



# The Victoria Unitarian

## Services in November

Worship Service and Children's Spiritual Exploration at 10:30am. Child-minding available 10am - noon.



**November 3 Living with Compassion in Community:  
 Compassionate Communication †  
 Reverend Melora Lynngood**

How do you express yourself when you disagree with someone? What do you do when you want someone to do something differently than what they are doing? How can we express our own needs without being controlling or hurtful toward others? Continuing our focus on the part of our mission that says we strive to "live with compassion," we take a look at how to communicate compassionately, particularly when doing so is difficult.

**November 10 Called to Serve, Called to Lead †  
 Reverend Shana Lynngood and the Innovation Team**

This morning we will look at the paradoxical dynamic of leading and serving. As we have created a new team to help train and develop new leaders in the church, many people have said they don't see themselves as leaders. Some have even gone so far as to say they don't like the word. What does it mean to lead? In leading are we also serving something or someone?

**November 11 Remembrance Day Service (Monday at 10:30am)  
 Peter Scales**

Remembrance Day is a time to remember those who died in wartime, and to consider the Big Questions surrounding war and peace. Our November 11 ceremony is performed by Unitarians who have served and who are serving in the Canadian Forces.

**November 17 What Happened to Feminism?  
 Reverend Melora Lynngood**

Many young women today, including influential pop stars like Katie Perry, declare that they are not feminists. Why? Do they not think people should work toward gender equality? Do they think women have already achieved equality with men? Are they right? Has gender equality been achieved, thus rendering feminism unnecessary? Or does the negative reaction to the word 'feminist' itself indicate our work is not done?

**November 24 UU-UNO Sunday Service  
 Pat Kinrade *et al.***

UU-UNO Sunday celebrates some of the issues our Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office has handled over the past year. This service will feature a presentation that was developed by CUSJ (Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice) with major content from Diana Ellis a member of the Vancouver Unitarian Church and a Suzuki Elder.

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† This sermon is a part of our preaching theme of the year: "Living With Compassion"

♪ denotes Chalice Choir

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The deadline for submissions to the  
December issue of the newsletter is November 12.

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## SPIRITUAL EDUCATION AND LEARNING FAYE MOGENSEN

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### SELebrating the Tools of our Faith

As the days grow darker, colder and stormier, feelings of loneliness and sadness can sometimes percolate more strongly within. To help weather the internal storms, we need faith that all will be well. Perhaps this is one of the reasons that you and your family come to church.

A fundamental philosophy I try to nourish is that all will be well—especially when we endeavour to live our lives as our best selves. But how can church help children in that? One way is by shining a light on some important tools for living a fulfilled, happy and moral life. Inspired by the words of Confucius, that “the expectations of life depend upon diligence; the mechanic who would perfect his work must first sharpen his tools”. The Grade Five-Seven group is using a curriculum entitled the “Toolbox of Faith.”

Metaphorically speaking, the toolbox itself is ‘faith’. But Unitarian Universalism is not a blind faith, and so the toolbox contains many specialized tools to help develop that faith, including the following:

A ruler represents the promises that we make with our principles, and the covenants co-created by UUs to define the way of being together.

A magnifying glass encourages curiosity and a questioning mind.

A flashlight helps us shine a light on “justice”, and to understand the story behind the story.

Duct tape reminds us to be flexible in an ever-changing world.

A mirror reminds us of the importance of reflecting on our deeds and actions, and hearing what our still, small voices are telling us.

A stethoscope lifts up the importance of listening to others.

Sandpaper scratches at the importance of humour in helping to smooth rough edges.

And, there are several others: a hard hat for resiliency, a paintbrush for expression, a compass for integrity, chalk for the democratic process, hammer for power, saddle bags for courage and conviction, a level for atonement, gloves for love and a canteen to nourish our individual ‘spirit of life’.

Whether or not the metaphors work for everyone, I am pleased that we offer activities and conversation that lift up the importance of qualities like these. Of course the “Toolbox of Faith” is just one of many curricula that we use in the program, but other syllabuses poke at similar topics from their own special angles – and we supplement with sessions of our own invention – for example did you see the “Gratitude Tree” created by several of our children last month? When we navigate our days with the help of these tools, it is more possible that “all will be well”.

*Warmly, Faye*

Please take a moment – if you haven't already – and check out our new website at <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/>

It's been live for two months after a summer-long construction period. Email me and let me know your thoughts.

The opportunity to put together the website brought with it the realization that we here at the church have a fairly complicated operation.

The difficulty with a website of our type is we serve both the familiar--those who feel they know the church and many of its facets quite well -- and those who are totally unfamiliar with us but are seeking spiritual connection.

Being able to navigate the website easily is a priority for those who are new to us. We want to ensure these curious folk can learn about us in a relaxed and welcoming way.

Yet those involved in church life must be able to locate specific items of their interest in a way that doesn't overwhelm curious "strangers."

As an example, we have a number of what I'll call, for ease of description, "specific interest groups." How many people, for example, are interested in the "Chalice Choir Bass" sound files. Not many, as I can testify since I'm a bass in the choir. But it does require one of the many pages on our website.

I think we can assume that many of those looking at our website are not members or friends but have searched us out on the web. Over the past month we've had more than eight hundred views of the church's website's entry page and more than one hundred and seventy-five have viewed the upcoming Sunday service information.

Our website is both a way of reaching out into the wider community and of serving our church family.

Explore our website at your leisure.

And let me know if you have questions and concerns.

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## SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

## MIKE GRAHAM

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Board members signed a card to Dick Boss thanking him for his generous donation of a playground in memory of his wife, Margaret, a former volunteer of the Island Montessori House School. The playground conforms to the Land Use Plan as adopted by the Congregation and the playground has been approved by the Garden and Grounds Team.

The Board voted, on the recommendation of the Denominational Affairs team, to withdraw our partner relationship with the large Unitarian church in Magyarsaros in Romania. The next congregational meeting will be asked to determine if the church supports application to the UU Partner Church Council to partner with a smaller urban congregation in Hungary.

The Board voted to donate the existing Church Partnership Fund to the Seminary in Transylvania (half to support women's studies and half to support the Dr. Szabo Arpad scholarship fund).

