



The Victoria Unitarian

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
Growing in Spirit, Living with Compassion, Inspired to Serve

SERVICES IN DECEMBER

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

Practices to
Transform Ourselves
and Our World
December's Theme



Hope The Practice of
Leaning into the Light 

December 6 **Hope: Possibility and Potential—and How Being a ‘Glacial Erratic’ Helps**
Rev. Jane Bramadat (see “About Our Presenters” on page 2)

Chalice
Choir

The theme for the month of December is Hope...and this first service will explore the many meanings hope has and take a particular look through the lens of a journey taken by our Minister Emerita, Rev Jane Bramadat.

December 13 **Winter Blues**
Rev. Melora Lynngood

Chamber
Choir

The winter and the holidays that accompany the season are not joy filled for everyone. Some feel gloomier and gloomier as the days get shorter and shorter. Some struggle with difficult family dynamics that creep beneath the surface at holiday gatherings. For some the grief of loss or loneliness is magnified. Where do you find comfort when all is not merry and bright? This Sunday, we will lean into the light of hope together.

December 20 **Beyond Optimism**
Rev. Shana Lynngood

Chalice
Choir

Often hope and optimism are conflated or confused. We seem to see them as the same thing. This morning I want to explore what I see as the rather significant differences. What would it mean to hold onto hope even when you aren't optimistic?

December 22 **Winter Solstice Celebration: From Dark to Light**
7:00pm **Paloma Callo, Emma Lentz and members of our Youth Group** will lead the congregation from the dark into the light. Come and celebrate the return of the light and the rebirth of our spirits. Cider and cookies to follow.

December 24 **Family Christmas Eve Service--**
4:30pm **Revs. Shana Lynngood**

We will celebrate the holy night with lessons (both historical and contemporary) and carols. What does this timeless story have to offer us this year? *We will take a collection to support the homeless in our community and you are invited to bring material goods for the youth assisted by Out of the Rain Youth Shelter and for the adults assisted by The Dandelion Society. (See list on page 7).*

December 24 **Christmas Eve Vespers**
8:00pm **Rev. Melora Lynngood**

Come join in this quiet, reflective service in which we lift up the hope to be found in the Christmas story. We'll sing carols and end with our traditional candle lighting. We'll also enjoy the musical gifts of special visiting guests, Braden and Hillary Young.

December 27 **Canadian Justice: Is there Hope after Prison?**
Susan Layng (see “About Our Presenters” on page 2)

Our First Principle affirms that we believe in the worth and dignity of every human being. Can this include convicted felons? Susan will take us on an exploration of what it was like to work with Federal incarcerated inmates, our parole system and life after prison. This end of year message encourages us to open ourselves to the possibility of Healing and Hope in an otherwise lost and forgotten segment of our society.

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Can We Pledge More? See page 4.

The deadline for submissions to the
January issue of the newsletter is **December 16**.

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION AND LEARNING

FAYE MOGENSEN

Hope is a spark of light in the dark of night. It's that little thought, when nothing else seems to be going right, that "maybe this will work".

Beta-testing is a new term borrowed from the world of high-tech design, and for me it's an expression of hope. It refers to trying something new, without being fully certain it will work. It takes the edge off a decision, because with 'beta-testing' we acknowledge that, though we have planned as best we can, we don't truly know whether a new approach will work. Usually the test is done on a small sample group, but I find myself beta-testing (or perhaps more simply, being hopeful) all the time. In other words, we give things a try and if they aren't 100% successful, we learn from them and move on with new hope that the next idea will work out better.

Our Chalice Chapels for Children and Youth are an example. Last year, we experimented with several formats and learned a lot, but didn't feel fully satisfied. The purpose of the chapels is to bring all ages of children together in community and worship - so that their experience at the church also includes something similar to the adult service. The idea is that when they do attend an adult service, it won't feel completely foreign to them. This year, we've redesigned the chapels to include worship components and an order of service reminiscent of the adult services.

We've learned that after being in the sanctuary for 15 minutes, the children need time to talk and move; and that this is more achievable in a small group setting. In other words, we can't go straight from one sanctuary to another. Beginning in January, on Chalice Chapel Sundays, the children will go from the Sanctuary to two cohort groups. There, they will do something active, check-in, and briefly plan what their contribution to the chapel might be. After about twenty minutes or so, we'll gather together in full community for our chapel, and hope to have a more worshipful time together.

