

## **\*\* The Window\*\***

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### The newsletter of Grand River Unitarian Congregation Summer 2017

Annual picnic and Flower Communion; renovations, Summer CRE, QUEST,  
Mark Paul's legacy, summer services AND MORE!

Flower Communion Service and Annual Picnic: Sunday, June 25.

*Bring your flowers and dishes to share!*

#### Annual GRU Picnic - Onsite!

After the service on **Sunday, June 25**, stick around for our annual picnic! We're trying something a little different this year an hosting it in our own parking lot and back yard. While a few accessible parking spots will be available near the entrances, we ask that everyone who is able drop off their potluck contributions at the downstairs door and then park on nearby streets or in the Delta Elevator parking lot on Mill St. Weather permitting, there will be a bouncy castle in the parking lot for the kids to enjoy. there will be tables and chairs available in the grassy area and we encourage people to bring their camp chairs if possible. See you for a lovely time with our GRU family!

#### Healthy, Happy, and Well-Fed

Speaking of sharing our delicious food with each other...Recently, the Board of Trustees refreshed its policy on food sensitivities. Please note the policy below. We hope everyone will join us to make our congregation more inclusive in this way. We will be providing forms for your use in listing ingredients, but please feel free to make your own list or to bring the ingredient list from packaged foods. Our intent is to make it easy for those with food allergies, sensitivities, or restrictions to participate confidently in our shared meals.

#### Our policy:

*Grand River Unitarian Congregation will encourage members and friends to identify ingredients when sharing food at congregational functions (on congregation grounds or the congregational picnic). The congregation will continue its policy of being a nut-free environment. Food containing nuts in any form will not be served at GRU events.*

## The Summer of Renovation

Two of the exciting things that happened at our Annual General Meeting were:

1. Renaming the downstairs hall Whitton Hall after Bob Whitton, founder of the congregation.
2. The approval of renovations to the classroom space downstairs.

When we reconvene in the summer for the start of our liturgical year with our traditional ingathering ceremony we will also be celebrating with the official ceremony renaming the hall and the opening of our new classroom space!

Reminder: You can find a drawing of the new design posted in the Hall downstairs.

What does this mean?

1. The classroom space will be blocked off starting July 10. Please respect the signs and boundaries and exercise caution. Parents, please supervise your children at all times (see CRE article for more information).
2. This also means that space will not be available for gatherings or meetings.

### *Contractor info:*

The downstairs classroom renovations by our contractor, Bricon, will begin about July 10 and continue for about 5 weeks. The classroom area will be sealed off by a curtain of plastic film just behind the current office, allowing limited walkthrough for workers only. Most construction traffic will be via the back emergency door, and a dumpster will be located near this door in the parking lot. Please try to avoid parking near this door so construction traffic can have good access.

### *Office:*

The office will remain in operation where it is through the construction period, although the half-wall around it will be 'surgically' removed soon after July 10. The renovations are due to be completed mid to late August, at which time the office will be relocated to its new location. GRU volunteers are doing the electrical work including lighting, and also providing the dividing door. Our contractor is doing all other work.

### *Furniture and Supplies:*

Furniture and supplies from that area will be relocated around the building and plans are in the works for that part of the project. Furniture on the lower level has been inventoried and there has been a needs assessment. Some of the furniture is being discarded and new furniture is being purchased.

Your patience and understanding of the disruption during this transformation is appreciated!

## A Board on the Waves by Janis Collins, President

It is so exciting to see our faith family taking steps for justice, making physical changes in our building to promote learning and community, and enjoying being together! Here are highlights of the Board's work over the past three months:

- We updated our shared food policy to make it easier for those with food allergies, sensitivities, or restrictions to join in congregational potlucks and the picnic. You will find the exact wording above.
- We set the dates for our congregation-wide events for the 2017-2018 church year.
  - September 10, 2017 Water Ceremony and Dedication of Whitton Hall (Bob Whitton's family will say a few words). There will be a potluck.
  - November 12, 2017 Canvass. There will be a shared meal.
  - November 18, 2017 Dream Auction
  - December 10, 2017 Christmas Party Service. There will be a party/potluck.
  - December 24, 2017 (Sunday) Christmas Eve. Light carol-singing in the morning and our regular Christmas Eve service later that day.
  - February 25, 2018 Annual General Meeting
  - March – Coffeehouse date will be chosen later by Social Action Committee
  - June 24, 2018 Flower communion and picnic
- We were able to extend support to two of the congregation's young adults to deepen their connections to Unitarian Universalism and practice their leadership skills in a UU setting.
- We began creating a covenant for the Board. At the February Leadership Council/Board meeting, Committee on Ministry spoke to the group on being intentional about how we are in relationship to one another within our teams. They encouraged everyone there to go back to their team and develop a covenant.
- The loss of Mark Paul created a vacant position on the Board. According to our by-laws, the Board may appoint a replacement to a vacant position until the next Annual General Meeting. We were pleased that Jessica Bayne agreed to step in as our newest Board member.
- We are actively engaged in filling positions on the Nominating Committee and Canvass Team, as well as choosing Unicamp delegates.
- Rev. Jess has asked for, and been granted, a sabbatical leave in early 2018. Those details will be shared in the fall as they are put in place.
- Classroom renovations begin on July 10, with a projected completion date in August. We anticipate dedicating the new space at the Ingathering celebration on September 10, along with dedicating Whitton Hall.
- We continue to investigate hearing assistance solutions for the sanctuary. There are some exciting technology innovations we are learning about. This summer several volunteers will be asked to test them by traveling to nearby faith communities who are already using these systems.
- Encouraged by the general health of the congregation, the Board is striking a task force to advise us on long-term financial planning so that we will know that this congregation will be a centre for growth, community, and justice for many years to come.

*The great end in religious instruction is not to stamp our minds upon the young, but to stir up their own.*-  
William Ellery Channing

Here we are at the end of a very interesting year! I'd like to thank the congregation for being willing to try the Spirit Jam model this year. It was hectic and chaotic, and an awful lot of fun. I'd especially like to thank all teachers who were willing to spend some time learning with our kids this year. THANK YOU!

Other people I'd like to thank are:

-our OWL facilitators and volunteers who were so devoted to making sure our youth got accurate information. THANK YOU!

- our CRE committee who made sure that the services had good stories, that the kids had opportunities to socialize outside of Sunday mornings, and that the program as a whole was supported. THANK YOU!

-our staff who help things run smoothly on Sunday mornings. THANK YOU!

-and our YoUuTh advisors who help our young people stretch their wings and strengthen their roots. THANK YOU!

The current goals for next year are more of the same: Spirit Jams, OWLS (grade 7-9 and grade 1-2 hopefully), youth group, etc. There's lots of different ways to volunteer in the program, aside from teaching, so please let Julie know if you would like to find a way to help.

### THIS SUMMER in CRE

Due to the planned renovations in the children's hall our programming is very limited this summer. Please keep an eye on your kids to make sure they don't slip away and head into the very tempting construction zone.

We will have three days where we will provide programming. Aside from that the expectation is that if your kids are here, they will be up in the service. We will have books and "busy" activities to hopefully keep them entertained. Do join us on the days that we will have special programming:

**July 9 - The Nimble Bus**

**Aug. 20 - Pawley's Reptile show**

**Sept. 3 - Mad Science**

Wishing you all a summer filled with soft grass, cool water and starry skies.

### Are you a chair?

Chairs of committees and action groups, please take note of the dates of the combined Leadership Council/Board meetings for the 2017-2018 year. All will be at 7:00 pm.

- October 11, 2017: committee budgets are due
- February 14, 2018: leadership is introduced to the budget the board has proposed
- June 13: planning calendar for following year

## Hospitality News

Here is a big "Thank you" to all the pod members who help out on Sunday mornings! Your good cheer and dedication is so appreciated! Special thanks to Art Phelan for keeping an eye on the running of the dishwasher, Nanci Phelan for keeping our pod lists updated, Leo Petipas for taking on summer drinks, and Sandra Bird for being my unofficial right hand person!! Special thanks to retiring Richard Russek and Tonnea Carre-Hilton for their help over the years. Anyone who would like more information about helping with Sunday morning hospitality should contact Rosemarie Harris.

## Mark Paul's Legacy by Margaret Insley

At GRU we were saddened by the unexpected death on March 30 of longtime member Mark Paul. As Mark had no family, our congregation has served in the role of family in many ways. Rev. Jess organized a memorial service which was attended by many from GRU as well as Mark's friends and colleagues in the community. A few years ago, after the death of his partner, Rhoda Riemer, Mark had asked Lee Dickey and me to serve as executors of his estate. Lee and I have been carrying out those duties in the last couple of months.