The board voted to establish a separate fund for the Choices in Dying Victoria group. (It is currently a sub-committee of the SRC).

The Board approved policy for Share the Plate: On special Sundays the Worship Committee may determine that one hundred per cent of undesignated monies be donated to the Unitarian-Universalist United Nations Organization, Childhaven, the Partner Church or the Canadian Unitarian Council; on remaining Sundays fifty per cent of undesignated monies may be donated to an appropriate charity as determined by the Social Responsibility Committee and approved by the Board. The Social Responsibility Committee will notify the Worship Committee and church members of the approved donor charity.

We've had some changes over the past years in how we do coffee hour. This is an attempt to get us all on the same page.

**Coffee and tea are complimentary.**

Coffee and tea are provided for all, as a gift of hospitality. This is funded through the church operating budget (through the line item "coffee & hospitality"), that is, it is funded through your pledges. Occasionally, a congregant contributes \$25 to that line item, to offer everyone 'coffee on me' for that Sunday.

**Sweets are complimentary, donations welcome if you are able.**

Sweets are offered to all as a gift of hospitality by Neighbourhood Groups (each group takes a turn of one month per year). The donation basket by the sweets is for anyone who would like to contribute to church programs, as a gesture of gratitude for the baking that the Neighbourhood Groups do, a gesture of support for the programs. (These sweets used to be called 'mortgage cakes' - they were a fundraiser for paying down the mortgage. This is no longer the case.) **If you cannot or do not wish to donate, that is ok!** These donations are not an obligation; merely an opportunity for generosity for those who are able.

**Sweets are often limited; please leave enough so others can also enjoy them.**

The Neighbourhood Groups used to strive to produce 120 pieces, but we often get up to 180 people on a Sunday—plus 40 children and youth (yay)! Some Neighbourhood Groups are doing what they can to bring more. Perhaps we will look into other ways of increasing the sweets available on Sundays. However, in the meantime, since supplies are limited, it would be lovely if folks (kids, and to be fair, adults too) would limit themselves to one or two, so there is enough for everyone to have some.

The children and youth will be having conversations in Sunday school about taking just one, so there is enough for everyone (--and perhaps a second if coffee hour is ending, presumably everyone who wants one has had one, and there are still goodies remaining.) This lesson will be a part of learning how to be respectful and kind in community.

**Bonus Challenge (for those working on our theme, Compassion in Community): What do you do if you see someone taking more than one or two cookies?**

Here are some options, an opportunity to practice "living with compassion:"

Let it go. Assume the person does not know that supplies are limited. Weigh the possible outcomes. Is it better that they enjoy 3 cookies, and leave feeling that church is a warm welcoming place? Or is it better that they are educated, learn not to take 3 so others can have some, and leave feeling scolded, feeling that this is a stingy unwelcoming place?

*If the person is a child,* we can also choose to let it go. Though it is true that children often need reminding about the rules of sharing, it is a risky thing to admonish someone else's child. Weigh the possible outcomes: Is it better to let the child get away with the 3 cookies, and let the parent sort out how they want to handle it, so child and parent leave feeling this is a warm welcoming place (and the kid thinks of church as a happy place with good sweets, and next Sunday, urges the family to return). Or is saving the cookies for others worth risking making the child feel like church is a strict, scolding place, worth risking making the parent feel scolded and unwelcome. Parents are constantly judged for their parenting in the world out there; wouldn't it be lovely if our community could be a place where parents feel supported in the difficulties of parenting?

*If the person is a child and you have a relationship with that child*—if you are a Sunday school teacher or you have talked with that child about their passion for dinosaurs or gymnastics or Harry Potter

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## COFFEE HOUR ETIQUETTE (cont'd.)

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(and if you are good at this kind of thing) then you might be able to offer that reminder in a gentle compassionate way that is not perceived as scolding by either child or parent. "Hey, Lola, remember what we talked about in class? Do you think you could just take one for now, so everyone has a chance to have one before you take a second?" "Slow down, Sparky, look at how many people are here today. Let's make sure that everyone gets one." You might even help the child pass around a plate to others, maybe help them serve the people sitting at the tables.

This all sounds trivial, I know. But it is these little moments of interaction that build relationships, that build community. If we do it mindfully, with compassion, that caring can infuse the entire culture of the community.

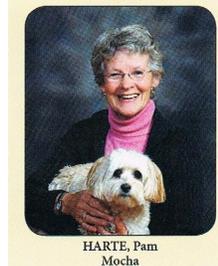
Our goal is to help everyone feel welcome at coffee hour. Think of the coffee hour room as our Living Room or parlour, the place where we receive guests and offer them tea. How can you help people feel welcome here?

## Planned Giving

Those members who have named the church in their will automatically join the Legacy Circle and their names (or "anonymous") will ultimately be placed on a plaque that will hang in the hallway between the sanctuary and the Lion Hall. Legacy Circle members are cordially invited to attend a Legacy Celebration on Wednesday, November 20, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm at the home of Frances and Peter Hancock. Transportation can be arranged if needed. More information will be forthcoming. Thank you.

### *From Pam Harte:*

"Will? Well, I have taken care of my pets, why wouldn't I take care of my church?"



HARTE, Pam  
Mocha

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## FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

LIZ GRAHAM

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### Options for Sunday Centering

Regularly, Worship Committee members have been approached by church members who would like to have a calmer beginning to their Sunday service experience.

In response, we have devised a number of different ways of creating a space conducive to getting the most out of our Sunday service. During the month of November we will be giving you the opportunity to experience these different starts to our service. Some will involve the whole congregation, some will involve just those interested in a particular pre-service activity.

- November 3 A very short period of silent centering after the announcements while Braden plays some soft music.
- November 10 The choir will sing two or three hymns quietly, 10:25 - 10:30
- November 17 Those who wish can join in a pre-service labyrinth walk from 10:10, rain or shine
- November 24 Those who wish may sit silently in the Board Room with a chalice and soft music, 10:10 to 10:25

After the month of trials you will be given an opportunity to give us your opinions on each option.

Look for a description of the centering practice of the week in the e-weekly. We hope you will enjoy these experiments in spiritual centering.