Another beta-test this year is our December Family Chapel. Rev. Shana and I are very much looking forward to a time of "Winter Quiet" on Dec 12 (from 4:30-6:30). You can read about it by clicking [here](#) while depressing the Ctrl key. If you don't have children and if you'd like to come, let me know. All are most welcome.

May your hearts be filled with the light of hope, Faye

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth • 250-744-2695 • fayem@victoriaunitarian.ca

ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS

Rev. Jane Bramadat (December 6th Service)

Reverend Jane Bramadat was our Minister for seven years from 2002 until she resigned in 2008 and took up a ministry in Las Vegas. She then was declared Minister Emerita by our Board; this was ratified by our now two active Ministers, Reverends Shana and Melora Lynngood.

Rev. Jane is an active member of our community and sings in the Chalice Choir. She is very pleased to be presenting the December 6 sermon, the first on the theme of hope.

Susan Layng (December 27th Service)

Susan Layng has been a member of First Unitarian since 2010 and a friend since 2003. She was a Service Leader prior to becoming part of the Worship Associates team. Susan was employed with Correctional Service of Canada for over 14 years and currently sits on the Board of Bill Mudge Correctional Residential Facility. She and her husband Peter have been together 23 years. Susan has three adult children living in BC and Alberta.

What is This Thing Called Hope?

This month of Solstice and Advent and Hanukkah and Christmas—we focus on a spiritual dimension that is an undercurrent of them all—hope. Whether waiting for the light to return, celebrating the miraculous continued glow of a candle's light, or the birth of a new voice for peace—all of the season's stories and images hold within them an element of hope.

Hope is both remarkably straightforward and incredibly slippery. We know what it means to hold onto hope, to see its resilience even in the face of challenges and bad news. We also know that hope can be easily crowded out by despair—the more we read the news the less hope we have.

We know as well that people who hold hope with fervor and on their sleeve are often seen as Pollyanna and naïve. What is the “rightful” place of hope? In your life? In the world? What might this December holiday season offer to your understanding of hope's meaning?

I look forward to exploring the sources of hope in our lives and world this month. May we find ways to lift up the timeless message of “peace on Earth, good will to all” in the aftermath of all the loss and violence and struggle that surrounds us.



Seasons Blessings,
Rev. Shana

Questions for reflection on our theme of Hope

1. Who – or what – kindles your sense of hope?
2. What is your basic stance toward the future?
3. Which has been more helpful and useful to you in your life, hope or hopelessness?
4. How and where do you make space for hope in your life?
5. Has hope ever surprised you?
6. Is it possible to borrow hope?
7. Does hope ask anything of you?
8. What do you think people mean when they say "Don't get your hopes up too high?" What is your response?
9. Has someone ever done an unexpected kindness for you? How have you (or might you) ‘pay it forward’ and offer that same kindness to another?

Practices to
Transform Ourselves
and Our World
December's Theme



Hope The Practice of
Leaning into the *Light* ✨

For Families of All Ages to discuss over a meal or in the car

Here are some suggested questions to help families discuss together this month's theme, “Hope: the practice of Leaning into the Light.” You could ask one another these questions when you share a meal together. Or, if sharing a meal together is a rare occurrence, you might try using the question as something to discuss while waiting for a bus or while riding in a car (maybe with your carpool on the way to church). Feel free to edit at will, adapting the language to suit the age level of each family member.

When you are sad or discouraged or worried, what kinds of things comfort you?

What kinds of things bring you hope?

Have you ever done something that comforted or brought hope to someone else?



As always, we received many generous pledges in support of our 2016 operating budget. Unfortunately, however, the total amount pledged has fallen short of the amount pledged for 2015 and considerably short of our 2016 operational requirements. In the information that follows, a “pledging unit” indicates either a pledging individual or a couple pledging together. Dollar amounts are rounded.

- **2015: 222 units pledged a total of \$303,000.**
- **2016: 207 units pledged a total of \$289,000.**

Ins and Outs. An “in” is defined as a unit that pledged this year, but not in the previous year.

