From Our Minister:

Race, Diversity and Inclusion, May 7: A Teach-in Sunday

What does it take to create a community that is diverse, inclusive and safe for everyone? On Sunday, May 7, we will participate in a teach-in that will be happening in nearly 500 UU congregations across the continent. We’ll begin with a worship service to inspire and challenge us, followed by a provocative afternoon of workshops.

As we prepare for this Sunday, I’d like to invite you to send me any reflections or stories you have about your own experiences of race and diversity. Please email me at: rev.dianerollert@gmail.com.

Our teach-in on May 7 has been inspired by the efforts of Black Lives of UU, a group affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association, the US counterpart of the CUC. The group has asked congregations and individuals to consider the effects of supporting a culture of white supremacy. They have chosen this phrase to be provocative — and yes, it does make many of us uncomfortable.

As the organizers write: “To tackle white supremacy within us is scary. Us? White supremacy? Surely not. We Unitarian Universalists think of ourselves as people with open hearts and minds. And we are. Part of having an open mind is realizing that, try as we might to be part of the world’s solutions, we may also be unwittingly contributing to its problems. This does not make us bad people. Our faith tells us that our goodness has already been established. Our task, then, is to live up to that inherent goodness.”

Much of the impetus for the teach-in comes in response to recent events at the Unitarian Universalist Association. Things came to a head in March around leadership hiring practices at the UUA that have consistently favoured white candidates over candidates of colour. ("People of colour" refers to anyone who is not of visible "white" European descent.)

Since the resignation of President Rev. Peter Morales, the UUA has named three interim co-presidents: Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt, Rev. William G. Sinkford, and Dr. Leon Spencer. The three, all ministers of colour, will serve until June 24, 2017, when a new president will be elected at the Association’s annual General Assembly.

It could be easy for us to say that these are US issues that don’t concern us in Canada or in our congregation. But we know that we live with constant reminders that we are far from realizing our dream of being a radically inclusive community. Even though 30% of Montreal’s population are people of colour, we continue to be an overwhelmingly white congregation. Many of us ask ourselves, “Why?”

(Continued on the next page)
Gathered Here

Over the years, I have watched many people who are visible minorities come and go through our doors. People leave for many reasons. They move, they get busy, they were seeking something more religious or less religious; but I also know that some have left because they did not feel safe or welcome. It is not easy to stand out as a person of colour in our community.

On May 7, we'll begin with a worship service that will take a spiritual perspective on race, diversity and inclusion. This is about searching our hearts for the way forward. I am grateful to Yvette Salinas who is planning this service with me. Yvette is a member of the Diversity and Inclusion Team at the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) and brings important personal and professional insights into what it means to be a person of colour in our movement today.

We'll follow the service with a workshop (childcare will be provided) led by Vincent Mousseau. Vincent is a new member of our congregation who is a community organizer, educator, student, and activist who leads workshops in anti-oppression, Black Lives Matter activism, and queer activism. The workshop will challenge us to go deeper in looking at our own relationships to questions of race and inclusion. There will also be places of safe space and support.

On May 7, we will stand in solidarity with our UU siblings as we address concerns that call for a renewal and return to our most deeply held values of equity, compassion and justice. We recognize that our Canadian and Quebec history is different from the US, but we know that we have our own work to do to create a community that is truly diverse, inclusive and safe for all. Our hope is that this will be the beginning of a much needed conversation.

I ask you to trust that we will create safe and loving space on that Sunday, and that we will inspire and—most importantly—challenge each other. Please don’t stay home. This is important, spiritual work we need to do together.

In faith,

Rev. Diane Rollert

Worship Calendar

The yin and yang of play and seriousness

Sunday, May 7
Race, Diversity and Inclusion: A Teach-in Sunday
Worship service designed by Rev. Diane Rollert and Yvette Salinas, with music by Jean Séguin, followed by a workshop led by Vincent Mousseau, 12:30-3:30 pm, childcare provided.

What does it take to create a community that is diverse, inclusive and safe for everyone? This Sunday, we are joining nearly 500 Unitarian Universalist congregations across the continent as we shift from business as usual to look deeply into our own challenges and shortcomings in accepting and valuing diversity in Canada, Montreal and our congregation. Please don’t stay home! Come to open your mind and your heart.

Rev. Diane invites you to share your reflections on your own experiences of race and diversity by emailing her at rev.dianerollert@gmail.com.