I came in the back door and was a member of the SRC and the Environment Committee for two years before becoming a church member in 2004. I was drawn to becoming more active in causes I believed in when I retired and had more time to give. I've been active in a variety of SRC issues such as the early years of the HOW project and the Habitat for Humanity lunch program. Most active in the Environmental Action Team, a sub-committee of the SRC, I have served both as member, chair and co-chair for over ten years. I have also been a member of the choir for eight years and am presently on the Archives team.

The spring of 2009 was a dramatic time for me. I was half-way through my second term on the Board and Vice President when President Julia Varga died. I stayed on through the May AGM and Board election as interim President, but was unable to continue on the board because of being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and Parkinson's disease at the same time. Lymphoma is no longer an issue and Parkinson's is fairly stable. I still look back on that spring and am extremely grateful for the support and help I had from church members.

My husband and I immigrated to Canada in January of 1975, arriving by sailboat in Victoria Harbour. We were drawn here by the sailing and the slower pace of life. We had cruised BC waters for several years prior to coming here and had continued cruising every summer up to the north end of Vancouver Island as well as two trips to Prince Rupert. We've enjoyed experiencing the beautiful bays and ports as well as making lasting friendships up and down the coast. We've continued to live on our boat while house sitting and travelling a bit in the winter.

I grew up in the US Northwest; my father was a minister so we moved regularly between Idaho, Washington and Oregon. I graduated from a Bible College and worked in a church for two years before entering the Social Work profession. I received my Masters (MSW) in Seattle and worked for ten years in the field specializing in services to older adults. After moving to BC, I initiated programs for the Peninsula Community Association (now Beacon Services) including the beginning of a Home Care Program. With a partner, in 1986 I opened a private training school for the re-employment of people on Income Assistance and Employment Insurance which continued for thirteen years.

After many years of not being connected to a church community, I cherish the FUCV family. The church has given me spiritual direction, support and many friends. I recently have taken more of a consultative role in the Environmental Action Team as talented new people are taking leadership roles. I plan to stay involved in the SRC and EAT and am encouraged by new people doing exciting things.

My favourite principle is Number Seven – “Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part”.

### **Comments from those who have served with Louise:**

“Louise Cole has accepted the important role of Archivist of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria, and has been diligent in helping to preserve our written heritage for the future”. - *from Mac Elrod*

“Louise is a joy to work with. She has a positive attitude, is a creative thinker and is very generous with her time and efforts. On top of all that she has a heart warming smile and kind words that makes one feel very special”. - *from Lisa Greenly*

“Louise Cole is a class act. She is modest, quiet, serene and focused, especially on environmental issues. She has her own health issues but her commitment to this planet and life on it overrides her personal concerns. She deals in practical steps and is a terrier on green matters. It's a quiet joy to sit beside her and have her as a friend”. - *from Clare Vipond*

**1974 in the USSR**

My fondest memories of this tour were not the world-class art galleries we visited, nor the magnificent palaces and churches, not even the ballet or La Traviata sung in Russian. Just a collection of small things.

The first was a killdeer, running along the grass as we touched down in Leningrad, dragging her wing to lead our plane away from her nest. I wonder if her signature call would be exactly the same as those I'd heard in Manitoba. In Manitoba I first met English sparrows too - far too many; my father fed them - and was charmed to see another in Moscow's Red Square, appropriately rosy for having a dust bath where they'd been sandblasting a red brick church!



We were shown the forests of Siberia, replete with great conifers, eerily similar but not identical to those back home. Somebody asked, in all seriousness, if the birches had been specially whitened to impress tourists! The best part of that day was a stop at an outdoor café, there we were treated to glasses of ice-cold birch sap, fresh and woody and infinitely thirst-quenching. So were the waters of Lake Baikal where we stopped for lunch; there the waitress tucked up her skirts, waded in and brought us back a jug of its best. (Less satisfactory was the lukewarm kvass we encountered later in the streets of Moscow, made from bread soaked in water and allowed to ferment!)

We weren't taken to anyone's home, but as our plane descended in Siberia I did get a fine view of a log home from above, decorated with carved blue shutters and surrounded by sunflowers and cabbages and potatoes, all being lovingly tended by a long-skirted baba in a babushka.

Another long-skirted baba introduced herself to us in Moscow and was able to chat with my sister-in-law in Ukrainian. She belonged to a Cossack tribe and altered forever my romanticized view of the dashing, handsome horseback riders that sang in the Don Cossack choir!

Down in Samarkhand, Tamerlane's tomb featured a wonderful sky-blue dome and thanks to a recent earthquake, small chips had broken off its tiles. They found their way into my purse, when no one was looking; I wanted to make sure my passport would be returned!

In Bokhara I bought a peachy-pink silk dress, loose-fitting and thus designed to be cool so one need not bother with underwear. Thinking I was Russian, for I spoke enough of it to carry off the transaction, the vendor wasn't very cordial. But that afternoon we sat on Persian carpets under huge acacias and bought pots of tea; when the Turkish vendor discovered I was Canadian I didn't have to pay!

As I said, I'd labored under a lifetime delusion that the USSR was home to a host of handsome men. I was brought back to earth when I realized that some were but most weren't, indeed in about the same proportions as anywhere else. On departing I searched for at least one at the airport and was overjoyed to discover a magnificent specimen in a uniform, but I was put in my place when I found the insignia on his shoulder read "USA"!

My sister-in-law enjoyed a good laugh.

“I know I’m going to die; what worries me is how I’m going to die.” These words of Dr. Donald Low, Canada’s SARS doctor, spoken during the time he suffered from terminal brain cancer have brought the right-to-die movement to a new frontier in Canada. Even Rona Ambrose, the federal minister of health, has suggested a conversation with her provincial counterparts would be in order. The Carter case is now on its way to the Supreme Court of Canada which hopefully will result in the government being forced to change the present legislation. Much has happened and much still needs to be done.

Dying with Dignity will be the November recipient of Share the Plate. It is dedicated to doing all that legally is possible to support people as they approach the end of life, but compassion for those who are suffering demands more. DWD’s mandate is also to educate the public and legislators about how the law needs to be changed in order that we may have control over our own bodies as we live and die. The Unitarian Church has had a long relationship with Dying with Dignity. The very first meeting of DWD was held in First Unitarian Church in Toronto. You can help by making a donation and by becoming a member if you are not already one.