These may be new members or friends or ones that simply declined to pledge last year. An “out” is a unit that pledged last year, but not this year. A unit registered as an “out” may be due to departure from the church through death or resignation, or it may be due to an inability or unwillingness to pledge this year.

- There were 11 “ins” and 26 “outs”.
- The “ins” pledged a total of \$4,500 for an average of \$410.
- The total amount pledged last year by the “outs” was \$12,600 for an average of \$480.
- The net loss due to the “ins” and “outs” was \$8,100.

Ups and Downs. These are units that pledged in both years. An “up” is defined as a unit that pledged more this year than last year. And...you guessed it...a “down” is defined as a unit that pledged less this year than last year.

- There were 72 “ups” and 31 “downs”. However...
- The “ups” accounted for a total increment of \$11,500 for an average increment of \$160.
- The “downs” accounted for a total decrement of \$17,100 for an average decrement of \$640.
- The net loss due to the “ups” and “downs” was \$5,600.

Budget Implications. Contributions, most of which are fulfillment of pledges, make up about 75% of our income. The other 25% comes primarily from rentals and fundraising, and there is little scope for increasing income from these sources. In fact, the income from these sources is projected to be somewhat lower in 2016.

- **2015: Projected total income was about \$420,000 and projected expenses were about \$430,000 resulting in a budget deficient by about \$10,000.** (Note: It appears at this time that we may end the year close to balancing).
- **2016: Projected total income is about \$403,000. The cost of maintaining present programs would exceed \$430,000.**

Summary: Fifteen fewer pledges were received for the 2016 budget than were received for the 2015 budget. The total amount pledged for 2016 was about \$14,000 less than for 2015. Projected total income for 2016 is about \$403,000, and projected expenses to maintain present programs would exceed \$430,000. **THIS IS A SIGNIFICANT SHORTFALL THAT WILL REQUIRE SOME PROGRAMMING CUTS, AND LIKELY ANOTHER BUDGET DEFICIT!**

Can We Pledge More?

At our congregational meeting of November 22, our president, Shirley Travis, outlined the difficult budget situation that we face and made the following appeal: ***“Our Stewardship is the growing, nurturing, promoting and building of the gifts, and spiritual vocation of the members of this faith community. It is not necessarily the things we do, but the spirit that influences the things we do. Members and friends of the First UCV, Can we pledge more?”***

If, in light of our present circumstances, if you wish to increase your pledge, you may do so by submitting a revised pledge form, or by indicating your revised pledge (or incremental pledge) in an email to treasurer@victoriaunitarian.ca.

NEW MEMBERS

Kym Hines

I came seeking a more stable, diverse, spiritual, intentional community for myself and my daughter, Zahira. I like the diversity of this church, its openness and its involvement in social justice. I really loved that it had a lesbian couple with children as Reverends.

I have lived in Victoria since 1996 and my daughter and I attend church services as regularly as possible, often inviting many of our diverse community members to attend with us as guests. It is the one place I have found where I can "receive" and relax and have my soul spoken to that is not the streets. Don't get me wrong; I love the streets. I just need some calm too, some reprieve from the constant struggle.

My passion is all about justice and ending poverty through implementation and use of a guaranteed livable income.



NEW MEMBERS

Erin Kinrade

I decided to become a member at FVUC about a year ago but never got the paperwork together because I'm highly disorganized and have a flair for procrastination.

I love the community at FVUC: the child and youth programming is excellent, the support group for parents is fantastic, the building and grounds are amazing, the myriad people here are so kind and committed to this community. We also have terrific ministers!

I have lived in Victoria with my sons, Ben and Teo, since 2011 and have attended the church since then. My mother, brother, sister-in-law and step-niece all attend. They have offered me an even more in-depth understanding of how the church is run. I see them spending countless hours volunteering to enrich this community and I am inspired to give more of myself. I do gardening and landscaping work currently and have begun helping with FVUC's Grounds Committee.



