

Winter
2023-24



LUF NEWSLETTER

Sunday Service Themes

Summer is short, and our summertime services are often a time to make the most of the season and gather outdoors as Trudi Jones



and Rosemary Burris (left) provided a service on the July theme of "Play".

Other recent themes have included:

August: Activism

September: Beauty

October: Love

November: Interdependence

December: Pluralism

At right, Fred Maycock and Phyllis Danu lead a service titled "Dances of Universal Peace"

Upcoming monthly themes in 2024 include:

January: Justice

February: Hope

March: Transformation

April: Generosity

May: Equity

June: Humility



Inside this issue:

From the Board President	2-3	Global and Local	6
Family Fun	3	In Memoriam	6
Empty Bowls	4	Visitors from Afar	7
Love in Action	5	LUF Contacts	8

Journey Towards a Home

It is winter solstice as I write this. The days will now be getting longer and the nights shorter. There seems to be a growing brightness in the sky and I'm very optimistic that there will be brighter days for LUF. This past year we began a journey with Trinity Centres Foundation (TCF); a journey to rejuvenate LUF in Thunder Bay. TCF's specialty is reinventing traditional church buildings into community hubs and although we don't have a building, TCF is working towards community partnerships and a location for those partnerships and community service to happen.

Back in the spring, the Board struck a working group to liaise with TCF. Some of the Working Group were able to take in TCF's Property Strategy Course over the summer months. Several things that I took away from that course:

We are not the only religious community in the country trying to reinvent themselves
We, as a religious community, have a lot less red tape to go through than others
This is not a quick or easy journey to take. That being said, it is a journey worth taking.

In the fall, the working group held a congregational information session that presented information about TCF's process, what steps are involved and the costs.

LUF entered into contract with TCF in October. Dave Harder and Kendra Fry are the two associates that we are working directly with from TCF. The working group has had several meetings with them. In early December, Dave and Kendra came to Thunder Bay for several days to meet with potential partners and community leaders, check out Thunder Bay geographically, and meet with a commercial broker who will work with LUF and TCF; his name is Kris McGowen. LUF hosted Dave and Kendra to a Souper Soup Evening after which they met with and engaged members and friends in a mini workshop. The Board received a lot of positive feedback from those who attended. TCF's report on this workshop will be made available in the new year.



The Working Group continues to meet and work with Dave and Kendra and we are looking forward to our January meeting to discuss the results of their meetings and findings while in Thunder Bay. We will continue to keep you informed. We ask all members and friends to take an active part

in this journey. Keep your ears open to possible partnership organizations and keep your eyes peeled for potential properties that could be our new community home.

The Working Group consists of: Margaret Wanlin, Fred Maycock, Pyteke Blaauw, Brenda Diebel, Angela Bach and Sandra McIver. Please contact any member with information or questions.

Sandra McIver luf.president@gmail.com (807) 627-3513

Family Fun

In September, as we resumed from Summer Holidays, the new church year / school year kicked off with a Youth Retreat and Intergenerational Activities at Grey Wolf Scout Camp. Saturday, September 9th began with an all day Youth Retreat, followed by intergenerational campfire and optional overnight stay. Sunday's outdoor Ingathering service brought attendees of all ages for spiritual gathering followed by pot luck lunch and afternoon recreation.

There were 15 youth and 3 adults who spent the night plus additional attendees at "all ages" times. Everyone had a blast.



On December 16th, an all-ages gathering was held out in the bush on the Smith property. There wasn't much snow for sledding, but attendees were warmed by the fire with warm beverages and snacks, including roasting marshmallows for s'mores. Some opted to harvest a tree to take home for the Yule season.



Empty Bowls

After three long years of hosting a drive-through only event, Empty Bowls returned this October with the option of a take-out or sit-down fundraiser. The community did not disappoint, with over 120 tickets sold for the afternoon Take Out held on Sunday, October 15th, including a visit from Thunder Bay Mayor, Ken Boschhoff, pictured at left, selecting his bowl before receiving a 20 oz jar of soup to take home.



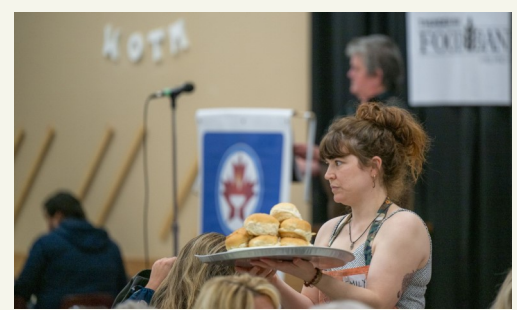
Approximately an additional 340 ticket holders arrived for the sit down dinner, also held at the Moose Hall.