This Action of the Month has been initiated and organized by our local Unitarian Group, Choices in Dying Victoria.

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## SHARE THE PLATE AND THE SRC

## PHILIP SYMONS

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People have asked how much our congregation contributes through Share the Plate to various organizations the Social Responsibility Committee has chosen for support. Here’s the list for 2012:

January	Access Centre, \$471
February	Rainbow Kitchen, \$688
March	Tsarship Band, \$476
April	Bike rack for our church, \$630
May	Ecojustice, \$411
June	Dandelion Society, \$601
July	HOW, separate fund
August	Surrounded by Cedar (Back-packs), \$390
September	Victoria Interfaith Refugee Assistance Committee, \$540
October	Dogwood Initiative, \$336
November	Council of Canadians, \$533
December	Out of the Rain, \$1,680



The range in donations arises because some months have four and others five Sundays, and some Sundays may have special collections unrelated to Share the Plate. People are especially generous around Christmas time and may be away in the summer.

All but two of the above organizations are charities. While there may always be a need for charity, the SRC’s priority is, and always has been, to change the system so that in a rich country like Canada food banks are unnecessary and everyone has a home and healthy food. The SRC thanks all those who support both charities, and our work to change the system.

**Take the Muzzle off Canadian Scientists**

A recent lead-in to a petition stated: The Canadian government has recently banned their scientists from discussing certain topics including snowflakes, the ozone layer, salmon and a flood that occurred 13,000 years ago. Basic science budgets are being cut back to direct more funds toward industry-focussed research, and this year the Department of Fisheries and Oceans released new rules barring scientists from discussing their findings with the public or publishing them in academic journals without approval from the Harper government.

The public has a right to know about scientific research on all topics which they as taxpayers have funded. They can then make informed decisions, from how we need to act on the environment, to the effects of government policies, to what products to use and how to vote. Censoring or defunding research for political, economic or ideological reasons is intellectually dishonest and insults hard-working scientists. It robs taxpayers who fund it. These Harper government policies have not gone unnoticed. Now that the IPCC has made clear that there is high certainty that global warming has occurred and will get worse, and that human actions have caused most of it, this is not the time to muzzle scientists.

A September 22 NY Times editorial said the Harper government's approach is designed to make sure that nothing gets in the way of the northern resource rush, the feverish effort to mine the earth and the ocean with little regard for environmental consequences. Federal politicians say the approach is typical of modern communications management, while observers denounce the micromanagement as Orwellian. But as the journal Nature, one of the world's top science journals, put it, the Harper government's policy is a Byzantine approach to the press, prioritizing message control and showing little understanding of the importance of the free flow of scientific knowledge."

**See this article for examples of how publicly funded scientists are muzzled:**

<http://www2.macleans.ca/2013/05/03/when-science-goes-silent/>

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**GMO FOODS AND HUMAN HEALTH TOUR**

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**Genetically Engineered Foods and Human Health Tour:**

**November 18, 7pm – David Turpin Building, Rm A110, University of Victoria**

Do you have questions or concerns regarding genetically engineered (GE) foods and human health? Your Environmental Action Team (EAT) is co-sponsoring a presentation by a retired Federal government scientist, Dr. Thierry Vrain, who is touring the country, at the University of Victoria, 7pm on Monday, November 18 in the David Turpin building, room A110. A panel discussion will follow his presentation.

Dr. Vrain is a retired soil biologist and genetic engineer who, after a 30-year career with Agriculture Canada, no longer supports GE technology. Alarmed by the avalanche of scientific studies out of Europe raising many concerns about the long-term safety of GE foods, Dr. Vrain is intent on increasing public awareness and having federal agencies in the US and Canada take notice. His presentation, The Gene Revolution, will explain what genetic engineering is, how it began, and how it has progressed. This will be facilitated through a slide presentation, citing the latest scientific studies, to define the documented effects of GE foods and how that relates to human health.

## Are you New to Our Church? Welcome!

Come to a “Considering Membership” gathering, an evening designed to give you the information you need in order to determine whether you would like to officially become a Member of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria. We’ll talk about what it means to be a member, the responsibilities and benefits of membership, how to make meaningful connections within our church community, and we will answer your questions. At the end, you can decide whether you would like to join now, not yet, or not at all. Whatever your decision, the evening promises to be informative and enjoyable, as we will be talking about things that matter in a small group setting with warm and interesting people. The program will be led by Reverend Melora and will take place at church, in the Boardroom, in the farmhouse just north of the main sanctuary building.

**Date:** Sunday, November 10, 12 noon – 2pm  
**Childcare can be provided upon request. Light refreshments will be served.**

### RSVP

To sign up or if you have questions, please contact Reverend Melora at [rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca) or 250-744-2601, voice mailbox #1 or cell 250-891-6330.

Note: This may be ‘Step Three’ for some of you on the ‘pathway to membership.’ Step One is attending an orientation. Step Two was the two UU 101 sessions some of you attended. However, if you feel you are ready to ‘consider membership’ now, you are welcome to attend this gathering even if you didn’t make it to the other steps. The next orientation will be announced soon.

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## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A LAY CHAPLAIN?

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On behalf of our church, the Lay Chaplaincy Committee is recruiting two new Lay Chaplains to assume the role when the terms of two of the current Lay Chaplains (Joyce and Liz) end. The work of a Lay Chaplain is to co-create ceremonies, including child dedications, marriages, memorials and other rites of passage to mark life's significant events. We are seeking men and women who are: members of our congregation; have a solid working knowledge of Unitarianism; good judgment and communication skills, compassion and empathy and a willingness to participate in a training program prior to appointment, as well as ongoing training as a Lay Chaplain. Typically the term of a Lay Chaplain is for six years.



Prior to appointment as a Lay Chaplain there is typically a one-year period of mentorship and training. It is hoped that both Lay Chaplains in Training would begin service in February of 2015.

Weddings are the most common ceremonies conducted by Lay Chaplains and take place primarily on summer weekends. Availability during that time is important, but with three Lay Chaplains at FUCV to share the workload, it is possible to have some time away. Lay Chaplains receive a fee for their services, but the honorarium is not intended to be a primary source of income.