MEET OUR LAY CHAPLAINS

Anne Vaasjo

I was born and raised in Edmonton, then escaped to the coast in 1972 where I met my present husband at UBC. We moved to Kamloops in 1975 where we built a small house on an equally small lake and I discovered art. I went off to art school while John maintained our Kamloops life. I was fortunate to have received a few grants, had some successful shows, and taught at Thompson Rivers University.

We moved back to Vancouver in 1990 for John to go to school and we discovered the Unitarian Church. We moved to Victoria in 1992 and attended the Superior Street Church. We drifted away in 2000 then returned in 2012.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a lay chaplain and have completed my first 'season' of weddings, child dedications, and a memorial. It has been a time of growth, purpose, and, for the most part, unexpected delight.

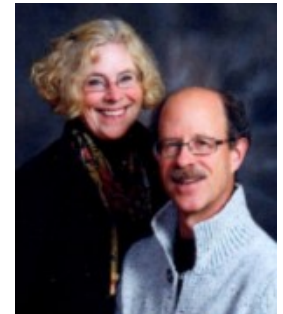


LEGACY CIRCLE TESTIMONIAL

Since we were both self-employed and are now mostly retired, we depend on savings for most of our income. We would like to pledge more than we do to the church, but uncertainties about future investment returns, our health, and our longevity make us cautious.

By leaving a percentage of our estate to the church we can support its future works while reducing the chances that we will run short of funds while we're alive. We prefer this approach to leaving the church a specified amount which, in some scenarios, could mean that our children would receive nothing.

Given its track record, we know that FUCV will use our money well.



Astrid Firley Eaton
Andy Lee

If you are interested in learning more about making a legacy gift to the church, please contact

planned_giving@victoriaunitarian.ca.

Confidentiality will be respected. Thank you.

Winter Concert

The music programme here at First Unitarian is diverse. Last month I wrote about the new Bell Choir which Victoria Beauchesne is leading. This past January the Chamber Choir was started with a group of ten singers who wished to sing challenging *a cappella* repertoire. But let's not forget the other ensembles: the Youth and Children's Choirs led by Nancy Dobbs, the Women's Choir directed by Kristina Stevens, the JAMMers and the Men's Choir.

There will be an opportunity to hear all of these groups performing at the **Winter Concert on Friday, December 4th at 7 p.m.** Do come and support the music programme, enjoy a seasonal sing-along, and of course the post-concert refreshments will be delicious and copious! Admission is by donation to the Food Bank (cash or food items).



Join a choir in January!

Have you been considering joining a choir? As well as being a satisfying musical experience and a social one too, singing is good for your health. Many studies have shown that singing in a choir can reduce risk of heart disease, boost the immune system, reduce stress and help cope with chronic pain. Just one article about this can be found at the link below.*

January would be a good time to join one of the FUCV ensembles. Please ask any choir member, or email music@victoriaunitarian.ca for further information.

* <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/10168914/All-together-now-singing-is-good-for-your-body-and-soul.html>

CHOICES IN DYING VICTORIA

MARGOT LODS

Where Do We Stand Now?

About a year ago, many of you made submissions to the BC Non-partisan Committee on Health in answer to their question of how to improve health care in the province. You requested that physician-assisted dying (PAD) be made available for those who are suffering unbearably and request that their dying be hastened. I have been asked by some of you about the result of these submissions. Finally, we have the answer.

There were 374 submissions from the public. "The overwhelming majority of submissions we received were from British Columbians supporting dying with dignity," said NDP MLA Judy Darcy, deputy chair of the committee. This is quite astounding in that the question did not include PAD in the health practices listed under end-of-life care. So impressive was it that this all-party committee recommended that "the government incorporate equitable access to physician-assisted dying across the health care spectrum, including within home care, support living, acute care, extended care, hospice and palliative care."

What great news! Well, not quite. The BC government refused to adopt this all-party committee report and tabled it for further study.

Then, many of you filled out the on-line questionnaire initiated by the Province of Ontario this past summer. All the provinces with the exception of Quebec (who already has legislation allowing PAD) joined the Ontario program. Well, not quite "all". British Columbia is the one province who is only an observer.

So where do we stand?