Yvette Salinas serves as our religious education assistant and is the one Canadian member of the Diversity and Inclusion Team at the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA).

Vincent Mousseau is a community organizer, educator, student, and activist who leads workshops in anti-oppression, Black Lives Matter activism, and queer activism.
Worship Calendar

Sunday, May 14

Spirit Jam: A Sunday to Play
Rev. Diane Rollert and others
Music by Sandra Hunt and Maider Martineau
Join us this Sunday to replenish your spiritual and emotional reserves by engaging in play. We’ll come together as a whole community to begin our service, and then break off into smaller groups to explore creative, meditative, or other kinds of spiritual practices. Our Spirit Jam will give you the chance to respond to what you need: to be energized, calm down, or be creative. Remember, play is good for us all. Experts on the social effects of play say that people who engage in purely enjoyable and purposeless activities tend to be less violent, more empathic and trusting, and more adaptable to life’s challenges. It’s Mother’s Day, so bring your mom, or favourite mom-like person in your life.

Sunday, May 21

A Morning of Playful Singing and Percussion
Special guest Matt Meyer, with Maider Martineau
Matt is an artist of percussion who works in a variety of styles, including latin-jazz, Brazilian, folk, funk, Hiphop and pop. He is a graduate of Berklee College of Music and has studied in Cuba, Ghana, and Central America. Matt is also a member of the Tribal Rhythms performing arts company, an organization that uses the theme of the "tribe" to teach children about community building. Matt’s last two visits received rave reviews from the congregation. Don’t miss this opportunity to join him in a playful worship service.

Sunday, May 28

The Fire on Simpson Street
Rev. Diane Rollert, with music by Sandra Hunt, Maider Martineau and the Parts in Peace Choir
Thirty years ago, on May 24, 1987, our former building on Simpson and Sherbrooke Street was consumed in a tragic fire. The lives of two firemen were lost and the congregation faced an uncertain future. On this Sunday, we will commemorate this sad event and the journey that moved us forward to become the community we are today.

Sharing Our Gifts

The Share the Plate recipient for May is the Syrian Kids Foundation.

From the website: “The Syrian Kids Foundation (SKF) is a Canadian charity that aims to offer humanitarian relief and social services to Syrian refugees from all different backgrounds, sects and religions. The services include free education, psychological counselling, social relief, recreational activities, and essential subsidies. Al Salam School in Reyhanli-Turkey, a project of SKF, blends the best of Syrian and Canadian values — to rebuild trust, self-worth, compassion, and open-mindedness in Syrian refugee children. We aim to empower a new generation with a worldview that would help create the necessary conditions to establish a democratic society.”

Al Salam School, the SKF’s flagship project, delivers free education to more than 1,880 Syrian refugee children in grades 1-12, including 150 orphans, 120 illiterate children, and a number of children with disabilities.

On the first Sunday of each month, please bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the NDG Food Depot. Offerings can also be placed in the baskets in the Sanctuary or Phoenix Hall at any time. Find more information about the UCM’s Share Our Gifts distribution on the UCM website.
Newcomers’ Corner

Want to get a taste of what our theme-based Exploration Groups are all about? Try out Sunday Explorations with Margo Hovey-Ritter on Sunday, May 7, from 12:15 to 2:15 pm. Using our Exploration Group model of respectful listening, these sessions are highly recommended for newcomers and those who’d like to experience our approach to going deeper together spiritually. Contact Rev. Diane Rollert.

Welcome and Nurture

Memorial Flowers

Honour a living person or the memory of someone special by giving an arrangement of flowers, which is yours to keep after the service. Please contact Maychai Brown, 514-487-3236, or Frances Nott, 514-352-6847.

Java Jiving

Aleksandra Oleszkiewicz and Fran Nott are our co-java jiver coordinators. The availability of coffee and tea on Sunday after the service is dependent on volunteers. Please feel free to sign up to help. Volunteer with a friend, or perhaps your committee or group can volunteer for one Sunday a month. Sign up on the list on the kiosk in Phoenix Hall.

Caring Network

What Does the Caring Network Do?
The Caring Network got underway in March 2008 to partially fulfil the mandate of “welcoming and nurturing” in the UCM mission statement. Over the last nine years, we have been able to help scores of individuals and families in need. The Caring Network provides notepaper and cards (displayed on the library desk after Sunday services) so that you can send greetings, get-well wishes, or condolences to members and friends. We address, stamp and mail the cards.

