



The Flaming Chalice

June 2022

Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia & Port Huron

Lochiel Kiwanis Centre, 180 College Ave. N. Sarnia, Ontario uusarnia.com

June Services - In-person & via ZOOM

June 5: "Jennifer's Choice: Dying Was the Easy Part" – Dawn Stilwell

Dawn Stilwell's sister, Jennifer Ellis, chose to die a medically assisted death, in response to the aggressive breast cancer that had plagued her for nearly two years. Dawn will discuss how Jennifer made her decision with courage and acceptance, how she was supported by her family and the emotional roller coaster that Dawn experienced leading up to that fateful day on November 13, 2021.

June 12: "Wild Churches" – Mary Abma

Wild Churches don't just "meet outside", they gather to recognize and learn to participate in the kindred interconnection of all beings, elements, and places. (Wild Church Network) Mary Abma holds an Eco-Ministry Certificate from 'Seminary of the Wild'. She will be leading us in a Wild Church experience at Canatara Park. "Wild spirituality is a commitment to restoring inner and outer reconnection to the web of life where we already belong." Victoria Looz, *Church of the Wild: How Nature Invites us into the Sacred* (more info on page 2 about June 12 & 19 services)

June 19: "St Joseph's Hospice" – Maria Muscedere

We recognize St. Joseph's Hospice as an integral part of Sarnia-Lambton's palliative care services. However, since 2005 St. Joseph's Hospice has also been serving the community as a Resource Centre for terminally ill people as they face their illnesses and support programs for people who are caring for or grieving the loss of a loved one. It aspires to be "A compassionate community providing hope, care and unconditional support." Maria, Director of Fund Development & Community Relations, will update us on current Hospice programs and initiatives.

June 26: "Our Annual Flower Communion"

"The Flower communion service was created by Norbert Capek, who founded the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. He introduced this special service to that church on June 4, 1923. For some time, he had felt the need for some symbolic ritual that would bind people more closely together." Our 'times' also call for symbolic rituals to express how, while diverse, we really are all 'one'. So, bring a flower which will be placed in a vase to then be taken by another person at the end of the service.



*"Love is the spirit of
this church, and service
its law. This is our great
covenant: to dwell
together in peace, to
seek the truth in love,
and to help one
another."*

James Vila Blake

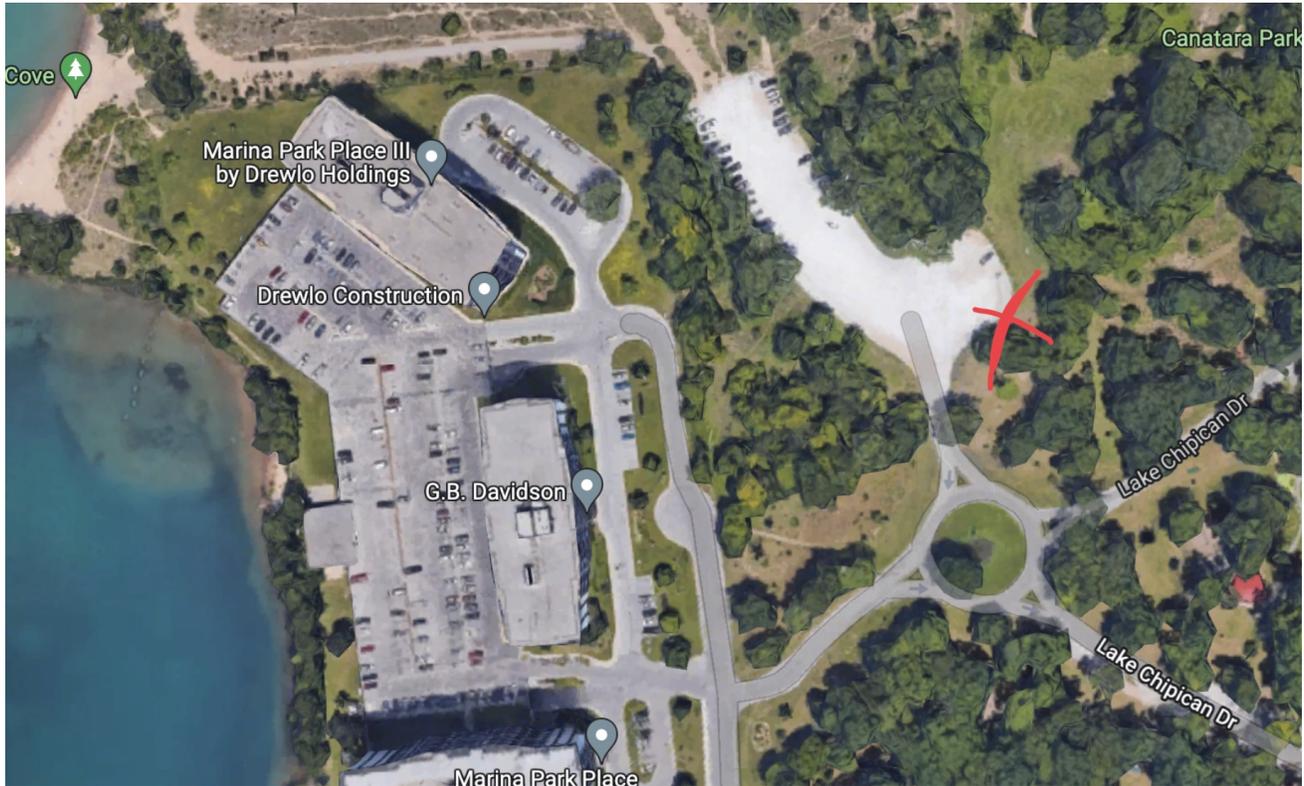
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Further Info About June 12th & 19th Services