A Basic Lay Chaplaincy training is being offered in Vancouver November 22 – 24, and anyone considering the position is strongly encouraged to attend. It will give them an excellent sense of what is entailed in the role.

Following that weekend, people who would like to be considered for the position must complete an Expression of Interest form, available in the Lay Chaplaincy box in the office. Please leave the completed form in a sealed envelope in the same box. Deadline for completion of the form is December 31, 2013. Interviews with interested candidates will take place in the new year.

If you are interested in knowing more about the role, please speak with one of our current Lay Chaplains: Fran Pardee, Joyce Murphy, or Liz Graham.

## **The Joy of Stewardship: Creating Congregational Generosity** with Mary Gleason, UUA Stewardship Consultant

Sponsored by  
The Canadian Unitarian Council

**Saturday, November 16, 9:30am– 4:30pm**

Le Coeur Co-operative Housing – Community Hall  
3502 Cordiale Drive, Vancouver  
(Entry and parking on Matheson Street)

What's the best model for an annual canvass? Stewardship Consultant Mary Gleason is frequently asked this question. The answer: it only matters for organizing purposes. Most important is that people feel aligned with their values. Explore how to inspire people's generosity for the annual canvass and other things that require people to give of their personal resources.

Mary Gleason joined UUA Congregational Stewardship Services in 2007 and has served the non-profit community for over twenty-five years.

### **Registration Information**

*Bring as many from your congregation as possible so you can support each other as you apply your new approach. Encourage newer members' participation.*

Please identify a **Liaison person** to register the congregational group and arrange payment. All group members should be registered for planning purposes.

### **Fees**

Group fee based on size of congregation as per CUC listing. See registration:

\$75 per small congregation team (less than one hundred members)

\$150 per mid- and large- congregation team

For individuals, contact Reverend Antonia Won at [Antonia@cuc.ca](mailto:Antonia@cuc.ca).

Note: Fees do **not** include lunch. Options will be provided prior to the workshop.

Registration closes Wednesday, November 6.

### **Recommended PreReading from Mary Gleason:**

Twist, Lynne. *The Soul of Money: Transforming Your Relationship with Money and Life*. W.W. Norton & Co., 2003. Note: Twist has several other books out there with titles that contain "soul of money". The one I am referencing was published in 2003.

Questions? Other support? Contact Rev. Antonia Won at [Antonia@cuc.ca](mailto:Antonia@cuc.ca).

# Annual Conference and Meeting 2014

Montreal, May 16 – 18, 2014

## “Building Beloved CommUUnities: Sacred Spaces Beyond Walls”

ACM 2014 will build on 2013’s theme of “Diversity: Creating A Shared Understanding.” Expanding from Reverend Shawn Newton’s Confluence Lecture (The Risks of Relevance) and Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed’s Key-note address (Radical Inclusion), ACM 2014 will take us into an exploration of how we expand our UU community beyond congregational walls, how we remain relevant into the future, and being radically inclusive.

Hosted by the Unitarian Church of Montreal, the ACM will be held at the Sheraton Montreal Airport Hotel. While the hotel is some distance from downtown Montreal, it is close to the airport and offers a cost-effective site for the ACM.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday, May 16, 2014, preceded by the Resolutions Plenary on Thursday evening, May 15.

Be Part of the National ACM Planning Team in getting ready for the 2014 Annual Conference and Meeting in Montreal. We are reaching out to our national community for good, hard labour in planning the details and execution of the conference. We are looking for participation in program planning, technical and AV support, logistics, music, Young Fun and Junior Youth programming, and coordinating gatherings. If you would like to be part of the Planning Team, please contact [Communications@cuc.ca](mailto:Communications@cuc.ca) to let us know your areas of interest and expertise, and how much time you can share. Even if you aren't able to volunteer, we hope to see you in Montreal!

## Exploring Emotional Intelligence

A course exploring Emotional Intelligence with Reverend Shana Lynngood will be conducted **Thursdays, November 7, 14, and 21 from 1:00 to 3:00pm, at the church** and repeated **Thursdays, November 7, 14, and 21, 7:00 to 9:00pm at the Garry Oak Room at Fairfield Community Place, 1335 Thurlow Road, in Fairfield (off Moss).**

It is one of the paradoxes of our human condition that we crave a network of meaningful connections in our lives, but often behave in ways that undermine our capacity to do so. The school of thought known as emotional intelligence lifts up the critical importance of self awareness. What is my impact on others? Am I acting in a way that expresses my intentions clearly? Am I attentive to non-verbal cues? Awareness of self and others is strengthened by spiritual practices of meditation, journaling, and other forms of reflection.

We will explore these topics in three sessions. You can sign up to attend either the daytime session at FUCV or the evening session to be held at the Garry Oak Room in Fairfield. There is a \$30 fee for all three sessions, but as always money should never be a barrier to participation (contact Reverend Shana directly if you have a financial concern).

To register contact Margot Lods at 250-920-3893 or [mlods@shaw.ca](mailto:mlods@shaw.ca)

## Covenant of Good Relations

### Question

A church friend reveals to you that because of financial setbacks, he feels badly that he hasn't been able to increase his pledge this fall. How can the Covenant of Good Relations help you to respond?

See Page 18 for the answer



## Choir Notes

Nov 10: Chalice Choir meets at 10:00  
Nov 17: Chalice Choir meets at 10:00

**Just a reminder that our fabulous winter concert is happening on December 6 at 7:00!**

*All members, friends, and newcomers to the church can be part of the Neighbourhood Group where they live. Groups meet monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or occasionally. If your group is missing from this column, there was nothing to report this month. If you don't know which group you are in, please phone the church office.*

**Cadboro Bay:** Valerie Roberts reports that they are meeting for a potluck on October 27 at Lorna and Earle Anthony's home. They are also looking at recipes for the Souper Lunch on November 17 that they are hosting with Royal Oak West.

**Grand Central:** Linda Nicholson-Brown hosted a small Fall Gathering for members of this group at her home on September 28. She is looking for ways to increase attendance at their gatherings, as this NG has many members who have not yet been able to attend.