But we do far more. We send notes, on behalf of the UCM community, to individuals dealing with medical problems and to families mourning the death of a loved one. We have provided small gifts (potted plants) to shut-ins and a book (with a welcoming inscription) to parents of newborns. We enlist volunteer drivers to accompany individuals to appointments and ask others to make calls to ailing individuals to make sure they’re okay or to visit someone homebound or in hospital. Perhaps the most welcome gesture of the Caring Network is preparing and delivering food as needed. If you are interested in having your name added to our list of volunteers, please contact Elizabeth Anglin, elizang@sympatico.ca, or 514-937-4095. The Caring Network coordinator for May is Grazyna Wilczek, 514 482-5745, with backup: Carol Greene, 514 933-4532.

—Janine Cobb and Elizabeth Anglin

Phone Contacts for People Living Alone:
It has been noted that some members and friends of this congregation live alone and may wish to have daily “check-in” phone contact. The idea would be to match a person with another member or friend of the community in order to set up a mutually convenient time for these daily calls. If you would like to learn more, please contact Patricia Philip, either by email, or by phone, 514-342-6118 (between 9 am and 9 pm).
UCM's 175th Anniversary

Did you miss some earlier events?

Available to read or listen to:

- Barbara Goode's personal recollection, *The Unitarian Church of Montreal in the 50's and 60's*.
- Mark Abley's historical moment on *John Cordner*.
- Bob Barnes's historical moment about his grandfather Rev. William Sullivan Barnes.
- Bob Wright memory of UCM's historic decision to become a Welcoming Congregation.

Services:

- Rev. Carole Martignacco's reflection from January 22, *Ministry is Like a Love Affair*.
- Peter Boullata's reflection from February 19, *What Love Looks Like*.

March 19 Roundtable:
Audio files for the March 19 roundtable are online at [http://www.ucmtl.ca/march-roundtable/](http://www.ucmtl.ca/march-roundtable/). Video should be online soon.

Upcoming:

**Wednesday, May 17**

**Midday Meal, 12:30 pm** - Blasts from the Past. If you attended the January Midday Meal you are already on the list. If you are new to this event or would like to bring a friend, please contact Elizabeth Anglin, 514-937-4095. Enjoy:

- organ music recorded at the old church on Simpson Street
- display of books authored by our community
- meal prepared by the Kleins
- musical delight after lunch arranged by Sandra Hunt

**Sunday, May 28, 10:30 am, Remembering the Fire**

A thirty-year commemoration of the fire on Simpson Street, May 24, 1987.

**Friday, June 9**

**A Musical and Gala!**—Wine, dine and celebrate our past and future. Our blowout event to highlight the official birth of the church in June of 1842.

**Sunday, June 11**

**Downtown tour of Historic UU Sites** with Rev. Diane Rollert. The tour will leave from the church, after lunch.

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**Newsletter Update**

Is there a topic that is close to your heart that you would like to write about and share with the UCM community? Or do you have an original poem or meditation you’d like to see in the newsletter? We’re looking for original material in French and English.

Contact communications@ucmtl.ca.
Gathered Here

A Message from RE

Dear Friends,

As April wraps up with our last "better together with games" Sunday, and we head into our last full month of Religious Exploration programming, we’re excited to look at our RE themes: better together at UCM, with science & nature, with food, and with art through the lens of our church-wide monthly theme of Play!

There are going to be a host of events throughout the month, including our UCM Community Hike on Mount Royal after the service on Sunday, May 28.

On Sunday, May 7, RE will be participating (along with the adults in our community) in learning about racism, inclusion, and diversity within our walls and within our denomination - more information about the exact programming will be coming to you in the RE newsletter in the next two weeks.

We’ll be embracing the theme of Play in a brand new style of multigenerational service on May 14th, where we bring our Spirit Jam-style programming to the whole congregation. And you’re all invited to a family-friendly biking adventure after the service!

Each Sunday this month is going to be important, lively, and you won’t want to miss it! See you there!

Katharine

Notes from the Music Director

Maider, Diane and I are planning music for some profoundly engaging services this month which we hope you can all experience.

