

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
September 2025**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Sept. 7	Rev. Paul Langston-Daley	<i>Water Communion - Welcome Back!</i> <i>We gather again this fall to share the beauty, wonder, and grace of our faith. Please bring water from any travels you may have taken this summer - to far away places or to your back yard. We will collect these waters in a shared vessel to remind us of our common covenants and values. Welcome Home.</i>	Baylis-Stone Duo
Sept. 14	Rev. Paul Langston-Daley	<i>Joy and Woe Are Woven Fine</i> - <i>This community has experienced a great deal of loss in the past few years. We feel these losses because we care about those who have died or left our community. Today we will take some time to reflect on loss and release what we can; to remember, as Blake says, that joy and woe are woven fine.</i>	Lorie Lyons
Sept. 21	Rev. Paul Langston-Daley	<i>Covenant: The care and feeding of community</i> - <i>Covenant is the core of our UU faith; it binds and holds in community, creating a space where people can experience their whole selves held in love and care. Without covenant, we have no way to hold each other accountable for growth, and transformation, values that are central to our faith.</i>	Toni Janik
Sept. 28	Neil Buhne	<i>Building Bridges in a Time of Bridge-Breaking</i> - <i>At a time when longstanding connections between countries, people and even ideas are being broken, how can those be saved, and rebuilt in more resilient ways? I plan to draw on experience from different places I worked and lived and talk about the relevance of community - such as the Olinda UU community.</i>	Scott Bley
Oct. 5	Rev. Paul Langston-Daley	<i>Our Values and Covenants as UUs</i> - <i>Last Year the UUA completed a multi-year process of reaffirming and renewing our Principles and Purposes. The result was overwhelming support for a new set of values and covenants that ground us, guide us, and give us wings. Today will explore these values and covenants and how they can help us center love.</i>	Scott Bley

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

In this first Newsletter of the 2025-2026 season, we celebrate an important new page in the history of our Unitarian-Universalist Church of Olinda as we welcome our new minister, the Reverend Paul Langston Daley! As readers of our Newsletter may know, after the tragic death of our previous minister, Rev. Rod, in an auto collision on July 11, 2023, our Ministerial search committee, under chairperson Toni Janik, began a serious search for a possible replacement. The search was difficult because although our expectations were high, there were few promising candidates for a small rural church in Canada. However, after several interviews, many references and recommendations, and sample sermons, a highly experienced, recommended, and promising candidate from New Bedford, Massachusetts was found in Rev. Paul Langston-Daley and recommended by our search committee. In spite of the low value of the Canadian dollar at the time, a renewable 2-year contract position was negotiated and offered him in February 2025, and Rev. Paul made plans to travel here and meet us in person. While here, he met with most Board members and committee chairs about our vision for the future. His service on March 30 was widely well received.

We were pleased when Rev. Paul accepted our offer. With advice from the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC), the UUA and a law firm familiar with the immigration process for ministers, we helped him complete the paper work required to come and work here as a minister. In late July, he moved here with his two cats, Odin and Loki and settled into his new home.

Sunday services during the fall of 2023 and 2024 were arranged by the Sunday Services Committee from a combination of invited ministers and series of online services provided by the CUC. While there were many excellent sermons and our lay chaplain filled in with special events, our congregants missed the pastoral care a regular minister could provide and they preferred live services to pre-recorded ones. The Board arranged to appoint Rev. Jim Hatt as a part-time minister in 2025. Rev. Jim was a friend of the church from days prior to his ordination and was just retiring from his work at the Windsor Downtown Mission. With the help of Zoom technology, he managed to provide us a couple of Sunday services each month - including a few new religious rituals for us such as Jesus' washing the feet of his disciples at Easter - in addition to pastoral care and his annual Florida vacation. His appointment was excellent for us but I know required considerably more than half-time work from Jim! His last service was combined with a lovely picnic at his and Arleen's home in Essex on July 20, 2025. We look forward to a return visit this fall for a performance of his barber-shop quartet.

Speaking of music, we are also looking at subscribing to the new online hymnal project of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) called "Singing out Love." It's an attractive and powerful resource worthy of support even if a bit costly for us.

We also needed to refresh our sign and historical marker and decided to retain our historical name, the "Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda." We were founded in 1880 as a Christian Universalist church, and while cherishing that history, we now also welcome other faiths, arguing that creeds and beliefs are not as important as principles, actions, and how we live our lives.

Bill Baylis, President

Minister's Report

Dear Friends,

I am settling in and getting all the things done, new license and plates, setting up the house and getting my office set up too. It's been a whirlwind these last few weeks. I have also been planning some things for the year and look forward to our first Sunday back, September 7, for Water Communion and In-gathering. Please remember to bring water from your travels near (the back yard or the lake) and far (travels abroad or to the next town over). We will have water to share in the event you forget to bring yours.