- On Feb. 6, 2016, PAD will no longer be illegal in Canada, thanks to the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada.
- The Prime Minister, in his ministerial mandate letter to the Attorney General headed his list of top priorities with "Lead a process, supported by the Minister of Health, to work with provinces and territories to respond to the Supreme Court of Canada decision regarding physician-assisted death."
- In January 2016, the Quebec law allowing PAD comes into effect.
- Ontario and most of the other provinces are using the Provincial Survey to develop guidelines for their respective provinces.

The BC government, judging by its actions, has buried its head in the sand. British Columbians still have work to do if we want "real" access to PAD in this province. Watch for the January monthly newsletter for an article on what it means to have "real" access.

No Access to Library Space

12:30-2:30pm, December 20

If you leave things in the library that you need to pick up after the service, please do so BEFORE 12:30. A Soul Matters group will be meeting in that space from 12:30-2:30pm. Thank you for supporting the group's need for uninterrupted privacy.

Beginning in January, this request will be made every 3rd and 4th Sunday of the month. Thank you, everyone, for sharing our space with gracious consideration.

SPECIAL OFFER—LAST CHANCE.

The current application fee for a plaque on the Memorial Wall is \$300. This fee covers the cost of producing and mounting the plaque, and the perpetual maintenance of the Memorial Wall and Garden.

Recently, the cost of producing the plaque has increased substantially and the cost of maintaining the enhanced Memorial Garden grounds is greater than before.

As a result of these increases, the application fee will be increased to \$400 beginning on the first of January 2016.

If you have been planning to make application for a plaque on the Memorial Wall, you may wish to file an application now at the current application fee. Application forms are available in the church office.

Earle Anthony, chair
Memorial Garden Committee.

What to Bring to the Christmas Eve Service

On Christmas Eve, our kids will be collecting supplies to support two organizations that are helping those in our community without a home this winter – Out of the Rain Youth Shelter and The Dandelion Society.

Items needed this year are:

- new or gently used coats
- sweaters and shoes
- adult bus tickets
- \$5 Tim Horton or MacDonald's gift cards
- \$5 Value Village gift cards
- movie passes
- knapsacks
- travel size toothpastes/toothbrushes, deodorants,
- feminine hygiene items and condoms
- new or gently used sleeping bags

NOTABLE UU

Dorothea Dix (1802–1887) was an American author, teacher and reformer, and an activist on behalf of the indigent insane. Through a vigorous program of lobbying state legislatures and the US congress, she created the first generation of American mental asylums. She also changed people's perceptions of the poor and those in jail. During the Civil War she served as Superintendent of Army Nurses.



At the age of twelve, she had run away from home to live with her wealthy grandmother in Boston and to get away from her alcoholic parents and abusive father. At nineteen she opened a school for the well-to-do in Boston, and also taught poor and neglected children at home. By the early 1820s Dix had found her religious home among Unitarians. She appreciated the Unitarian emphasis on the goodness of God, purity of heart, openness to new knowledge and responsibility for the good of all society. She became a close friend of the famous Rev. William Ellery Channing as well as Dr. Benjamin Rush.

Women's Group Seeks New Members

We are five Unitarian women who have formed a group to facilitate deep sharing and spiritual growth for each other. We are seeking three new members who live south of MacKenzie Avenue and who are able to commit to attending meetings the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 7:00 until 9:00pm in each other's homes.

If interested, please contact Sheila Drew at 250-598-1884 or sheiladrew@shaw.ca.

Potluck on Cook Street aka Tuesday Night Dinner

When: 6:00pm, Tuesday, December 15.

Where: Cook Street Activity Centre (enter off parking lot)

What: Potluck dinner followed by a program.

Program: Bruce Cockburn, Mel and Christine Johnston presenting: *Himalayan Highs*.

DVD with Bruce Cockburn singing and talk by Christine and Mel Johnston. Humla, Nepal is a magical place with a taste of Tibet. The DVD was made by USC when Bruce visited their projects there.

Kindly let Pat Kinrade know if you will attend:

pkinrade@shaw.ca

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: This group will be meeting at Katherine Jones' for a pre-Christmas gathering.

Esquimalt: Pat McMahon writes, "For Esquimalt, the next event is a gathering at Pat McMahon and John Lancaster's condo Friday November 27*, at 6:00 for a Christmas/Solstice finger food potluck party, to start the holiday season." Esquimalt NG are also working with Gordon Head to host the December 6 Souper.