**Esquimalt:** Betty Sherwood writes, "In October, Barbara Boyle hosted a potluck at Cedar Shores. Great food and company on a cold rainy day. We welcomed new neighbours, June Waters and Erin Kinrade with little Teo and Ben. We reviewed our Care and Concern Buddy system and Barbara told us about a form in which we can record Emergency Contacts for the church records. There was a lively discussion about the 'boardroom' and a suggestion to rename it the 'Mira Yarwood Room', as she was a founding member of the church."

**James Bay:** Pat Kinrade writes, "The James Bay NG is looking forward to a Potluck dinner at the home of Lynn Hunter and Don Armstrong on Monday October 21". This group has often met for lunch during the week, and they are trying an evening gathering to enable working members of their group to attend.

**Fairfield:** We were sad to hear of the death of Don Trapnell, and members of the Fairfield group quickly volunteered to help with the reception following his memorial service, assisted by members of the Memorial Team. Everything was organized in a very short time to accommodate family members who had travelled some distance to be with Don. The family was very appreciative of the NG's support. Fairfield is planning a NG gathering for November 3

**Nearby:** New Nearby Convenor, Nancy Dobbs, writes, "Thank you to Jean Simpson for supporting Nearby NG in this role previously. Nearby has already received an invitation from Brad and Madeline Clarke for a January get together. My goal is to continue Jean's efforts to build community through the Neighbourhood Group and to have a gathering in November." Nancy has just completed an intensive two-week course on creating and conducting community choirs, and hopes to have some time, now, to devote to the NG.

**Far Out:** Barbara Nyland writes, "The Far Outs will gather at the home of Phyllis Aherne on Saturday, Oct. 26 between 5:00 and 7:00pm for our Fall Happy Hours."

**Oak Bay:** Karla Thomson, just back from Montreal, writes, "Our NG has been doing the goodies in Lion Hall in Oct. and we are now preparing to provide the necessary food etc for the reception after the 'Celebration of Life service for Mira Yarwood'. Then three days later we are having a potluck supper at Joyce Murphy's. After relative calm we are quite busy just now." (An understatement, and a reminder that members of our NGs are often very busy people!)

Continued on next page

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## AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD (cont'd)

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**Royal Oak East:** This group is planning to gather for a potluck on November 26 and are considering options for a new host, as their expected host will be recovering from much-needed surgery.

**Royal Oak West:** Fran Hancock reports, "Royal Oak West is looking for volunteers in our group to host a potluck in the fall or early winter. Our NG and Cadboro Bay are hosting the November 17 Souper Sunday and are looking forward to working with other church members." Although Fran will be away for some time, she will return before the lunch and she has already organized the food and jobs before she leaves!

**Western:** Nine or ten gathered at Mac Elrod's for this group's Sept. potluck and Susan and John are planning to host the Oct. potluck at their home on Oct. 19. Western will also be busy baking to provide hospitality for coffee time in November.

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## NEW MEMBER

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### Jan Y. Li

I joined the church because I wanted to be a member of this spiritual community. I like our church because I have already enjoyed the vitality and spirituality coming from the members.

I just moved to Victoria last October with my husband John Tiffany who is a member.

I was a health educator and school nurse in the USA and an English Professor back twenty-five years ago in China.



---

## Environmental Action Team Video

The EAT video of the month is Climate Change (2 minutes)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zzjOcOcQ90U>

Please view it for a different view of what is happening.

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## ARTIST OF THE MONTH

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### Kathryn Compton

Kathryn has lived on the West Coast most of her adult life and has always been inspired by what the Island had to offer. For many years she thought she might paint "when she had time". In Campbell River in 1998, Kathryn found the incredible studio of Chris Wootton and finally understood: one makes time to paint, not the other way around. Painters of all walks and talents gathered there weekly, and amidst an eclectic selection of subjects, music and conversation, Kathryn found her muse.

Kathryn left the Island for Vancouver in 2001 where she exhibited happily with the Burnaby Artist's Guild for eight years. She has now returned to her beloved Island, residing in the lovely city of Victoria. Searching for other artists, Kathryn discovered Studio 30 and has once again connected to the art community. When asked what inspires her now, she says "I paint to gain balance in my life, and to create something that invokes pleasure and happiness in others."

Initially a watercolorist, Kathryn has recently begun an exploration into acrylic painting. She favors the sea when working in watercolor, but so far has not chosen a favorite subject for acrylic. A recent trip to Ireland inspired her to create a series of work around a beautiful copse of old beech trees called the "Dark Hedges" in Northern Ireland.



Chalice Circles are small groups of six to nine people who meet monthly. Participation is ongoing. This is a wonderful way to meet others for friendship and to expand your intellectual and spiritual journey.

The meetings follow a simple format and are guided, not led, by a facilitator. Each group decides for itself who will lead each meeting. Topics can be created by the group itself. We do ask you to make a six-month commitment to the Circle you join.

There are currently four Chalice Circles and there are a limited number of spaces still available in these groups. Please contact Helen Hvozdzanski at [hvozdan@telus.net](mailto:hvozdan@telus.net) if you are interested in joining one of the existing chalice circles. Telephone 250-477-2189.

Two of the circles meet on the third Tuesday of the month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm and one meets the fourth Friday of the month in the evening.

WHY JOIN A CHALICE CIRCLE? Belonging to a Chalice Circle offers an opportunity to develop greater intimacy with other church members and a stronger sense of connection to the larger church community. Members grow personally and spiritually through exploring their beliefs and feelings about chosen topics and listening deeply to others.

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## SELA: COVENANT GROUPS

## FRAN PARDEE

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Covenant Groups will be starting up again in mid January 2014 and running through to mid June. They are one of the many examples of small group ministry in this church – ways to deepen our connections to one another and to ourselves.

Groups of eight to ten people meet twice a month. Facilitation of the group is shared by two people, and topics are chosen from a suggested curriculum. Groups meet at different times and locations depending on the facilitators' and participants' availability.

Sign-up for those who would like to participate in the January to June Covenant Group sessions will take place in the Lion Hall on November 10 and 17. You will also find sign up sheets in the SELA mailbox in the church office if you would like to sign up earlier. Completed sheets should be returned to the SELA mailbox.

Creating groups based on co-facilitator's and participant's availability will begin in late November. There will be a meeting of co-facilitators in early January before the groups start.

Please contact Fran Pardee of the Spiritual Exploration and Learning – Adult (SELA) team if you have any questions.

