

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
November 2025**



Date	Speaker	Title	Musician(s)
Nov. 2	Rev. Paul Langston-Daley	<i>All Souls Sunday - Today we remember and hold in our hearts all those close to us who have died in the past year. Please bring a photo or memento of your loved ones (pets are included) to place on our altar as we take time to remember and honour those who have joined the ancestors.</i>	Toni Janik
Nov. 9	Rev. Paul Langston-Daley	<i>Rights and Obligations - Being a member of a community and a society require certain obligations. With those obligations come certain rights. These two are important "flip-sides of a coin." They are, ultimately, the glue that holds our communities together.</i>	Lorie Lyons
Nov. 16	Rev. Paul Langston-Daley	<i>Everything I Let Go of Has Claw Marks - Change can be really hard, or really great. When it's imposed on us from outside sources, we often have difficulty accepting it. Change we initiate is often change that is hard won, well thought through and planned. It is intentional and we tend to be more joyful or grateful for it. Today we will explore change, how to hold it lightly. How to breathe into its inevitability and open our hearts and minds to the possibility it can bring.</i>	Bill Baylis
Nov. 23	Rev. Paul Langston-Daley	<i>What's the Buzz? - This Sunday we'll reflect back on the congregational workshop on Nov 1. Join us as we explore what we learned and what's next for this congregation.</i>	Scott Bley
Nov. 30	CUC- Rev. Nicoline Guerrier & Camellia Jahanshahi	<i>Turning Toward One Another - Lifting up our shared commitments and the power of coming together in our differences. We invite you to come meet the moment with us to explore what solidarity in the face of collapse can really be and how our UU values help prepare us.</i>	CUC Fall Gathering-Taped Service

Congregational Meeting on the Budget

November 30 Immediately Following the Service

Please come as we need a Quorum—More Details on Page 5.

Report from the Board

October has been a busy month for us, as we celebrated Thanksgiving and rich harvests in a time of dryness and little rain. As the sun spends more time below the horizon, temperatures drop and signal end of hot summer and the gradual approach of wintry weather, the church asked Rev. Jim Hatt and the group he sings with, Guys Who Like to Sing, to perform a benefit concert for the The Bridge resource centre in Leamington. They graciously accepted and suggested that we add some music and song from our church. The Olinda Choir had not been active since the Covid pandemic shut us down a couple of years ago, but we were anxious to revive it, and one of the last major pieces we sang was a piece composed by Canadian singer/song- writer Tony Turner in 2002 and chosen as the theme song for the Annual Meeting and Conference of the Canadian Unitarian Council in 2008. It had been given a lovely new arrangement by the talented Music Director of the First Unitarian Church of Ottawa, Jane Perry, just in 2002. Our choir introduced it to the mass choir gathering in Ann Arbor, Michigan a few years later and we were given permission from Turner and Perry to perform it. By the performance, Jane Perry had moved on to become the music director of the Calgary Unitarians. She died of cancer in January 17, 2024 at the age of 52, and our performance here will be dedicated to her memory and remarkable talent.

There weren't many choir members left from our earlier performances of Circle of Song, but an urgent call for volunteers did bring out excellent vocal support from Jane Innerd, violinist Ray Stone, the cellist in Ray's Gross Point quartet, Bob Koenig, Rev. Jim Hatt and his musical daughter Christine, Bobbye Baylis, Karen Andersen Miller, Sue Markham, and Stuart Miller. We'd like to grow our choir again with regular rehearsals and keep "Circle of Song" as an active and favorite piece of our repertoire.

Meanwhile, Stuart Miller (alias the "Big Pumpkin") was talking with organizers of the Heritage Village Halloween event, agreeing that a few of us would pass out "treats" (candy and other nibbles) to children together with historical information about our UU Church of Olinda from 6 to 8 pm on Thursday, October 30 from the historic Bethel United church in the village, which is only a few years younger than our own Unitarian Universalist Church in Ruthven. It's an appropriate time to remember our history since on November 10, we will celebrate the 145th anniversary of the founding of our church in 1880. Construction of the building began the following year.

November will begin and end with visits from CUC's Nicoline Guerrier, the CUC's Congregational Life Leader for Central and Eastern Regions, who will be leading members and leaders in an important Start Up Workshop on Nov. 1, and we will present her November 23rd Fall Gathering service of the CUC at our usual time of 10:30 am on the following Sunday, November 30.

Bill Baylis, President

Minister's Report

I've been talking about covenant quite a bit since my arrival and we'll be discussing it as a group when we meet with Nicoline on November 1. I realize it's an unfamiliar concept for many, and it's an important part of who we are as UU's.

UU Leader Connie Goodbread writes:

"Unitarian Universalism is a path with practices/disciplines. The first is Covenant. A values-based sacred promise we make to ourselves and one another. Covenant helps us understand how we will be together. What we can expect from one another and what we hold ourselves accountable to.

The second discipline is pluralism. The reality that many things are true at the same time. That each of us brings a unique experience and perspective to our community. And we are made richer by being bound to one another in Covenant and sharing deeply our experiences and understanding of reality.

If we practice Covenant and pluralism we will, as individuals [and communities], be transformed. Unitarian Universalism is a living tradition. Revelation is not sealed. The holy is alive and evolving. It is inside of us and larger than us.

Individuals who have been transformed, transform the world."

I'm coming to understand that as Canadians, you are much better at the pluralism part than folks in the states. The covenant comes into play when someone acts in ways outside of our acceptable norms and values. When that happens, we need ways to bring people back into relationship to avoid resentments or conflict that goes underground and finds its way into the life of the congregation through cracks and crevices, undermining our commitment and care to one another. Making us brittle and vulnerable.