Gordon Head: Mary Cramer and the Gordon Head NG are busy helping to organize the December 6 Souper with the Esquimalt NG. They are also looking forward to gathering for a potluck on November 21* at the home of Helen and John Hvoz-danski, where one of our ministers will be their guest.

Grand Central: Marya Nijland writes, "We are much looking forward to having a 'Christmas Fun & Finger Food Tea Party' at David and Victoria's new home on Emerson Road. Children and 'children at heart' of all ages are welcome. It will be held on Sunday December 13 from 2-4pm. We have at least four new families in our NG and we are hoping to get to know them!"

James Bay: This NG supplied the treats for November coffee time.

Nearby: Nancy Dobbs writes, "Nearby Neighborhood Group co-hosted a Souper Sunday at the end of September with Western NG. Thanks to all who contributed to the event which was well attended and appreciated (and made \$500 for our church). Nearby will gather at the home of Laura Doyle and Nellie Van Leeuwen the last weekend in November for a potluck."

Oak Bay: Karla Thomson reports, "The Oak Bay Neighbourhood Group had a very successful pot luck at the home of Kristina Stevens. Our group was smaller, only 11, but perhaps that helped to make the discussion lively. We discussed gratitude and we all had lots to share with the group."

Royal Oak East: From Hanny Pannekoek we hear, "All I have to report is that we will meet on Saturday, November 29*, our last one in this year. This time we will meet at 4:00pm for appetizers and desserts instead of a full out potluck. We decided to do this at the November and early March gathering so we drive when it is still light out. We will hear about our new buddy connections and we are resuming taking turns in telling our life story. It looks like we are going to have a great turn out."

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock writes, "The next NG potluck will be on Saturday, December 19, from 2:00-4:00pm at the home of Susie and Simon Williams at 3997 Granville Street. They have kindly offered to host a tea and everyone is encouraged to bring a sample of their favourite Christmas sweets. Neighbourhood newcomers to the church are welcome to join in the festivities! ROW will be supplying baked goods to be served with tea and coffee after church in December. I am always amazed at how quickly our NG responds to providing 500 cookies or squares. What a gracious and generous group! Thank you."

Western: Mac Elrod hosted the November 14 potluck. He writes, "There were 14 at dinner tonight, including Rev. Melora and her beautiful daughter, as well as a new couple: Sarah, Ryan, and handsome young son. It was delightful to have the two young ones, and we missed Oz's this time. Next pot-luck is December 12th, 4:30pm at Susan and John's. The earlier hour in December, January and February is for those who dislike driving at night."

***Editor's Note:** The reports by the NG conveners are written well in advance of the newsletter distribution date. Consequently, events that are anticipated will often have happened by the time the report has been read.

We Care!

Care and Concern Committee

for hospital and home visits, or just to talk...

Daphne Dunbar at 250-381-7648

Val Roberts at 250-477-7192

or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

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



Engage and Connect



Shared ministry in our congregation is the way in which we engage with others or pursue a solo task to care for our congregation as well as the larger community. As Unitarians, we believe that ministry—caring for our community and our world—is not just for clergy.

Betty Sherwood is looking for someone to lead her Arts and Aesthetics team as they find and assist artists to display their work in the sanctuary. Or, if spare time is limited, maybe keeping the notice board in the Lion Hall up-to-date will appeal to you. This could be done before or after the service. Feel free to contact

Betty at bsherwood@shaw.ca or 250 382-4656 for more information.

Liz Graham writes, "My ministry is to help provide a quality worship experience for our church each Sunday by working behind the scenes as coordinator and in the pulpit as Worship Associate." **Opportunity:** Worship Associates work with ministers and lay presenters to coordinate the elements of each service. They serve a term of up to three years and are selected in the spring before beginning a term in September of each year. Application forms are available from Rev. Melora. For more information on Worship Associates, please contact Liz Graham at liz.graham@shaw.ca or 250 384-4351.

If you are looking for ways to engage and connect, stop by the Shared Ministry information table on December 13th to share ideas. You are also welcome to contact Lorna Anthony at lrnathony@shaw.ca or 250 592-4831.