Yes, that is a lot of bowls that the local potters created. Over 500 all together. Quilted bowl cozies provided additional fundraising. Pumpkin centerpieces were provided by Belluz farms. Soups were created and donated by local restaurants and Community Organizations. Coffee and Tea was provided by International House of Tea, and Rose N Crantz Roasting Co, who was also celebrating their 10th anniversary that day.



While patrons waited outdoors and unloaded their donations of non-perishable food, they were entertained by the music of LUF's Frank Pollari and friend. Many additional LUF-ers and friends were busy helping indoors.

Over **\$25,000** was raised, including over \$5,000 of lottery proceeds which have been donated to the Thunder Bay Food Bank, who graciously suggested that the remaining \$20,000 be donated exclusively to Shelter House Thunder Bay. An official cheque presentation will be in January.



Love in Action



The LUF Congregation continues to prepare and serve 100+ meals at Shelter House on a monthly basis, usually the last Saturday of the month.



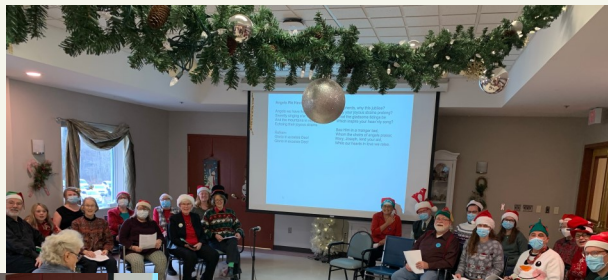
Throughout the month of November, LUF-ers collected warm winter clothing and wrote Christmas cards for the people who use the services of Elevate.



On the afternoon of Sunday, December 10th, several LUF-ers gathered and wrote over 18 letters which have been mailed around the world in conjunction with Amnesty International's Write for Rights Campaign.

20 LUF Singers led by Rob Van Wyck entertained the Pioneer Ridge seniors residents with caroling on Dec 17. Approximately 50 residents plus staff gathered in the Auditorium at Pioneer Ridge. Our singing was greatly enhanced by our talented new pianist Paul Rodermond and Frank Pollari on harmonica. We were also treated to a lovely solo by Fred Maycock — and by two friends of the Fellowship, Lolo (9) and her brother Simon (12) on the piano. Who knew we had such great talent in our little community?

Rob's enthusiastic and inviting manner helped encourage the residents and his motley crew.



Afterwards, refreshments were generously provided by Pioneer Ridge. A great deal of fun was had by all!
- Brenda Diebel



Global and Local 2023

The external charities that LUF has been fundraising for in 2023 are globally, The Red Cross Ukraine relief, and locally, the Elizabeth Fry Society and Shelter House. We stayed with the same charities as in 2022 as we identified that the needs were great in these areas and that there is much more ongoing work to do. There have been two Souper Soup events held this year, with additional fundraising for Ukraine supported by Hanusia Tkaczyk's sale of Pysanka (Ukrainian Easter eggs) and by individual gifts channelled through LUF. The total amount raised for our Global and Local initiatives in 2023 exceeds \$1800.00

Now we need to think ahead to 2024! What Global and Local charities would you like to see us support in the New Year? Send your suggestions to me mwanlin@tbaytel.net or tell me at church by January 21. We will include the information in the January 24 e-update and will include the vote with the Annual Budget meeting on January 28th, which will also be our first Souper Soup fundraiser of 2024.

- Margaret Wanlin

In Memoriam

This fall, LUF experienced the loss of two long time pivotal members of the congregation, both who had held pivotal roles in the growth and leadership of the fellowship.



Beverley Leaman was a member of LUF since 1967, and died on October 19, 2023 approaching her 86th birthday.

A memorial service was held on November 25th.

Delores Dickey became a member of LUF in 1965, and died on November 9, 2023 close to her 94th birthday.

A Memorial Open House will be held on Saturday, January 6, 2024, from 2-5pm, at the Italian Cultural Centre.