June 12:

Here is the map of the location in Canatara that Mary has chosen for her service. Enter on the Point Edward side of the park and at the small round-about go left into the parking lot.



Please bring the following: lawn chair, water bottle, journal and pen or pencil.

June 19:

The Sarnia Super Ninja Obstacle Course Racing Club rents the ground level gymnasium area at the Lochiel Kiwanis Centre. Their Ninjas are working hard in preparation of them hosting Sarnia's first ever Stage 1 Canadian Ninja League (CNL) Event on June 18th and 19th, 2022. There will be activities indoors and outdoors on Sunday morning so it could be noisy. We had hoped to book the "Wild Churches" event for this Sunday. Unfortunately, Mary was not available for this date.



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Canadian Unitarian Council Establishes Decision-making Exploration Team

Our 5th Principle calls us to uphold the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.

As Unitarian Universalists (UUs), we know that how we make decisions matters. Processes not only shape our decisions, they can define our relationships.

In December 2021, the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) established the Decision-making Exploration Team. Robbie Brydon, a lifelong UU with strong ties to the First Unitarian Congregation in Toronto and Westwood Unitarian in Edmonton, leads the small team of (mostly) young adults. Together, they are reviewing Robert's Rules of Order—the CUC's current decision-making model—and alternatives.

Brydon is passionate about the work. "It is vital," he says, "for organizations like the CUC to stop occasionally to see if its processes are optimal. To ask: what is the best way for a dispersed group of UUs—and 40-odd congregations—to come together?"

He believes the time is right to do this work. It aligns with the current review of bylaws by the Board of Trustees, and with the implementation of the 8th Principle.

"People have drawn connections between the 8th Principle and decision-making processes," says Brydon. "The process we use to make decisions determines how power is formed. It determines if the space in which we work is equitable."

To date, the team has identified three approaches to democratic decision-making that might be under consideration for the CUC.



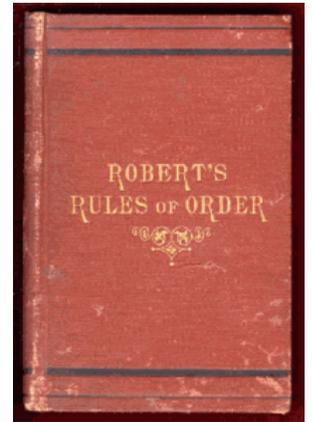
- 1) Majoritarian, or qualified majoritarian, models (e.g. Robert's Rules of Order)
- 2) Formal consensus models
- 3) Consent-based models

In May 2022, Canadian UUs are invited to complete a survey on decision-making processes. Your input will inform the next stages of the team's work, including a deep dive into the shortlist of systems under consideration.