During his life, Mark made a difference in his community by dedicating many hours to causes he believed in, including fostering affordable housing through the co-operative housing movement. Mark has also left a legacy after his death. In his will he specified that his assets be divided between Grand River Unitarian and the Bruce Trail Conservancy, two organizations that were near and dear to him. The Board will update you in the future on details of this legacy.

Lee and I would like our extend thanks to those who assisted us in clearing out Mark's home, including Rev. Jess and her partner, Kemeny Babineau, Helga Tewfik, Lynda Macleod, Diane Oliver-Jensen, James Jensen, Peter Forsyth, and Kathy Koenderink. And thanks to you, Mark, wherever you are. Your support of GRU, both in financial gifts and with your quiet but determined voice over the years will bear fruit for many years to come.

## Attention Widows and Widowers! By Lynda McKim

On May 28th, 2017, Lynda McKim started a Meetup group for Widows and Widowers. This is NOT a grief support group but rather a social group for those of us who are ready to move on and have some fun with like-minded people. We had our first meeting on June 8th with 16 people in attendance (9 women and 7 men). It was a great group of people who mixed well and were very keen to have this group be a go. There is no cost to join nor any obligation to attend any of the functions. Once a member, you will be notified of our upcoming events and you can RSVP yes or no to any event. If you are interested, please open a free Meetup account. Once you have an account a search window will appear on your home page. In it, type *Tri-city Widows and Widowers Social Group* and you will be taken to our site. Apply to join and once accepted, you will begin to receive notices about our upcoming events. We really hope you will give us a try. It's a really nice group of people and a wide variety of events. If you are interested but have any difficulties with website, please contact Lynda at . Please let your widowed friends know as well, but please don't give them my personal email.....that's only for you special GRUers. Thanks.

## QUEST presents:

### Personality Dimensions

Saturday, September 30, 2017 9:00 am (sharp) to 3:30 pm

Lunch and Refreshments Provided

Whitton Hall, GRU

RSVP to [Quest@GrandRiverUnitarian.ca](mailto:Quest@GrandRiverUnitarian.ca) (mailto:Quest@GrandRiverUnitarian.ca) required.

Space is limited.

#### *What is it?*

Personality DIMENSIONS® is a temperament assessment and human relations tool based on leading-edge research into human motivation and behavior. Its theory is based on the work of Carl Jung, David Keirsey, Linda Berens and Don Lowry. Its history dates back to Hippocrates and uses four temperaments to evaluate individual preferences:

Inquiring Green  
Organized Gold  
Resourceful Orange  
Authentic Blue

Personality DIMENSIONS® is presented in an informative, entertaining, group format. The strength of this tool is that it focuses on interactive self-discovery prior to any “expert feedback” being offered. This format results in participants having fun and taking ownership of the findings and immediately applying them to their everyday lives. In short, you achieve a greater understanding of what makes you and others tick; why people see things so differently at times and how to treat these differences as “gifts” to be treasured not “flaws” to be corrected.

Personality DIMENSIONS® has been translated into 4 languages and is being used successfully in Canada, USA, Britain, Australia, Hong Kong, UAE, Mexico and Nigeria.

Instructor: Lynda McKim is the author and developer of Personality Dimensions® and, as Master Trainer, has trained thousands of clients from all walks of life. She has also trained over 2000 professional facilitators in the effective, ethical and entertaining delivery of this tool. AND she’s a member of GRU.

#### More from Quest:

Much of Quest’s programming is on hiatus for the summer months, but visit the Quest Desk and read the weekly announcements to find invitations to summer Labyrinth Walks, Shambhala Meditation, and the Fall return of Skeptic’s Pub Night, Tea/TED/Theology, GRU Reads, and more.

#### **Tea/TED/Theology returns this fall.**

**Wednesdays: September 6, 13 & 20th**

**1:30 – 3:00 p.m. in the Board Room.**

Join Rev. Jess for informal conversation on a variety of topics inspired by TED talks. Drop-ins welcome.

Tea will be served.

