



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

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

September 3

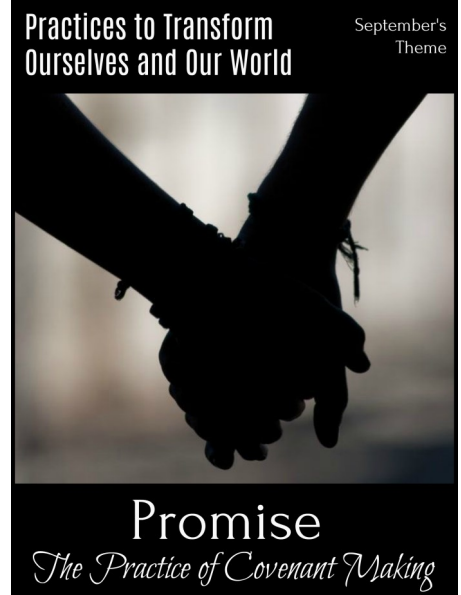
Religion as Survival Strategy

Michelle Brown

Worship Associate: Dan Klimke

Churches were language sanctuaries for Hungarians who came under Romanian authority in 1920. Even today, seminarians in Transylvania are charged with responsibility for the survival of the Hungarian people. Michelle Brown, recently returned from a three-month stay in a Unitarian seminary, offers a look at the 21st century reality facing this child of the Reformation.

Biography: Michelle Brown is currently a Community Fellow in the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria. A poet and essayist, she was long-listed in the 2015 PRISM international Creative Non-Fiction Contest, received an honourable mention in the Victoria Authors Association 2016 Flash Fiction Contest, and was recently nominated for the Grouse Grind Lit Prize for V(ery) Short Forms. She is Cree from the Métis Nation.



September 10

Shaped by Our Promises

Rev. Shana Lynngood

Worship Associate: Doug McGinnis

This Ingathering Sunday, when we return from our schedule to a new program year in the life of our church community, we will examine the theme of promise. In many ways our lives are profoundly impacted by those ideas, ideals, and people to whom we have made promises. Our commitments and covenants offer us a sense of path and a course to follow. What promises shape your life? How much promise do your promises hold?

Chalice Choir

September 17

Remaking Promises

Christopher Wulff

Worship Associate: Oliver Belisle

Jewish philosopher Martin Buber speaks of humans as promise-making, promise-breaking, promise re-making creatures; the making of promises and commitments Buber sees as essential to human nature. What promises or commitments does our faith call us to offer the world? How do we keep our covenants alive, and who do we include within them?

September 24

Covenantal Relationship: Trying Again, and Again, and Again ...

Rev. Melora Lynngood

Worship Associate: Larry Boldt

Chamber Choir

Parenting, marriage, friendship, congregational life—our relationships of covenant call us to return to our best selves again and again and again and again...in the face of the unknown, as imperfect human beings, and with imperfect human tools. Not always easy to do. But worth the striving. And better with the support of community.

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**THE DEADLINE FOR
SUBMISSIONS TO THE
OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE
NEWSLETTER IS
SEPTEMBER 12**

COFFEE & CONVERSATION with the MINISTERS

**Sunday, September 10
12-1pm
Sanctuary**



After socializing and getting coffee/tea in the Lion Hall, bring your beverage to the Sanctuary, and join Revs. Shana and Melora for an informal Q&A. We are delighted to be back with you after our sabbatical and want to know what you've been thinking, feeling, and experiencing. From theological questions to practical ponderings – all are welcome!
Childminding will be available.



“Come Sing A Song With Me”

If you and your children would enjoy singing songs together—call and response, rounds, simple harmonies, new, familiar songs, some fun, some with a Unitarian slant—come join Nancy Dobbs at 9:30 on September 24 in the piano room upstairs in the SEL-CY building.

If there is enough interest we will meet the morning of October 22, November 19 and December 10. We might learn songs that we wish to share with the congregation.

If you are interested, please RSVP to nandobbs@shaw.ca.