In May 2023, the Decision-making Exploration Team will bring a proposal or prototype to the Annual General Meeting (AGM). It will make a recommendation at the 2024 AGM.

CUC Executive Director Vyda Ng emphasizes the need to conduct this research thoughtfully and deliberately. "It will take time to really understand the pros and cons of different decision-making processes, and to consult with congregations across the country."

She goes on to say that the CUC has paid a lot of attention to "how we've set up the process for making a decision about how we make decisions." The Decision-making Exploration Team is comprised of young adults and emerging leaders who bring diverse perspectives (and innovative ways of working) to the table. Ng says, "I intentionally made the decision to have young adults lead this work to bring in more fresh perspective, creativity and flexibility. The team will, of course, gather information from UUs who have experience with decision-making processes to make sure we have the information we need to proceed." Brydon agrees that the team cannot work in isolation. Its members regularly consult an advisory council that has been established to support the process with additional insights, knowledge, and experience.



Highlights from the 2022 Annual General Meeting

140 people – 82 delegates and 52 observers—attended the Canadian Unitarian Council's (CUC's) Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday, May 14. The work of the Board, staff, ministers, committees and CUC Affiliates can be found in the [Annual Report](#).

Delegates received reports from CUC staff, various committees, and working groups. Highlights included an update on the recommendations of the Dismantling Racism Study Group and reports from both the Decision-making Exploration Team and the Bylaw Review Committee.

Joanne Green, the CUC's Treasurer, presented reports on the audited financial statements and an overview of the CUC's financial position. Our Executive Director presented a budget in principle for 2023, which was approved.

Delegates also voted on two key motions. The first motion proposed that "enact the 8th Principle" be added to the CUC's strategic priorities for 2022 to 2023. The second motion proposed that the current cap on 10% increases to the Revenue Sharing Amount of the Annual Program Contribution (APC) be retained for the 2023 APC year. (A move that would limit the financial impact on congregations with reduced resources.)

Both of these motions passed. You may read the [approved resolutions](#) on the CUC website.

Read the [CUC's Annual Report](#).

Editor's Note: Your Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia and Port Huron's delegates to the CUC AGM (held via ZOOM) were Mark Woolston and Ann Steadman.



How To Donate To Our Fellowship



- 1) eTransfers:** Send it to: UFSPH.executive@gmail.com. There is no longer a need for a security question.
- 2) Cheque:** Designate the payee as Unitarian Fellowship of Sarnia and Port Huron and mail the cheque to: Mark Woolston, UFSPH Treasurer, 1993 Rainbow Trail, Sarnia, ON, N7T 7H6
- 3) PayPal:** A PayPal donation button has been added to our website, <https://www.uusarnia.com/>. Please note that PayPal charges for this service, and we are only crediting the donor with the net amount.

Your continued financial support is appreciated.

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June is Pride Month!

A Proclamation on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, And Intersex Pride Month, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden Jr.

May 31, 2022

During Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex (LGBTQI+) Pride Month, we reflect on the progress we have made as a Nation in the fight for justice, inclusion, and equality while reaffirming our commitment to do more to support LGBTQI+ rights at home and abroad. I often say that America can be defined by one word: possibilities. This month, we celebrate generations of LGBTQI+ people who have fought to make the possibilities of our Nation real for every American.

Today, the rights of LGBTQI+ Americans are under relentless attack. Members of the LGBTQI+ community — especially people of color and trans people — continue to face discrimination and cruel, persistent efforts to undermine their human rights.

An onslaught of dangerous anti-LGBTQI+ legislation has been introduced and passed in States across the country, targeting transgender children and their parents and interfering with their access to health care. These unconscionable attacks have left countless LGBTQI+ families in fear and pain. All of this compounded has been especially difficult on LGBTQI+ youth, 45 percent of whom seriously considered attempting suicide in the last year — a devastating reality that our Nation must work urgently to address. This month, we remind the LGBTQI+ community that they are loved and cherished.

For the full proclamation go to:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/05/31/a-proclamation-on-lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer-and-intersex-pride-month-2022/>

New Pride Flag



The **New Pride Flag** is a flag designed by Puerto Rican [two-spirit](#) designer Julia Feliz, to integrate the historic and modern-day struggles of the [LGBT movements](#) with [racism](#). The design contains the colors of the [Trans Pride Flag](#), to which brown and black diagonal stripes are added, and this is then superimposed on the classic LGBTQI+ Pride [Rainbow Flag](#).