## Social Action Committee News by Irena Baltaduonis

### TOWELS FOR SHOWERS

Thank you to everyone who has supported our initiative to provide towels for showers at the Mill-Courtland Community Centre! The community centre very much appreciates your donations! We are continuing to collect towels so homeless and needy persons can have a shower. Please leave new or gently used small and medium towels in the large cardboard box near the community pantry. Donations of small-sized soaps, shampoos and other hygiene products are also needed

### BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

We will be collecting school supplies for the Mill-Courtland Community Centre's "Back to School Backpack" program this summer. Please leave donations in the large cardboard box downstairs near the elevator. School supplies needed are:

<i>Backpacks</i>	<i>Pencil Crayons</i>	<i>Math Sets</i>	<i>Binders</i>
<i>Pens</i>	<i>Crayons</i>	<i>Staplers</i>	<i>Glue sticks</i>
<i>Pencil cases</i>	<i>Erasers</i>	<i>Lined Paper</i>	<i>Lunch Cases</i>
<i>Pencils</i>	<i>Rulers</i>	<i>Notebooks</i>	<i>Lunch snacks</i>

We will deliver the school supplies to the community centre at the end of August. Thank you for your generosity!

## Habitat for Humanity Build: July 27 and 28

### Breaking news. Breaking ground.

In Spring 2017, our team will commence work on our newest build site, Queens Bush Road in Wellesley Township. This development will be a semi-detached bungalow; this project will be the first of its kind in a rural community for Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region. In a community filled with many needs, you can make a difference by helping us complete this awesome project. We are actively looking for donors and volunteers.

Did you know HFHWR homes are built with 98% volunteer labour? To continue building more homes for hard-working, low-income families, we need your help. We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds, skill levels and stages of life. You won't believe how much fun you will have, how much you will learn and how good you will feel. Come change someone's life; come build with us! Learn more about our volunteering opportunities (<https://www.habitatwr.ca/volunteering>) . Grand River Unitarian Congregation members will be part of a team on **July 27th and July 28th** starting at 8am, building homes alongside people who will be moving into them. At the time of printing, we don't know what the jobs will be, but you are certainly needed and lunch will be provided.

There will be a sign up sheet and further instructions on the sign up table. We will also be making lunch for the volunteers and three people will be needed to prepare it. For more information contact Jim Sannes [js41ca@gmail.com](mailto:js41ca@gmail.com) (<mailto:js41ca@gmail.com>) or Mag Horman [mmhorman@sentex.net](mailto:mmhorman@sentex.net) (<mailto:mmhorman@sentex.net>)

# The Canadian Unitarian Council's 2017 Annual General Meeting

By Kristen Wilson

On May 13, GRU's four delegates (Janis Collins, Jim Sannes, Louise Sims, and Kristen Wilson) took part in the CUC's AGM at the First Unitarian Church of Toronto. For the first time in years, the AGM was not part of a full conference and did not take place Victoria Day weekend! The conference is now a biannual event, cutting costs as well as the carbon footprint involved in traveling across the country. This year, many delegates from around Canada participated remotely using a teleconferencing program called Zoom.

Because of the new format, the agenda was purposely kept light and scheduled for 11:30 am (to accommodate west coasters) to 5:40 pm. Indeed, although the system had been tested ahead of time, there were technological snafus, with miking feedback and Zoom freezing. It was realized that the sheer volume of bandwidth needed for all the activity was more than the church wifi could serve, so they will bear that in mind for future meetings. Nevertheless, we were eventually able to hear from everyone online and got through the entire agenda with time to spare!

Two decisions of note had to do with finances. One was the vote to improve compensation for our CUC employees. They have been low compared to recommended fair compensation ranges, either at or below the minimum recommendation. In order to keep talented people working for us, a CUC Board task force recommended increases bringing them to the mid-range. The motion was passed. The other had to do with the Annual Program Contribution (APC), which is the amount each congregation gives to the CUC per member. The APC has been set at \$93 for several years, even as costs go up. Therefore, we approved an increase to \$100.

We also continued an ongoing discussion of an alternate way to calculate APCs. Instead of a set amount per member, there is a proposal that they be based on various factors regarding each congregation's size and health - for instance whether it employs a minister and other staff, whether it carries a mortgage, assets, etc. Treasurers were asked to look at the plan and calculate what it would mean to their congregations. Opinions on the plan were mixed. Some thought incorporating many factors would be a good way to ensure each congregation's contribution was fair (much like how personal income taxes are calculated). Others found the whole idea complicated and annoying (also like taxes). Discussions of this plan will continue for the coming year or more. From what we understand, the new plan would have very little effect on what GRU contributes each year.