GREEN CORNER

JIM JORDAN

A GE-Free Victoria

EAT has initiated a proposal with Victoria Mayor and Council to create a GMO free zone in the City of Victoria. The draft resolution has been forwarded to Councillors Ben Isitt and Jeremy Loveday by Mayor Lisa Helps. Ben and Jeremy have rewritten it as a resolution embodying the Precautionary Principle in the form of a Council Member Motion, which will eventually be brought to Victoria Council for consideration later this year.

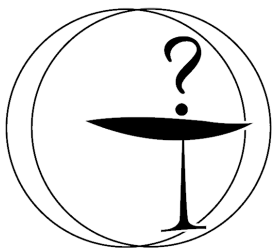
The GE Free Victoria resolution calls on the City of Victoria to place itself on record as opposing the cultivation of genetically-engineered crops, plants and trees in the City of Victoria in the absence of scientific testing on the long-term impacts of these crops on human and environmental health. It also calls on the Federal and Provincial governments to implement a regime of mandatory labelling of all genetically modified organisms (GMOs) for sale in BC and Canada. It further calls on the Federal and Provincial Governments to impose a moratorium on bringing further GMOs to market for sale until a regime of independent and transparent scientific assessment and GMO management is introduced and that copies of the resolution be forwarded to the Premier, Prime Minister, local Members of the Legislative Assembly and Members of Parliament, and member municipalities of the Capital Region.

Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) has linked the herbicide glyphosate to cancer (classified as category 2A: probably carcinogenic to humans). This backs up a recent long-term animal feeding scientific study by Gilles-Eric S eralini et al, "Long-Term Toxicity of a Roundup Herbicide and a Roundup-Tolerant Genetically Modified Maize", *Environmental Sciences Europe*, vol. 24, no. 14 (2014), pp. 1-17.

We are hoping to meet with other councillors to request their support for this resolution. Unitarians can support this initiative by signing an on-line petition at <http://www.victoriavoices.ca/> or by contacting councillors directly.

WHO ARE WE?

ID TEAM



FUCV...Does this say best who we really are? Are we a church? a congregation? a gathering of kindred spirits? Do we need to be "First"? What words and symbols welcome new seekers and convey our identity most clearly?

In recent years, questions have been raised about whether our current name truly expresses who we are and who we strive to be. The ID Team is exploring these questions and welcomes your input on the words and images that best reflect our inclusive, ethical principles.

Why not join us on Sunday, April 3, 2016 in the month of "Imagination" as we have fun brainstorming ideas!

ID Team: Lorna Anthony, Susan Bowers, Isabelle Grenon, Reverend Melora

Community Dinner

There will be no Community Dinner in busy December,
but **January 8** will come soon and it's Spaghetti Night!



Everyone is welcome at this multi-generational event. An opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal.

At 6:00pm we gather in the sanctuary for a joyful time together. Spaghetti will be served with a choice of two very yummy tomato sauces, meat or vegetarian, – plus garlic bread. Please join us!! Dinner is by donation.

Everyone is welcome!! Please bring a dessert to share.

To help with clean-up please bring your own plate and dessert bowl. A rinsing station will be provided.

Poinsettia Sale

Poinsettias will be here in December. We are ordering 50, mainly red and some bi-colour. If anyone wants to order a different colour, or order early to place a reservation for a colour, please call Val at 250-477-7192 or email tibbles@shaw.ca. There should be pink and white ones as well. Prices will be similar to last year but I do not have the exact price yet.