SELA team - Fran Pardee, June Fukushima, and Phyllis Aherne.

Reverend Shana provides much appreciated Ministerial support to SELA.

## After Service Conversations

The Spiritual Exploration and Learning for adults (SELA) team is hosting two after-service conversation circles on November 3 and December 1 in the Sanctuary at 12pm. Reverend Shana Lynngood will facilitate the gathering, and offer questions to guide small group conversations. Groups will then meet in separate rooms with the support of facilitators using Circle Way guidelines for group communications. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know others and to reflect more deeply on Reverend Melora Lynngood's sermons.

**Nov 3 - Compassionate Communication**  
**Dec 1 - Expecting too Much/Unmet Expectations?**

## Holiday Kickoff Luncheon

The event previously known as the Christmas Luncheon will be held this year on **Sunday, December 1 at 1:00pm in the sanctuary.**

ChThe Youth will be serving this year, and there will be some singing of holiday songs while we await our delicious meal. Vegetarian and vegan options will be available. Tickets will be sold before and after service, starting November 3, and cost \$20 for adults, \$10 for Youth, and \$5 for children under twelve. (Reduced rates available on request--call Nellie at 778-426-0300.) Come and kick off the holiday season in style--and bring your family and friends. All proceeds to the Church.



## November Birthdays

- 1 Gloria Turner,  
Tristan Maze
- 2 Linda Nicholson-Brown,  
Thomas Andersen
- 3 Lance Young
- 4 Marion Sollazzo
- 6 Laura Porcher
- 7 Louise Parsons
- 8 Penny Furnes,  
Marina Haden
- 9 Lorna Anthony,  
Bob Dobbs,  
Andy Lee,  
Joe Fleming
- 10 Faye Mogensen
- 12 Brock Brown,  
Pauline Kenneally
- 19 Doug Seeley,  
Lila Watson
- 20 Diana Black
- 22 Bob Van Alstyne
- 23 Terri (Tera) Ziegler
- 25 Tatha Cornish,  
Naida Hyde
- 26 Anna Tilson
- 28 Robert Gifford

## Community Dinner

**Friday, November 8 at 6pm**



This month is Baked Potato night – a new addition to Community Dinner. Big fluffy baked potatoes with tons of toppings to choose from – including vegetarian and gluten free options.

**Everyone is welcome!! Please join us!! Dinner is by donation.**

Please bring a dessert, salad or drink to share. To help with clean-up please bring your own plate and dessert bowl. A rinsing station will be provided.

What is the Community Dinner you ask? That is the new name for our once-a-month gathering on the second Friday of the month. This is a very popular multi-generational event offering a great opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal.

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# THINGS THE TREASURER WORRIES ABOUT

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Christmas displays are going up in the stores. The end of the year must be nigh. ‘End of the year?’ O my gosh! What about 2013 pledges not yet fulfilled? What about meeting the year-end deadline for tax receipts? What about this year’s budget? What about next year’s budget? Worry! Worry! Worry!

Please help the Treasurer (aka Eeyore) stop worrying! Here’s how:

- Get your 2013 claims in promptly and, above all, before the end of December.
- Check the status of your pledge and make your 2013 contributions by year’s end.
- Make sure that all contributions for which you expect a 2013 tax receipt are received before midnight on December 31. (In practical terms, this means before the office closes on Tuesday, December 31 as the Treasurer has no plans to visit the office at midnight).



Thank you. I feel better already.

Bob Dobbs

## Child Haven Fundraiser

The Church's Child Haven Committee is planning a Fundraiser for Child Haven International on November 24 after church at 12:30pm. We will be serving an authentic Indian lunch (cooked by ourselves with authentic Indian guidance), followed by Indian Music and Dancing, traditional as well as Bollywood dances. As well there will be an opportunity to learn some lovely Bollywood dance steps. There will also be a silent auction and a sales table of treasures from India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Tibet, perfect for Christmas gifts.

Tickets are \$25.00, and \$15.00 for youth, and available after church from committee members such as Sandra Jordan. [sandrajordanca@yahoo.ca](mailto:sandrajordanca@yahoo.ca) or Christine Johnston [christine\\_johnston@telus.net](mailto:christine_johnston@telus.net) Or, if you forget, from Munro's bookstore or Tanners.

Additional helpers most welcome to join us to cook on the Saturday and help set up on the Sunday. Our Youth have agreed to serve! Hope to see you all there.



## We Care!

Care and Concern Committee for hospital and home visits, or just to talk...

Contacts: Daphne Dunbar at 250-381-7648 • Val Roberts at 250-477-7192  
or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

## Re-Gifting Sale



Nellie needs more donations of new (or nearly new) and old and interesting things to sell in the Re-Gifting Sale. Items such as jewellery, pottery, textiles, scarves, tools, crafts, toys and games all make good gifts--and all the money raised goes to the church.

By popular demand, there will be an **EARLY SALE ON NOVEMBER 17, IN THE LION HALL, BEFORE AND AFTER THE SERVICE.**

**REGULAR SALE IS DECEMBER 8 AND 15.**

## New Member

Alan Baker  
407 - 1066 Foul Bay Road  
Victoria, BC V8S4J2  
778-677-4849  
alanbaker@me.com  
Oak Bay NG



## New Friends

Nadia Cantera  
1471 Hamilton Road  
Victoria, BC V8R 2Y2  
250-886-3083  
nadiacantera@gmail.com  
Grand Central NG

Nille Fibiger-Crossman  
7 - 981 Firtree Glen  
Victoria, BC V8X 5B8  
250-658-2239  
nfrogbog@gmail.com  
Royal Oak East NG

## Covenant of Good Relations

### Answer

(to the question on page 12)

The Covenant of Good Relations states: "Each person is free to make choices regarding their personal journey and each of us will respect absolutely the confidentiality and private disclosures of others." You could suggest that the amount of time he has spent on church activities shows another way of contributing to the well-being of our congregation.

## Contact Changes



Katherine Maas [250-532-2361](tel:250-532-2361)  
Roberta Clair [250-532-1973](tel:250-532-1973)



Peter and Fran Hancock  
Royal Oak West NG  
Peter: [hancockp@telus.net](mailto:hancockp@telus.net)  
Fran: [hancockf@telus.net](mailto:hancockf@telus.net)

Mike Fibiger-Crossman  
[mfrogbog@shaw.ca](mailto:mfrogbog@shaw.ca)

## Do you have a friend in need ... of a ceremony?

A wedding, child dedication or memorial?