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Pride_Flag

Toronto Pride June 2022



For information and a schedule of events go to:

<https://www.pridetoronto.com/>

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June's Theme—Beauty

Reflection by the Rev. Lynn Harrison

"Let the beauty we love be what we do."

This frequently quoted line from Rumi, the 12th Century Sufi poet, sounds so simple...and yet, it's not always easy to "do" beauty. When we're confronted with the challenges of life, we may find ourselves feeling or acting in ways that seem decidedly un-beautiful. At times, we may be less gracious or kind than we'd like to be. We may find ourselves caught in judgment of others or ourselves. We may catch ourselves casting a critical eye at life and seeing only the ugliness rather than the beauty around us.

In those times, the unexpected beauty of the grass after a spring rain, a friendly "good morning" from a neighbour, or the warm touch of an animal companion can bring us back to the simple beauty of being. Captivated and comforted in this way, we can be supported by beauty without having to judge whether anything is beautiful or not. Beauty can carry us through the difficulties of life, and show us how we, too, can offer beauty back to the world, in whatever ways we can. ...

As we "seek not afar for beauty" (in the words of a Unitarian hymn), may we find it in abundance and share it generously with one another.



Questions to Live With

1. Think about the last time you declared that something was "beautiful." How did you make that judgment?
2. Has your understanding of beauty changed over time? In what ways?
3. How does your experience of beauty affect your worldview or your ways of relating to others?
4. In what ways do you create (or discover, or share) beauty?

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'Beauty' Quotes to Ponder

Beauty saves. Beauty heals. Beauty motivates. Beauty unites. Beauty returns us to our origins, and here lies the ultimate act of saving, of healing, of overcoming dualism. Beauty allows us to forget the pain and dwell on the joy. Do not confuse beauty with beautiful. Beautiful is a human judgment. Beauty is all. The difference is everything. - **Matthew Fox**

Assume that beauty is everywhere just waiting for you to notice it. Allow yourself to feel its effect upon your soul...Beauty is startling, stimulating, and soothing. Its cultivation produces pleasure. - **Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, Spiritual Prescriptions**

We were made to enjoy music, to enjoy beautiful sunsets, to enjoy looking at the billows of the sea and to be thrilled with a rose that is bedecked with dew . . . Human beings are actually created for the transcendent, for the sublime, for the beautiful, for the truthful . . . and all of us are given the task of trying to make this world a little more hospitable to these beautiful things - **Archbishop Desmond Tut**



I don't believe make up and the right hairstyle alone can make a woman beautiful. The most radiant woman in the room is the one full of life and experience. - **Sharon Stone**

I marveled at the beauty of all life and savored the power and possibilities of my imagination. In these rare moments, I prayed, I danced, and I analyzed. I saw that life was good and bad, beautiful and ugly. I understood that I had to dwell on the good and beautiful in order to keep my imagination, sensitivity, and gratitude intact. I knew it would not be easy to maintain this perspective. I knew I would often twist and turn, bend and crack a little, but I also knew that...I would never completely break. - **Maria Nhambu, Africa's Child**

Beauty is before me, and Beauty behind me, above me and below me hovers the beautiful. I am surrounded by it, I am immersed in it. In my youth, I am aware of it, and, in old age, I shall walk quietly the beautiful trail. In beauty it is begun. In beauty, it is ended. - **Navajo Prayer, Sing the Living Tradition #682**

June's Theme—Beauty

For spiritual nourishment and inspiration, please click on the link below to access the theme package so graciously shared by the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto.

<https://www.firstunitariantoronto.org/wp-content/publications/tj/2022/The-Journey-2022-05-Beauty.pdf>



Vision

*As a spiritual community,
We embrace diversity,
We explore openly,
We stand on the side of love and justice.*

Community ... Spirituality ... Service

Other UU links:

Canadian Unitarian Council <https://cuc.ca/>

Unitarian Universalist Associations latest **UUWorld** <http://www.uuworld.org/>

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To unsubscribe from this newsletter at any time, please send your request by email to:

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