Music at Midday on May 17 will feature three oboists from the McGill Schulich School of Music. I have decided to adopt Mimi Testart’s suggestion that we start our concerts at 1:45pm, which gives everyone a little more time to appreciate the artistry that goes into our meals, and especially the dessert!

I am participating in several concerts to which I’d like to draw your attention, and I hope you can be part of the audience. On May 9 at Église St-Jean Baptiste on Rachel (Metro Mont-Royal), the Choeur St-Laurent, Vanier Chorus, McGill Chamber Orchestra and four soloists, will present Mendelssohn’s chef-d’oeuvre, Elijah. Tickets are available through the choir members like me, and online through the orchestra’s site.

On Mother’s Day, May 14, at 2 pm in the Sanctuary, Matthew Hunt Russell and I will present a recital of trombone and piano music. Any of you who’ve attended previous concerts by Matt know of his rich sound and lyrical interpretations on this vastly underappreciated and expressive solo instrument! Admission is a suggested donation of $20.

Sandra Hunt
Pianist and Music Director of the Unitarian Church of Montreal

Watch entrancing noncerto videos at: https://vimeo.com/194748475

Did you know?...

… that in 1885, demonstrating an openness remarkable for the time, the Church of the Messiah, as our church was then known, engaged Emery Lavigne, 24, a French-speaking Roman Catholic, as organist and choir director. The effect on the church and its previously austere musical programs was remarkable. Lavigne died of diabetes at age 33 but not before establishing a tradition and reputation for excellence in music that lasted for many decades.
UCM Portraits

Hannelore Poncelet


Entre 1991-1997, l’UCM m’a engagée comme DRE. En 2004, le pasteur Raymond Drennan nous a recrutés dans le but de mettre sur pied une communauté unitarienne francophone : le MUUQ. Mon mari, Léo, a fondé la revue bisannuelle, Tribune Libre Unitarienne, à laquelle j’ai aussi contribué (www.uuqc.ca).


**Introduction to Performing Weddings - June 3**

Are you interested in becoming a lay chaplain? Or have friends asked you to get a special license to perform their marriage? Would you like to learn more about Unitarian approaches to wedding ceremonies? If so, please come to a daylong workshop at the UCM on Saturday, June 3, to learn about creating these joyous and significant events. This is the first of a series of workshops on conducting various rites of passage, open to all Unitarians and strongly recommended for UCM members considering lay chaplaincy. Childcare is available by advance request. For more information or to register, contact Shoshanna Green, 514-426-0843.

Read more about lay chaplaincy [on our website](#).
Gathered Here

Unitariens célèbres

Abigail Adams (1744–1818)

Elle était à la fois l’épouse, la muse, l’inspiratrice, la conseillère et la confidente du président John Adams, deuxième président des États-Unis, et également Unitarienne.

Elle a joué un rôle de premier plan dans la vie politique lors de la lutte pour l’indépendance des États-Unis. Les lettres qu’elle envoyait à son mari, représentant au congrès, sont l’un des principaux témoignages de la vie politique de l’époque.

Abigail était le coach de son mari en matière de stratégie politique. Elle était aussi à l’écoute du peuple et des aspirations des femmes et elle sera l’éducatrice avertie de son fils John Quincy Adams, qui deviendra le 6ième président des États-Unis.

Son rôle politique est donc majeur dans la création des États-Unis et pour les deux générations ultérieures.

Son père était un pasteur congrégationniste devenu pasteur Unitarien à Weymouth dans le Massachusetts. Élevés dans une atmosphère chrétienne libérale, elle et son père diffusaient dans la région de Weymouth et de Quincy, au sud de Boston, des idées religieuses insistant sur le modèle social du christianisme.

C’est dans cet état d’esprit qu’elle militera pour la condamnation de l’esclavage et pour l’accès à l’éducation pour les Noirs, cela bien avant la diffusion des idées abolitionnistes au milieu du XIX siècle.

Militante pour le droit de propriété des femmes, leur droit de décision à égalité avec les hommes et militante pour leur accès au parlement, elle prendra des risques politiques bien plus grands encore en définissant l’esclavage comme diabolique et dangereux pour la nation américaine. Elle déclare que les Virginiens n’ont pas à se proclamer en guerre contre le colonialisme anglais puisque leur société esclavagiste est elle-même ennemie de la liberté.