Tell them about FUCV's

## Lay Chaplains

It's what we do!

Email: [laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca)



## First Unitarian Church of Victoria

5575 West Saanich Road • Victoria BC • V9E 2G1

Phone: 250-744-2665

churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca • www.victoriaunitarian.ca

Office hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30am - 4:30pm • Sunday 9:00am-1:00pm

### Ministers

Reverend Melora Lynngood  
Office phone: 250-744-2601  
rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca

• Reverend Shana Lynngood  
Office phone: 250-744-2601  
rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Minister Emerita

Reverend Jane Bramadat  
250-652-1272

### Lay Chaplains

Fran Pardee 778-440-3098  
Joyce Murphy 250-598-1506  
Liz Graham 250-384-4351  
laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

Faye Mogensen 250-744-2695  
FayeM@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Director of Music

Phil Hallman  
music@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Church Administrator

Karen Uldall-Ekman  
churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

### Board of Trustees

#### Officers

President	Mike Graham	250-384-4351
Vice-President	Linda Nicholson-Brown	250-857-1860
Treasurer	Bob Dobbs	250-652-5438
Secretary	Jennifer Young	250-370-5106

#### Council Representatives

Administration	Lynn Hunter	250-220-2240
Congregational Life	Shirley Travis	250-386-3455
Outreach	Laura Doyle	250-595-6383
Property Management	John Tiffany	778-265-1210
Spiritual Development	John Hopewell	250-721-3920

## Events Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
11/1	7:15pm to 9:30pm	Mindful Yarning	Offsite location
11/2	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
11/3	10:30am to 11:30am	Sunday Service	Sanctuary
	12:00pm to 1:30pm	After Service Conversations	Sanctuary, Library, Fireside Room
11/4	-----		
11/5	9:00am to 12:30pm	Learning Circle	Board Room
11/7	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Emotional Intelligence Workshop:	Board Room
	6:00pm to 10:00pm	Music Program	Sanctuary
11/8	6:00pm to 10:00pm	Community Dinner	Sanctuary & Lion Hall
11/9	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
11/10	10:30am to 11:30am	Sunday Service	Sanctuary
	12:00pm to 1:30pm	Environment meeting	Library
	12:00pm to 2:00pm	Considering Membership	Board Room
	12:00pm to 1:30pm	Diversity Group	Chaplains Room

Continued on next page...

## Events Calendar (continued)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
11/11	10:30am-11:30am	REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
11/12	Newsletter deadline today (send to: <a href="mailto:newsletter@victoriainunitarian.ca">newsletter@victoriainunitarian.ca</a> )		
	3:00pm to 5:00pm	Social Responsibility Committee	Board Room
11/13	12:00pm to 2:00pm	Care & Concern	Board Room
11/14	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Emotional Intelligence Workshop:	Board Room
	6:00pm to 10:00pm	Music Program	Sanctuary
11/15	4:00pm to 10:00pm	OWL Leader Training	Board Room
	7:15pm to 9:30pm	Mindful Yarning	Offsite location
11/16	8:30am to 6:00pm	OWL Leader Training	Board Room
	9:00am to 4:00pm	Stewardship Workshop	Offsite location
	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
11/17	8:30am to 3:30pm	OWL Leader Training	Board Room
	8:30am to 1:30pm	Pre Re-gifting Sale	Lion Hall
	10:30am to 11:30am	Parents' Group	Board Room
	10:30am to 11:30am	Sunday Service	Sanctuary
	11:30am to 1:00pm	Souper Sunday	Sanctuary
11/18	-----		
11/19	9:00am to 12:30pm	Learning Circle	Board Room
	12:30pm to 2:00pm	Committee of Ministry	Boardroom
	2:30pm to 4:00pm	Worship Committee	Boardroom
11/20	9:00am to 11:00am	Library Team meeting	Library
11/21	12:00pm to 2:00pm	Board Meeting	Board Room
	1:00pm to 3:00pm	Emotional Intelligence Workshop: Rev Shana	Board Room
	6:00pm to 10:00pm	Music Program	Sanctuary
11/23	10:00am to 2:00pm	Decorating for Sunday	Sanctuary
	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room
11/24	10:00am to 10:30am	Quiet Centering Time	Board Room
	10:00am to 12:00pm	YOUTH WORSHIP	Lion Hall
	10:30am to 11:30am	Sunday Service	Sanctuary
	12:30pm to 7:00pm	Childhaven Event	Sanctuary + Lion Hall
11/25	-----		
11/26	9:00am to 12:30pm	Learning Circle	Board Room
11/27	6:00pm to 9:30pm	Board Meeting	Board Room
11/28	6:00pm to 10:00pm	Music Program	Sanctuary
11/30	12:45pm to 2:30pm	Meditation	Sunflower Room

### Board Members on Duty



Nov 3 Linda Nicholson-Brown  
 Nov 10 Lynn Hunter  
 Nov 17 Jennifer Young  
 Nov 24 Bob Dobbs

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## THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

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The **deadline** for submissions to  
the **December** issue is **November 12**.

Copy should be sent to  
[newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca).

For those without e-mail, copy may  
be left at the church office. All copy  
is subject to editing.

Information for the Events Calendar  
should be sent to  
[calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca)  
or left at the church office.

Feedback is welcomed.

### Staff

Bob Dobbs and Barbara Nyland  
(editors); Doreen Burgess and Myra  
Rippon (proof-readers); and Karen  
Uldall-Ekman (production,  
distribution and paid advertisements).

## Poem Before Rain

In a race with a hoard  
of threatening clouds  
an angry mower  
chews through lush green lawns.

The fatuous dowagers  
in their solemn grey  
are full of themselves  
eager to divulge everything -  
whether we want to know or not.

A small silent bird  
is perched on the wires  
that run from house to pole  
to other poles all down the road  
searching for notes  
that could not be written on the lines.

The wind has not yet begun.

— *by Anne Swannell*  
(while working in the church  
office on a Friday)