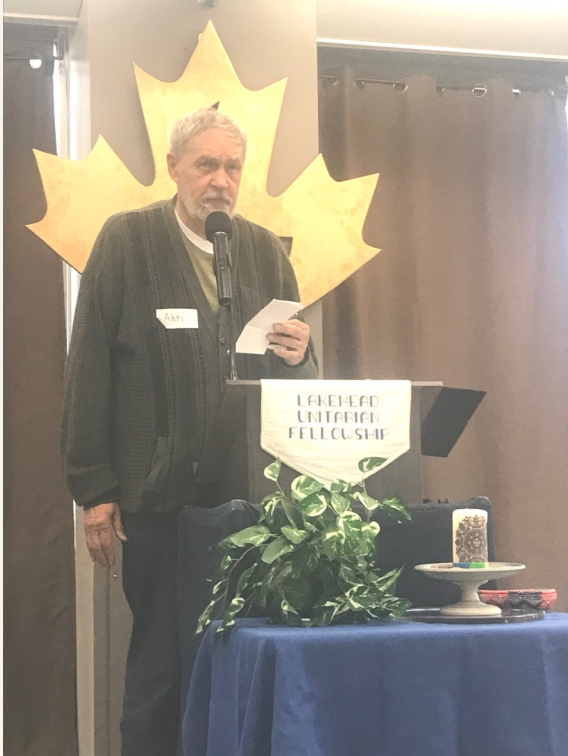


Bev's Obituary: <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/obituaries/beverley-leaman-7761739>

Del's Obituary: <https://memorials.nwfainc.com/eleanor-dickey/4722953/index.php>

Visitors from afar

At right: Former Lakehead Unitarian members, Pauline McGowan and Jane Crossman, who now reside in the UK, returned to visit the LUF congregation on Sunday, September 17th. For many, it felt like old times to have them in our midst.



Above: Ahti Tolvanen remains a member of LUF, although his current home is in Helsinki, Finland. Ahti is the only representative of Canadian Unitarians who attends as an Observer at the UN's Conference of the Parties (COP) Climate Conferences.

Ahti addressed the LUF congregation over coffee, following the service on Sunday, October 15th. In his brief presentation, "Report from the Summits: Representing You at the UN Climate Talks", he shared both the frustrations and successes that are a part of all these conferences. It was good to see him again, during his visit to Canada.



Below: Rev. Stefan Jonasson of the Winnipeg area came to Thunder Bay to perform the memorial service for Beverley Leaman on November 25th, and then delivered a sermon for the congregation on Sunday, November 26th. A busy weekend, indeed. Rev. Stefan (right) poses for a photo with Rob Van Wyck and Heather Morrison.



LUF CONTACTS



OFFICERS OF THE BOARD

President:	Sandra McIver	luf.president@gmail.com
Vice President:		
Secretary:	Elizabeth McFarlane	633-8698
Treasurer:	Margaret Wanlin	767-1939
Past President:	David Belrose	623-3347
At Large:	Brenda Gillespie	983-2758
	Fred Maycock	
	Irene Semenuk	475-5786

AFFILIATES AND ASSOCIATES

Canadian Unitarian Council (cuc.ca)
 Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (cusj.org)
 Unitarian Universalist Association (uua.org)

STAFF AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

Administrator	Angela Bach	344-5980 (Office)	lufship@tbaytel.net
Religious Exploration Coordinator			lufchildren@gmail.com
Bookkeeper	Jean Armstrong	344-5980 (Office)	
Lay Chaplains	Heather Morrison	767-8233	
	Brenda Diebel	630-6276	
	Heidi Wahl	622-1699	
Endowment Fund Trustees	David Diebel		
	Greg Brumpton		

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND CONTACT PEOPLE

Bylaw & Policy	David Belrose
Care Coordinator	Carol Ann Brumpton
Finance	Margaret Wanlin
Lay Chaplaincy	Sally Palmer Woods
Newsletter	Angela Bach
Nominating	David Belrose
Sunday Services	Brenda Diebel

LAKEHEAD UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

PO Box 26062, 300 Memorial Ave
 Thunder Bay, ON P7B 3Y^0
 Phone: (807) 344-5980

LUF Email Address : lufship@tbaytel.net

The newsletter is distributed by email
 or by surface mail, two or three times
 per year, as submissions are received.

Website: www.luf.ca

*The opinions expressed in this newsletter
 are those of the authors of the articles.*

We hope that you enjoy receiving/reading the LUF Letter, provided free to all members and friends.

Receiving the LUF Letter via the website, saves money and trees.

Please notify the office at 344-5980 if you no longer require the newsletter to be sent by post.

Thank you for your contributions to LUF that make it possible to produce the LUF Letter.