

Ukulele Church



Hello from Ukulele Church!

For those of you who might be unfamiliar with this ministry, we are a worshipping community that has been meeting weekly since October 2020 over Zoom. A ministry founded here in the Atlantic Regions, we currently have participants from NL, NB, PE, NS, ON, MB, BC, Nunavut, and India! Our membership includes folks who have regular “in person” communities with whom they worship, but for some, this is their only experience of church. We continue to be surprised when people of all ages and stages join us because of the ukulele, which we still describe as the “world’s happiest instrument.”

We’ve been blessed at Ukulele Church with consistent and dedicated leadership. Our team includes Linnea Good from Summerland, BC, Nancy Callbeck from Borden-Carleton, PE, Isaac Jonsson-Good living in Vancouver, BC and me, Rev. Catherine Stuart, Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults for Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters, Bermuda-Nova Scotia and First Dawn Eastern Edge. From time to time, we are also happy that a few of our regular worshipping members take on leadership roles to both teach music and lead in art. Together, we plan and lead our programme for the participants that receive our weekly email, consisting of a reflection, our music pages, art resources, and occasional pictures that we share. We meet at 12:30pm Atlantic time/ 1pm NL Time, for an hour and 15 mins of worship.

Our weekly worship continues to follow a pattern that we’ve developed over our time together. We follow the pattern of the church year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost), focussing on biblical stories that we tell for three-four weeks (what we call a mini-series), as well as music and art that fit those themes. Highlights this year included our annual Christmas pageant and a Readers’ Theatre version of the story of Esther that included several pices of music from secular sources, including “Be our Guest,” from Beauty and the Beast, “Roar,” by Katy Perry, and Abba’s “Dancing Queen,” among others. We do take a break for the summer months—at least, online.

Linnea travelled once again to the Maritimes, and we enjoyed a week spent together under the hemlocks as part of the offerings at Berwick Camp. We met together at Linnea’s family cottage in Harvey Station, NB to work on a resource that will soon be published that will include many of our Ukulele favourites. This resource is made possible by the Rev. Alison Etter Memorial Grant, through Atlantic School of Theology. We are excited about this project, so please stay “tuned.”

Catherine continued to offer workshops and worship leadership across all three regions. We are still exploring how Ukulele Church provides a model for skill-based intergenerational ministry, both in person and online. For us, this means that all ages are together as they learn based on the level of skill that they have with the instrument.

Behind the scenes, Ukulele Church accomplished a great deal this year. We continue to send out weekly emails to our base, which has grown to 112 recipients, across the country and around the

world. We are exploring how to continue to offer this resource in sustainable ways that will help us to grow and learn together.

We continue to be open to invitations for worship, workshops, and other events where we can provide leadership and resources. We are still spending time taking already existing music and putting it into musical keys and formats that are Ukulele specific, so send us your ideas!

As mentioned above, now in All THREE Atlantic Regions, Catherine has access to an ever-growing Ukulele Lending Library, so please be in touch with her (cstuart@united-church.ca) to find out how she can visit your community/ministry, or how you can make use of this resource. We particularly wish to thank the Mary Stuart Van Mater fund for financially contributing to grow both of these libraries, this year in First Dawn Eastern Edge. Catherine and Linnea are also available for coaching if you have your own instruments and are wondering how to use them in your communities. Now that we have our method, please ask us how we do it so that this ministry can be available on the ground where you are.

We are, as always, grateful to the three Atlantic Regions who have provided funding from each region's New Ministries Funds. We are also receiving increased support through the regular offerings of Ukulele Church community members, and are exploring other avenues of funding to broaden our base.

If you're appreciative of this ministry and would like to contribute, please find us on Canada Helps, through the [regional website](https://ucceast.ca/make-a-donation) <https://ucceast.ca/make-a-donation> . Thank you for all of the ways you have supported, and continue to support, this ministry!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Ukulele Church,

Rev. Catherine Stuart
Regional Minister for Children, Youth and Young Adults
& Co-Minister for Ukulele Church