À Philadelphie en 1791, elle recueille un enfant noir issu d’un couple affranchi et se fait un devoir de lui apprendre à lire et à écrire afin de démontrer à la société blanche de Philadelphie l’importance d’un accès égal à l’éducation. Elle lui donnera des cours dans son salon devant les dames de la haute société. Elle considère que l’éducation des Noirs est une obligation morale de la société américaine tout comme la fin de l’esclavage ou la liberté du commerce.

Elle meurt en 1818 bien avant son mari et peu de temps avant que son fils accède à la présidence. Elle est enterrée dans l’église de son père à Quincy.

Jusqu’à ce jour, elle demeure un personnage fascinant de la vie intellectuelle et politique du début des États-Unis et son personnage se retrouve dans des séries télévisées historiques et des pièces de théâtre.

Abigail Adams est une Unitarienne célèbre qui a marqué l’histoire avec courage et humilité.
—Philippe Chevalier
### Taking Action in the World—Social Justice Activities

#### Letter-Writing
The letter-writing group will meet on Wednesday, May 17 at 10:30 am. Join us for a friendly discussion of a current issue, and, if so moved, write letters to your MP or the appropriate government official. Contact Carol Greene, 514-933-4532.

#### Social and Environmental Concerns Committee Meeting (SECC)
The monthly meeting will be on May 14 at 12:15 pm. All are welcome! Contact Christina Duvander.

### Refugee Sponsorship Update

Hanna and Nadia, the parents of Nikola and Wasem, will be arriving on Friday, April 28. It has been a long, nail-biting wait. We are so very relieved that by the time you read this they will have arrived. We are grateful to Immigration Quebec and to the office of federal Minister Marc Garneau for providing us with information and support to keep things moving along.

Nikola and Wasem are attending part-time French classes as they wait to be assigned to the full-time program. They are settling in well and are looking forward to welcoming their parents to their new home.

The Al Mohammad family continues to do well. Everyone is now enrolled in school, from the youngest to the oldest. The adults are all attending full-time French courses and are quickly learning the basics. The children and the adults are making friends with immigrants from around the world with French as their common means of communication.

A fantastic evening of potluck and fellowship was held in early April in the church’s Phoenix Hall, bringing together the two families we are sponsoring along with one of the families being sponsored by Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom. Members of the church’s and the temple’s refugee sponsorship teams brought bountiful and delicious food, with about 50 people in attendance. As Unitarians, Jews, Muslims and Christians, we joyfully broke break together. Thanks to the planning team and kitchen crew!

Gifts of time, bicycles, summer camp tuition, and money for dental care have been donated in the past month. It’s amazing how the generosity continues.

Thanks to everyone for your gifts and ongoing support of both families.
Refugee Task Force—Rev. Diane Rollert, David Rollert, John Inder, Leah Garfield-Wright

### The Collage Group
The Collage Group meets once a month on Sunday from September to June, from 1 pm to 4:30 pm in the Garden Room. We gather to use creativity as a spiritual practice that deepens our self-understanding.

After an initial group activity (usually a grounding meditation or Brain Gym® exercises led by Avis or Janet), we work with images in a quiet, meditative process to explore what calls to us at that moment. Some of us create SoulCollage® cards (using the method developed by Seena Frost; see www.soulcollage.com), although many of us work on larger collages (or even draw, paint or Zentangle® instead). No instructions are given; each person works at their own pace. We close by sharing our creations, thoughts and feelings.

No previous experience is necessary. Magazines and other collage materials are provided, but feel free to bring your own. You are also welcome to bring tea or snacks to share. Contact Avis at ucmcollage@gmail.com or Janet at janetclancy1@gmail.com.
Gathered Here

News from the Board of Management

The Board of Management met on April 19, 2017 and participated in a presentation by Rev. Carly Gaylor on how to think about our relationship with money. The Board looks forward to further discussion on this topic to determine how Rev. Carly’s ideas can be incorporated at UCM. The Board also received an update on the planning for the May 7 teach-in, which will include elements of the service that day followed by afternoon workshops on the topics of race, inclusion, and diversity at UCM and in Unitarianism more generally.

Committee chairs and group leaders should be aware that the deadline for submitting reports for UCM’s Annual Congregational Meeting is May 19.

—Submitted by Julie Golick, Church Administrator

The Unitarian Church of Montreal’s Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 5, 2017.

Welcome New Members!