Your delegates were very happy to represent you this year. In 2018 there will be a full conference taking place in Hamilton, and GRU has been asked to assist the Hamilton congregation in running the show (as on-site volunteers, for instance) With it happening so nearby, it's a great opportunity to help out and participate in the conference events. Stay tuned for more information!

## REV. JESS AWAY

Our minister will be taking summer leave from July 10 through August 14. For pastoral emergencies, please leave a voicemail at her phone number indicating the nature of the crisis so that your call will be returned as soon as possible.

# Water Communion and Ingathering Potluck:

Sunday September 10

by Jessica Bayne, edited and updated by Rev. Jess

*Don't drink by the water's edge. Throw yourself in! Become the water. Only then your thirst will end.* - Jeanette Berson

The idea of a Unitarian Universalist ritual may feel strange to some of us. We have UU roots that rest in the rejection of ritual and of those who controlled both the content of these rituals and the participation in them. For many people, however, rituals are concrete and meaningful expressions of joy and sorrow. As Unitarian Universalists we are free to create rituals and to celebrate life passages in ways we feel best express our values and our faith.

The Water Communion ritual was created in 1980 by Carolyn McDade and Lucile Shuck Longview as a way to embody a shared “vision of justice as well as commitment to the environment” as well as the goal of empowerment of all members. Participants are invited to pour water gathered from many sources (actual or symbolic) into a shared vessel.

At Grand River Unitarian Congregation, the Water Communion service marks the beginning of a new liturgical year in September, on the Sunday after the Labour Day weekend. It is our ingathering, as we return from summer adventures both near and far from home. “It brings home how much of a community we are,” says member Tom Nagy. “I love to hear about everyone’s journeys, physical or metaphysical, and to see how we can go far abroad or go deep within, and still stay tied to one another.”

During this service, we come together in solidarity, both locally and globally, reminding us of our interdependent web of life, connected by this most precious resource. Throughout human history, the confluence of water has been considered sacred space – a holy and wholly natural endeavor of merging and emerging forces.

“Like water, be gentle and strong. Be gentle enough to follow the natural paths of the earth, and strong enough to rise up and reshape the world.”

- Brenda Peters

## Summer Services: 10:30 a.m. Sundays

**July 2, 2017. “As Canadian as Possible (Under the Circumstances).”**

**Rev. Jessica P. Rodela with Service Leader Charlotte Innerd.**

Upon moving to Canada, I received a number of books for a new section in my home library: How to Move to Canada, Hockey for Dummies, Only in Canada You Say, and What Is a Canadian? But my favorite gift was a beautiful book called Exploring Canada’s Spectacular National Parks. The woman who handed it to me explained, “this is not a going away gift; it’s a going toward gift.” So, what have I moved toward in this near-decade of learning how to speak, spell, and think “Canadian”?

**July 9, 2017. "What Does a Nonreligious Chaplain Do? What Difference Does He or She Make?"**

**Keith Martin with Service Leader Rev. Jessica P. Rodela.**

This is a sequel to last year's talk: "How I Became a Nonreligious Chaplain." How do I as a nonreligious chaplain encourage spirituality or life-enhancing values among students?

*Keith Martin is a nonreligious chaplain at the University of Waterloo and the University of Guelph. He is the director of Spectrum A&E Media, a nonprofit, registered charity promoting media arts in education and fostering values that enhance life. He is the author of Seismic Shift: From God to Goodness, about his own journey from evangelical Christianity to 'spiritual but not religious.' The book is available in our GRU library.*

**July 16, 2017. "Our Journey to a Healthier Lifestyle."**

**Ellen Pappenburg & Jim Sannes with Service Leader Janis Collins.**

From being a believer in the standard American Diet and the Canada Food Guide to a radical disbeliever took most of a lifetime. It was a revelation in many ways and it paid off with better health and a different mindset regarding planet and animals.