Covenant names our norms and values explicitly and can help us find healthy ways to work through conflict rather than avoidance or denial. It helps all of us become better people, living up to our highest aspirations and holding each other when we fail.

I hope you'll join us as we explore what our deepest values are, and what we might expect from one another in this covenant process.

Shanti, Paul

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.

Oct. 27 7 pm
Social Responsibility
Committee Meeting

Nov. 1 9am-12; 1-4 pm
Start Up Workshop

Nov. 4 7 pm
Sunday Services Meeting

Nov. 13 10 am
Membership Committee
Meeting

Nov. 13 7 pm
Board Meeting

Nov. 17
December Newsletter
Reports Due

Nov. 20 11:30 am
Lunch in the County

Nov. 30 Noon
Annual Congregational
Meeting on the Budget

Note from the Treasurer

Thanks to all who responded to the Letter of Appeal, record of donations through September 30 and pledge card with filling the pledge card or indicating the amount they will pledge by email or verbally. Twenty-one members and two non-members have recorded their pledge.

By the time you receive this newsletter, our October 25 fundraiser for The Bridge will have taken place. Thanks for your donations to The Bridge.

Our next fundraiser is collecting donations for the Children's Aid Families for Christmas gifts. This year, because of the staff reduction at Children's Aid, families were not asked for a wish list. Instead, donor organizations, including us, will give cash or gift cards to the Children's Aid to buy gift cards for families so that the families can decide how best to spend the money on the gift cards. We always gave families \$200 in gift cards for the purchase of groceries in addition to gifts they had requested. I mentioned this fund raiser in the previous Note from the Treasurer so two donors have already donated for Christmas families. The donations should be in cash, cheque or e-transfer and identified as being for the Christmas families and made out to Unitarian Universalist Church of Olinda so that you will be eligible for an income tax receipt, along with your donations to the church. Thanks.

Thanks for your ongoing generosity and gifts of service.

You may donate by:

1. e-transfers to treasureruuolinda@gmail.com or uuolinda@gmail.com
2. cheque mailed to the church or 290 Lester Drive, Essex, ON N8M 3G9
3. cheque or cash put in offering plate at church.

Helen Moore, Treasurer

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.

Schedule for 2026 Operating Budget

The process of creating an Operating Budget for 2026 begins in October. The following schedule is being presented to inform all who would like to be part of this process. There are always openings on the Finance Committee for anyone who is interested in the financial health of our church. Hope to see you at the meetings!

Date	Time	Description
Nov. 2	After Church	Meeting of the Finance Committee to approve the Budget.
Nov. 13	7 PM	Board Meeting at which Budget will be presented for approval.
Nov.30	After Church	Congregational Budget Meeting.

Mireya Campbell (Finance Chair)

Congregational Meeting

November 30, immediately following the service
Please attend—we need a quorum

Motion 1 - To approve the 2026 Annual Budget

Motion 2 - Sound system request, requested by Rev. Paul: “That not more than \$5000 be used from special funds for an upgrade to our video and audio systems in the sanctuary.”

This should allow us to improve the sound and video quality on zoom and improve audio in the sanctuary and eliminate the issues we’re having each week with zoom sound.

Membership Committee Report

Thank you all for your contributions and participation on October 30 at Heritage Village where we met up with young children Trick or Treating with their parents. We handed out treats and gave interested parents information about our church. Hope to see them in our church soon. Thanks to Stuart Miller for organizing this event and for securing the “church” building for us to use that evening. Such Fun.

Once again this year we will be decorating a Mitten Tree with your donations of Hats, Scarves, Mittens, Gloves and Socks. All donations will be given to the Angels Clothing Cupboard—where last year they were received with heartfelt thanks. There will be a box at the front of the church from the first Sunday of November until the third Sunday of December for the Mitten Tree donations.

We had a delightful lunch at Freddy’s in Leamington on Oct 16th with 10 congregants enjoying the fall day and conversation. Our November Lunch in the County will be at the Essex Michigan Diner on November 20th. Contact Toni to reserve your spot. All are welcome. It’s a great opportunity to socialize together.

If you’d like to host a Dinner for Eight this fall or early winter please contact Toni to help advertise the event in our newsletter. These are great events to get to know each other better and have fun.

If you’ve been thinking of joining the church as a member, contact Rev. Paul or Toni to complete the membership form. If you have questions, please ask, we are happy to be of service.

Toni Janik

Membership and Publicity Chair

JOIN US FOR OUR LUNCH IN THE COUNTY

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Essex Michigan Diner

at 11:30 A.M.

27 Victoria Ave., Essex

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

Toni Janik at 519-966-6434 or djanik1@cogeco.ca

Caring Committee Report

November is the month to remind us to be thankful for the small joys and quiet beauty around us, even as the days grow shorter and the air turns crisp. We must keep in mind the time change date, Nov. 2nd, on which we fall back an hour.

Special focus on thoughts to Joyse Gilbert and Sue Markham, as they both recover from their surgeries.

Greetings to all congregants in retirement homes, and nursing homes and simply at home. Wishing you all good health, and may this month be full of laughter, success, and happiness.

Let us remember all veterans on Nov.11th.

Submitted by: Linda Upcott

Caring Committee Members

Carmen Smith

Linda Upcott



November 2, 2025 at 2:00 AM

Turn your clocks back as
Daylight Saving Time ends