We joyfully welcome the following new members:
Josée Blanchet
Samuel Dalpé
Susan Gray
William "Bill" Gilsdorf
Susan Gray
Myriam Larose
Maria Estefania “Stef” Marset
Vincent Mousseau

News from Rev. Carly Gaynor

Dear friends,

It has been a joy to be part of the Unitarian Church of Montreal community this year, and I want to thank you for your warm welcome and inclusion of both Curtis and me. It has been more than ten years since I have been part of a UU congregation where I was not minister or intern or student and could simply “be.” What a gift it has been to worship with you, singing, lighting candles, and taking in words and silence. I have deeply appreciated your kindness, openness, and care for one another and for us this year.

Curtis and I return to Ontario in May—Curtis to continue his preparations for ordination, and both of us to build, slowly, the community ministry that will be part of how we live into the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible.

We are passionate about slowing down, sharing resources in old and new ways, and strengthening relationships within our community. We will share more details about our plans as they unfold.

I wish you well in all things, individually and as a community, and we both look forward to visiting again... and again and again.

With deep gratitude,
Rev. Carly Gaylor
Gathered Here

Weekly Events

Parts in Peace choir rehearsal
Thursdays at 7:00 pm.
Join us for choir rehearsal with Maider Martineau, our choir director. Come and participate in this loving and supportive mini-community.

Creative Play Group
Friday mornings, 10 am-12 pm
Get creative with art materials and a simple weekly art project to take home! The nursery will be open for youngsters to play when they are finished with their art. Suggested donation: $2 per child. Coffee and tea available for accompanying adults; light snack available for children. Bring indoor shoes or slippers, as well as clothes that can get messy.
For more information, contact Yvette.

Monthly Events

Seeking the Sacred in Stories, facilitated by Rev. Diane Rollert
Tuesday, May 2, 12-1:15 pm, Thomas Room
Bring your own brown-bag lunch and join this ongoing group as we deepen in community and search for meaning in the stories we read. Copies of stories will be available from the UCM office.

Chant to Greet the Day
Friday, May 5, 7:30 am, UCM
Each month we’ll learn a new chant together and practice it for half an hour. Participants will practice on their own for the rest of the month and join together at the beginning of the next month to learn a new chant. Contact Margot Hovey-Ritter for more information.

Sunday Explorations
Sunday, May 7, 12:15-1:30 pm, Thomas Room
This group meets to discuss the month’s theme, using our Exploration Group model of respectful listening. These sessions are highly recommended for newcomers and those who’d like to experience our approach to going deeper together spiritually. Contact Rev. Diane Rollert.

Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 10, 6:30-8:30 pm
The Council enables UCM groups to cooperate, coordinate, and discuss UCM policy. All are welcome. Contact Shoshanna Green.

SECC
Sunday, May 14, 12:30 pm, Thomas Room
Contact Christina Duvander, 514-630-7523.
Monthly Events

Collage Afternoon
Sunday, May 14, 1-4:30 pm, Garden Room
This is an opportunity for creative play and self-exploration using collage. We work quietly at our own pace. Materials are provided, but feel free to bring your own. No experience necessary. Please confirm your presence by contacting Avis Anderson or Janet Clancy, ucmc-collarage@gmail.com. Childcare is provided upon request.

Cyclofemme Family Bicycle Ride
Sunday, May 14, departing UCM at 1 pm
Join the international movement celebrating and encouraging women’s cycling! This free, fun, public event is open to people of all genders and all ages – please invite your friends! We’ll depart UCM at 1 pm and continue along the bike path network to the Lachine Canal. We’ll make our way out to the tip of Parc René-Lévesque in Lachine for a snack break, and back along the bike path to the Atwater Market. Our total biking distance is approximately 25km, and the round-trip will last between one and a half and two hours (our pace will be appropriate for kids cycling on their own). Please bring your water bottle, bike & helmet, and a snack. Spread the word through the Facebook event: https://www.facebook.com/events/937559866378450/
Contact: Katharine Childs

Marie-Berthe Dion Issues Action Group: Letter Writing
Wednesday, May 17, 10:30 am
Join us for a friendly discussion of a current issue, and, if so moved, write letters to your MP or the appropriate government official. Our group began as an initiative of the Montreal branch of the World Federalist Movement-Canada. Contact Carol Greene, 514-933-4532.