This year I am planning to focus on covenant, connection and belonging. A covenant is a document that makes explicit our agreements about how to be together. It also includes processes for making sure that we take care of one another when the covenant is bent or broken. This accountability towards one another and the community makes us more welcoming and open to those who are like-hearted; those seeking a community to belong and make a difference. I hope you will participate because it is our relationships that make us strong. This process has been proven to strengthen trust, expand support and increase joy in the community.

If we are to look towards growth, centering love and sharing our joy is essential. It is my hope that you are getting fed by being here. This is our mission and our purpose, to help transform ourselves, each other and the world; to bring justice, equity and generosity; to acknowledge our interdependence, embrace our pluralism and seek spiritual transformation. I look forward to the coming year and working with all to share these values with those whose hearts also seek progressive change.

A few technical bits and a question:

- If you have the ability to **text me**, that is the absolute best way to reach me. I take calls, but am continuing to struggle with my phone not ringing- leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as I can.
- I work from home most of the time. If you'd like to meet and talk, text me (or call me) and we can **set up an appointment**.
- Monday is my day off and Friday is my writing day. Please note I only respond to emergencies on these days.
- Please don't just "drop by" the house. Text or call ahead to be sure I am home and available.

And lastly- does anyone have a sewing machine I can borrow for a few weeks? I have a few little projects (hemming pants, fixing a curtain, that sort of thing). Please let me know. thanks!

Blessings, Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

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.

Sept. 4 10 am
Membership Committee Meeting

Sept. 11 7 pm
Board Meeting

Sept. 18 11:30 am
Lunch in the County

Sept. 21 Noon
Sunday Services Meeting

Sept. 22
September Newsletter Reports Due

Sept. 28 Noon
Social Responsibility Committee Meeting

Note from the Treasurer

Hope that you have been enjoying the summer.

Want to tell you now, before we start with our budget deliberations in the autumn, that our 2025 budget was developed based on the assumption that we would hire a minister in August 2025. It was decided, however, to hire Reverend Jim Hatt part time from January 1 through June 30. Then Rev. Paul Langston-Daley, who preached and visited Olinda the weekend of March 30, was hired to begin August 1 for a two-year contract following which the congregation and Rev. Paul would decide to terminate the arrangement, continue it or move to a settled minister contract. Since Rev. Paul is an experienced minister with 30 years service, he required a higher salary than we had initially budgeted for. So, our budget which the congregation passed on December 1, 2024, with a projected deficit of \$3,868 will become a deficit of \$42,712.

It is relevant, however, to remember that in the last ten years we have had two periods during which we did not have the cost of ministry but an increased Sunday Services budget. Those periods were August 11, 2015, following the death of Rev. Christine Hillman through August 1, 2016, when Rev. Fran Dearman began her ministry at Olinda, and between July 11, 2023, following the death of Rev. Rod Solano Quesnel and January 1, 2025, when Rev. Jim Hatt began his ministry here.

With Rev. Paul as our new minister, it is anticipated that we will have increased attendance, membership and donations. You may donate by cheque, cash or e-transfer.

Thank you for your donations and gifts of service.

Respectfully submitted:
Helen Moore

Thanks for your ongoing offerings received by mail, at church or by e-transfer.

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

Will Food Banks Ever Be Unnecessary?

Food banks were created almost 40 years ago in the 1980's, during years of high inflation and recession, as a stopgap, temporary measure to help people keep their heads above water as they were required to navigate unforeseen circumstances impacting their lives. This was meant to be done alongside good public policy and robust social support programs: they were never intended to cure ongoing food insecurity needs and definitely not a permanent solution.

It is no surprise then with recessions, natural disasters, global financial crisis and a pandemic, that as food banks are experiencing exponential growth in many consecutive years, the expectations and increased need in our province is beginning to surpass the capacity of the food bank network. It is now clear that policy has failed to address the great need and supplying the food banks has fallen to the compassion of citizens like you and me. The need is critical and getting greater but access to nutritious food, clean air and water are the undisputed basic needs of life. We will do what we can and I think we can all do at least a little.

We have had several announcements in our church about the depleted food banks as life gets more costly and inflation rises, decreasing the buying power of families. Food banks have become the only option, even for those with the benefit of a job.

A few people in our congregation have donated funds to the food bank so they can buy culturally appropriate foods for many populations while others in our church would prefer to donate store foods. We do have a food hamper at the church for your offerings and I will take them to the Kingsville Food Bank.

