They cleaned out the eaves troughs. As well they washed the sanctuary windows both inside and out.

Laurie Hylton, Property Chair

Caring Committee Report

The new year feels like yesterday, and suddenly, we are in the month of June. How has your year been so far? While the weather might still be a little cool in May, June brings a warmth that is here to stay. And with warmth comes passion and love. So do not waste the good summertime. Do what is on your bucket list. Pamper your loved ones and yourself.

June is all about Father's Day. Wishing all fathers a great day with family and friends.

A cheery hello to all congregants who are dealing with health issues, wishing all brighter days ahead.

Condolences to the family of Evelyn Dresser who passed away May 16th, 2025 at the Leamington Sun Parlour Home at the age of 99 years old. She served as the president of the mission circle, where the church ladies organized luncheons and entertained other church ladies from the community. She was also famous for her special apple pies and popcorn balls for the neighbourhood children at Halloween. She will sincerely be missed.

This being the last caring committee report before the summer break, we would like to wish everyone a healthy and safe summer and enjoy the sunshine.

Submitted by ; Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carmen Smith

Linda Upcott

Note from the Treasurer

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

With the mail strike forecast to begin May 22, please choose another option until mail resumes.

3. cheque or cash put in offering plate at front of church.

Helen Moore, Treasurer

A Visit at the UU Church of Phoenix Arizona

At the beginning of May, Wayne, Samantha and myself had the privilege of attending services and celebrations at the UU Church of Phoenix Arizona.

On May 01 we celebrated the ancient Celtic ritual Of Beltane with the church's Sacred Earth Worship Group. We began after the post service coffee hour. We read spring and Beltane poetry, painted rocks with spring motifs, danced and wove a Maypole, then walked through a fire lit path of renewal and rebirth.

The ritual was joyful, and we met so many welcoming hearts. We talked at length with new friend, Judy, whose family home in Byron, Michigan was used as safe passage during the years of the underground railroad. It is a small world indeed!

We returned on May 11th to hear the choir sing civil rights songs and learn about the American UU call of resistance towards increasing losses of minority rights in their country. Our visit ended with a delectable Mother's Day, potluck brunch in the gathering space.

We enjoyed the radical hospitality shown to us at UUCP and hope to keep in touch with many new friends there!

Joyously submitted by Kris Brown