Val Roberts

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mike Greenly
- 2 Dean Henderson
- 4 Daphne Horne, Victoria Barr
- 5 Dawn Fizzard
- 6 Michael Eckford, Edie Taylor
- 7 John Dalgety, Slaine Sutherland, Liz Graham, Susan Bowers
- 8 Diana Smith, Cheryl Hall
- 9 Laura Doyle, Forrest Brown Kilgour, Johanna Billung-Meyer
- 10 Nancy Dobbs, Kathryn Harwood, Finlay (Finn) Taylor, Henry Hagan-Braun
- 11 Lesley Duthie, Kyunje Thokme
- 12 Dorothy Jones, Ellen Gabelmann
- 13 Nadia Cantera
- 14 Mohammad Banaee, Mary-Stephanie Walrafen
- 15 Rowena Locklin
- 17 Penny Boyce
- 18 Jim Jordan
- 20 Rosemary Harrison
- 21 Gloria Hopewell, Lisa Hitch, Paula Steele, Nolan Branch
- 22 Archie McGugan, Edo Nyland, Hugo Suttmoller
- 23 Ruth Wellburn
- 25 Katherine Dillistone
- 27 Christina Harris
- 28 Aaron Brimacombe
- 30 Deanna Hutchings

NEW MEMBERS (RESIGNATIONS)

New Members

Rebecca Mellett
651 Cornwall Street
Victoria, BC V8V 4L2
Ph [250-483-6900](tel:250-483-6900)
mcmellett@hotmail.com

Douglas McGinnis
941 Foul Bay Road
Oak Bay, BC V8S 4H9
[250-884-9535](tel:250-884-9535)
dsmcginnis@shaw.ca



From Members to Friends

Dennis Jaques and Sandra (Sandy) Jaques

Resignation

Stan Evans

CONTACT CHANGES

Alex Van Tol and family
302-2565 Beach Drive
Victoria, BC V8R 6K3

Kym Hines
402-1855 Quadra Street
Victoria, BC V8B 4B8

Forest Sterling
Unit 12 - 3366 Whittier Avenue
Victoria, BC V8Z 3P9

BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY



Dec. 6 Suzanne Beauchamp
Dec. 13 Jane Wilson
Dec. 20 Marion Sollazzo
Dec. 27 Jim Jordan

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 - Wednesday 9:30am - 4:00pm • Thursday 8:30am - 1:00pm • 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

Oceanna Hall 250-886-1077

laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca
 Kjerstin Mackie 250-598-5975

Anne Vaasjo 250-385-1603

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

Faye Mogensen 250-744-2695
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Children's Program Assistant

Anna Isaacs

Director of Music

Nick Fairbank
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Church Administrator

Karen Uldall-Ekman
 churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

Assistant Church Administrator

Sarah Versteegen

Board of Trustees

Officers

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Vice-President	Lorna Anthony	250-592-4831
Treasurer	Robertta Clair	250-532-1973
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Outreach	Jim Jordan	250-654-0672
Property Management	John Tiffany	778-432-0881
Spiritual Development	Marion Sollazzo	250-721-1741

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Date	Time	Event	Location
12/4	7:00 - 8:30pm	Choir Christmas concert	Sanctuary
12/6	10:30 -11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	11:30am - 2:00pm	Souper Sunday	Sanctuary
12/12	4:30 - 6:00pm	Family Chapel Service	Sanctuary
12/13	10:30 -11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	9:00am -1:30pm	Re-gifting Sale	Lion Hall
12/15	6:00 - 8:00pm	Tuesday Potluck Dinner	Downtown location
12/20	10:30 -11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	9:00am -1:30pm	Re-gifting Sale	Lion Hall
12/22	7:00 - 8:00pm	Solstice Service	Sanctuary
12/24	4:30 -5:30pm	Christmas Eve 'Intergenerational Service'	Sanctuary
	8:00 - 9:00pm	Christmas Eve 'Reflective Service'	Sanctuary
12/25	11:00am-2:00pm	Potluck Christmas dinner	Lion Hall
12/27	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary

Reminder

In order to be credited for a 2015 tax receipt, donations must be received by midnight, December 31, or be in the mail with a postmark of December 31 or earlier.



Winter Concert

Friday, December 4, 7:00pm



Performances by all our choirs and ensembles, including the new Bell Choir and, of course, our traditional "Twelve Days of Christmas" sing-along.

Come one, come all...

Admission by donation of either food or money to the Food Bank



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Copy should be sent to
newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca.



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

Information for Events Highlights should be sent to
calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca or left at the church office.

Feedback is welcomed.

Staff

Bob Dobbs (editor); Doreen Burgess and Myra Rippon
(proof-readers); and Karen Uldall-Ekman (production, dis-
tribution and paid advertisements).