List of non-perishable food items needed:

Rice	Tahini
Beans (dry and canned)	Quinoa
Lentils	Flour
Tuna	Coffee / Tea
Olives	Oatmeal
Olive oil	Nut Butter and Nuts
Spices	Tomato Paste
Sugar (brown and white)	Condensed or evaporated milk

Thanks in Advance for all your Help!

Submitted by:
Social Responsibility Committee
Sue Markham, Chair

Helping Others in Our Community

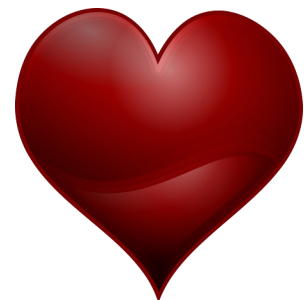
Thank You From St. John the Evangelist Angel Clothing Cupboard

Charlotte, Mary and Anne - volunteers with the Angel Clothing Cupboard at St. John the Evangelist Church in Leamington send heartfelt thanks to the generous donors of UU Olinda. Our church members have collected



and donated items such as food to stock their emergency food bank, clothing for families, and personal hygiene items for women, which are desperately needed and hugely appreciated. Please continue to bring these items to the church- there is a collection box at the front. Many thanks for your generosity and kindness.

Carmen Smith



Membership Committee Report

Welcome back everyone. I hope that your summer was restful, invigorating, and full of wonderful memory-making events. Once again we are fortunate to be looking forward to many opportunities to get together, socialize and enjoy great food. This September we return to the Moonlight Grill in Leamington, for our Lunch in the County on Thursday, September 18th. Call Trudy to reserve your spot. Their food is not to be missed.

Many of our members and friends have commented on how much they enjoyed the dinners for 6, 8 or 10. Karen Miller is hosting a Dinner for 8 at her home on Saturday, September 20th at 5:30 PM. Call Karen to Register and to choose your Potluck Dish that you will be contributing. These are great events to get to know one another better and have a great evening socializing.

With sadness we recognize the passing of Anne Purtell on Friday, July 25, 2025. Anne was a membership committee member and she and Judy were active contributors to our Spring Goods and Services Auction. May she rest in peace.

Details regarding a Celebration of Life to be announced at a later date.

Toni Janik
Membership Chair

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST FALL LUNCH IN THE COUNTY

Thursday, September 18, 2025

Moonlight Grill

at 11:30 A.M.

75 Talbot St East, Leamington

Please call or e-mail me to let me know so I can confirm the count with them. Thank you.

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

Directory News

The 2025 Directory is now available. You will find them in the file cabinet in the first room on your left as you enter the church (former Library), in the second drawer. Please initial the check sheet on the table next to the file cabinet when you take your copy. Or copies, if you are helping with the distribution by delivering copies to relatives or friends. If you are taking a copy for someone else, please note that on the check sheet.

NOTE: To preserve the security of everyone's information, digital copies will not be emailed to members. Your help with the distribution of print copies will be appreciated.

Bobbie Baylis

Contact Information - Rev. Paul Langston-Daley

Phone: 519-257-9262

Email: Olindaminister@gmail.com

- Monday is my day off and Friday is my writing day. Please note I only respond to emergencies on these days.

Property Report

It was our intention to have the Church sign at the front of the Church replaced before Rev. Paul joined us in August. That did not happen due to some major staffing problems at the business making the sign. They apologize. A temporary sign showing Rev. Paul Langston-Daley 's name will be installed as soon as it is ready.

Laurie Hylton, Property Chair

Caring Committee Report

September is notable for marking the transition from summer to autumn, the start of the harvest season, and the beginning of the church year.

May this new church year be filled with joy, love, and spotting a hedgehog or two.

It was with great sadness to have learnt of the passing of Anne Purtell on July 25, 2025. Also condolences to Laurie and Carol Hylton on the passing of their daughter Nancy Reid July 16, 2025. We remember that they passed but that they lived, and that their lives gave many memories too beautiful to forget. They will both be greatly missed by family and friends.

William Baylis is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: UUO Church Service

Time: Sep 7, 2025 10:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Sun, until Oct 19, 2025, 7 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/>

Caring Committee Members

Carmen Smith

Linda Upcott



Fall Welcome Back

Potluck After Church

September 14, 2025

Following the Service

Bring a Dish to Share

A New Home for the Louise Foulds Library

Over the summer the Library and Archives Committee worked to move the Louise Foulds Library to its new home. We were also able to incorporate the books left to us by Rev. Christine Hillman's family which has previously been in the Minister's Office. We hope that you will take some time to browse our collection and borrow a book! There's now a binder to write down any books that you borrow. In the front room, we've created a display of historical documents and books relevant to Olinda's History.

Charlotte Innerd, Carol Hylton, Sue Markham
Library and Archives Committee



Announcement

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