*Ellen & Jim have been long time Unitarians, social activists and vegetarians. Ellen is from the Netherlands where cheese, eggs, meat and potatoes are the basic diet. Similarly for Jim in Canadian society. To hold different beliefs amidst the mainstream and adhering those principles is what all of us have to face at some time. It's so easy to give in or give up. To be part of and in unison with the planet and with animals is very rewarding.*

**July 23, 2017. "Making Space."**

**Russell Booth with Service Leader Jessica Bayne.**

Youth and Young adults in 2017 are as spiritually alive and building communities that are as vibrant and inclusive as ever before. Yet, they have little to no interest in attending Sunday services, or doing 'church' the same way as it is done across Canada in our congregations. How are we as Unitarian Universalists making and holding spaces in our communities for this new generation? Where are we falling short? Being multigenerational is not as simple as inviting the young ones to participate; we need young people not only because they are the leaders of tomorrow, but because they are the leaders of today! Young people need a place to feel spiritually alive and nourished in multigenerational UU communities.

*Russell Booth is a queer, transgender, non-binary weirdo who grew up in our congregation. Russell is home for the summer and will return to Thunder Bay come September to continue their second year of school at Lakehead University studying Outdoor Recreation and Women's Studies. They have been heavily involved in both youth and young adult and adult Unitarian circles over the past several years and have always had an interest in the different ways of being that can draw the generations apart. Other hobbies include: canoeing, procrastinating, reciting poetry, wallowing in self pity, planning youth worship, and looking at memes from 3 years ago thinking they are new and hip.*

**July 30, 2017. "The Times They Are a Changin' (Or Are They?)" Margaret Insley and Michele Cadotte.**

It is sometimes difficult to keep fighting the good fight. Just when things are looking a bit more hopeful in our country and our world, and you believe that change is just around the corner, then... \*##&+%##\*!! We all want to make a difference but what really motivates us to take a stand and keep going in spite of all the setbacks and struggles? Join GRU members Margaret Insley and Michele Cadotte, and their musician friends Lorne Heffer, Jon Bathmaker, Ed McCarron and Glen Erikson, to share in some "protest songs" and be inspired to keep up the fight!

**August 6, 2017. "What Do You Mean When You Say That?"**

**Rev. Anne Treadwell with Service Leader Mag Horman.**

A few weeks ago I was at a GRU meeting when the conversation turned to our connectedness with one another, and with the world we live in, through our actions, and I thought of some religious phrases which have been used to describe this but which would probably sound quite unacceptable to a UU. Can you imagine telling someone that you believe in "original sin" for example, or "the communion of saints"?!!? Yet some such "doctrines", when we unpack them, may be excellent shorthand for some of our own liberal religious convictions.

*I had the happy experience of being the Minister of this congregation from 1998 till my retirement at the end of 2004. Then John and I were in Nova Scotia for seven years, and when we returned to Ontario I was overjoyed to renew my membership here with the wonderful leadership of the current Minister, Rev. Jess. Sunday services and discussion groups supply frequent inspiration for my thinking, and occasionally I put that "mulling over" into the form of a talk such as this one.*

**August 13, 2017. "Please Don't Do Anything Weird for the Next Five Minutes."**

**Mike Szarka with Service Leader Margaret Insley.**

Diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorder are up to one in every 68 children. How do parents of ASD children cope? Is losing the genetic lottery a life sentence for the parents? What's it like to feel everyone is staring at you and your kid? How can we support members of our community with these challenges?

*Mike Szarka has twenty-three years of experience as the parent of a child with ASD, and works at U of Waterloo as a Director in the Office of Research. Mike and his wife Tracey have been GRU members since 2015.*

**August 20, 2017. "Seven Principles, Six Sources, and Five Aspirations Walk Into a Bar...."**

**Janis Collins, GRU Board President.**

Is it a Unitarian joke? Is it a math joke? Or is there something to all these numbers and words?

*Janis Collins loves words (lots of words), but hopes to use them wisely as she navigates her UU path.*

**August 27, 2017. Chris Moore, UU Seminarian, with Service Leader Charlotte Innerd.**

*Chris Moore is a Unitarian Universalist seminarian at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, where he is studying Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy alongside his Masters of Divinity. He is currently a member of First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto.*

**September 3, 2017. "Question Box Sermon: Why Wonder?"**

**Rev. Jess with Service Leader Janis Collins.**

Today YOU decide the topics and choose the readings for our annual interactive "stump the minister" Sunday.

**September 10, 2017. Annual Water Communion and Ingathering Service.**

Join Rev. Jess for the launch of our congregational year. You are invited to bring a small sampling of water representing your summer vacations and "staycations" as we mingle our experiences in this uniquely Unitarian Universalist ritual. *A potluck will follow today's service. Please bring a dish to share.*