Midday Meal with Music
Wednesday, May 17, 12:30 pm
All are welcome! The cost is $5 for a tasty meal followed by a piano concert by advanced students. Enjoy a mid-week interlude with friends. Plan to attend each month and enjoy meals produced by different members of our community. Contact Elizabeth Anglin, 514-937-4095.

Music at Midday,
Wednesday, May 17, 1:45 pm
Music at Midday will feature three oboists from the McGill Schulich School of Music.

May RE Community Lunch
Sunday, May 28, 12-1 pm
Our May RE community lunch will follow the service. The lunch is offered as a gift to the community, for which there is no cost. Your additions of nut-free desserts are always appreciated, and we will be collecting contributions to support youth and young adults traveling for spiritual and professional development.

Ruth di Giovanni Documentary Film Series
Sunday, May 28, 12:15 pm, Thomas Room
Film to be announced. Contact Christina Duvander, 514-630-7523.
Gathered Here

Monthly Events

**UCM Community Hike on Mount-Royal**
**Sunday May 28, departing UCM at 1pm**
Throughout the year, the Religious Exploration program has learned about the life and work of Henry David Thoreau, now we’ll cap off the year with our whole UCM community following his lead and taking a hike up a mountain! We’ll leave together by public transit (and/or carpooling if possible) after the Sunday service and the RE community lunch, and walk from Beaver Lake to the cross, and back down again. The total walking time will be about one and a half hours, at a relaxed pace which will be appropriate for children and elders. We will be walking along groomed trails and roads, with a total elevation rise of about 50m over the course of the walk. Please bring your own water bottle and sun coverage, and wear comfortable shoes. The hike will be rescheduled in case of heavy rain or thundershowers. If you have questions or if you can offer carpool space, please contact Katharine Childs.

**Open Needlework Group**
**Sunday, May 30, 1:00 pm, Nursery**
Spend a relaxed few hours working on your knitting, embroidery, crochet, sewing, or other needlework projects at our drop-in open needlework group on the last Sunday of the month. Kids, members, friends, and newcomers welcome. Contact Melani Litwack for more information.

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**Joys and Sorrows**

May we hold in our hearts Jim Lewis who recently began chemotherapy and radiation for a brain tumour. Jim thanks everyone for your support and your cards.

We rejoice with Carol and Paco Greene for the birth of their great-granddaughter, Charlotte, born to their grandson Gael and his wife Paule-Espérance. The family is full of joy with her arrival.

We rejoice with Rev. Carly Gaylor and Curtis Murphy for their marriage, performed by Rev. Diane, on April 29. Carly and Curtis thank the congregation for its loving support of Carly over the past year, and Curtis for the more than ten years he has been a member of our community. They return to Hamilton early in May with hopes of beginning their own ministry there.

We say congratulations to all the members and friends of our congregation who will be celebrating graduations this spring. Félicitations!

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**Did you know?...**

… that the fire that destroyed the Presbyterian Church of St. Andrew’s in October, 1869, spread across Beaver Hall Hill and destroyed the Unitarian Church of the Messiah. The Unitarians met as guests in the hall of St. Patrick’s Catholic Church for a little over a year until the Unitarian church was restored.
Closing Words

Passages
Meditation by Rev. Diane Rollert

Spirit of Life,
This day is bright and full of long-awaited promise.
The spring that was proclaimed on the calendar weeks ago
has made its first appearance, and we are finally touched by warmth.
Out of the dark cold winter, we emerge
after a long hibernation, creatures blinking
and adjusting our eyes to the brightness of the sun.
Each day we live
with vulnerability and grace,
an ongoing dance between winter and spring,
warmth and cold, darkness and light.
In the passages of our lives, we encounter joy, commitment, hope,
the beauty that is there in the birth of a child,
in the marriage of honest love,
in the final closure of a life well lived.

Our lives can be so full and yet so fragile,
our hearts easily broken,
our regrets weighing too heavily upon us,
our sorrows and anxieties so sharp that they steal our breath.
Yet grace is there, waiting,
when we have others to walk with us,
in those moments of passage,
when we find strength in facing our vulnerabilities,
when laughter rises to meet our tears,
when regret opens the door to a new way forward,
when spring finally rises green out of cold dark earth.
For this beautiful day, for all the passages in our lives,
for the many companions who sit beside us in this quiet time,
may we give thanks.

Amen