Themes for 2017-2018

A new church year begins, and we have a new slate of themes: different practices through which to transform ourselves and our world (recall that our congregation's mission is to "transform our selves and our world through compassionate action"). Here's the slate:

Practices to Transform Ourselves and Our World Themes for 2017-2018	
September	Promise: the practice of covenant making
October	Healing: the practice of holding hurt and seeking wholeness
November	Ancestry: the practice of reflecting upon the places and people from which we come
December	Presence: the practice of being
January	Resistance: the practice of standing up for your values
February	Interdependence: the practice of feeling our connection with the larger whole
March	Risk: the practice of trying something that might not work
April	Transformation: the practice of seeking meaningful growth
May	Embodiment: the practice of physical be-ing
June	Joy: the practice of embracing life

As usual, we will delve into our themes in our **Sunday worship services**.

We plan to offer the **Soul Matters Small Group** sessions **January – June**. These are facilitated groups of 8-10 participants. Participants spend the month exploring the theme individually, guided by a packet of rich resources that include provocative questions, spiritual exercises, as well as quotations, videos, suggested movies, books, etc. Participants then meet with their small group at the end of the month to listen and share with fellow seekers. Groups will meet once/month for 6 sessions, January through June, 2018. Stay tuned for sign-ups!

In the meantime, we're going to try something different – stand-alone, one-time, drop-in, open-to-anyone, after church **Theme Exploration** sessions. Come to one or both!

Sunday, October 1

12:15pm – 2:15pm

Healing:

The practice of holding hurt and seeking wholeness

Sunday, November 19

12:15pm – 2:15pm

Ancestry:

The practice of reflecting upon the places and people from which we come

Open to Youth and Adults. Childminding available with advance notice. Please RSVP to rev.melora@gmail.com with "theme exploration" in the subject heading, or call/text Rev. Melora at 250-891-6330.

PROMISE: THE PRACTICE OF COVENANT MAKING

For this month, the month in which we explore “**Promise: the practice of covenant making**,” here are some questions to spark your thinking. Discuss the questions at coffee hour with a fellow congregant, at the dinner table with a friend or with family, and/or journal about them on you own.



1. What kinds of promises do you make, if any, in your everyday living?
2. To what extent do you keep your promises? What challenges do you face?
3. What are the most significant promises, covenants, pledges, or vows you have made in your life?
4. If the world (or “Life”) could make you a promise, what would you want that promise to be?
5. If you were to make one promise to the world (or to “Life”), what would it be?
6. Often, being in covenanted relationship means sticking with it through the hard stuff. In what ways have you done this in your life?
7. When you have failed to live up to your own aspirations of covenantal relationship, how do you forgive yourself, and begin again in love?
8. Sometimes living up to the covenant of right relationship means setting boundaries, re-shaping, or even ending relationship. How do you decide when/how to do this? How do you do it with respect and open-heartedness?
9. So much is broken in this world. Oppression, violence, the destruction of our earth’s resources. What societal covenant-making and covenant-repairing calls to you? How might we, as human beings, make reparations, and begin again in love? What is one small thing you can do toward that end this month?

Co-Minister Portfolio Split

First Unitarian Church of Victoria, 2017-2018

Red—portfolio switched to different minister

Blue—new item

Rev. Melora and Rev. Shana both do:	
Preaching and Worship	
Teaching	
Pastoral Care and Counselling	
Rites of Passage	
<i>We both meet with:</i> Committee on Ministry, Staff, Board (includes Strategic Plan)	
Rev. Melora is primarily responsible for ministry in these areas:	Rev. Shana is primarily responsible for ministry in these areas:
Worship and Worship Associates Program	Music and Choirs
Congregational Life: recognition & awards	Congregational Life: membership , care and concern, depression group, neighbourhood groups, fun and fellowship, coffee, etc.
	Shared Ministry Team (Leadership Development)
Outreach: social responsibility coalition, interfaith leaders of Victoria, GVAT	Outreach: lay chaplaincy, denominational affairs, serving as chaplain at UVic, jazz vespers
Soul Matters Program (open sessions in Fall; regular groups Jan-June)	Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Adults (SELA) oversight: including chalice circles, AHA, spirituality, library, etc. Truth, Healing, & Reconciliation
Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children & Youth (SEL-CY): including children’s programing, parent circle	Intergenerational services
Intergenerational services	
Property Management Council	Finance
Administration: Chief of Staff (staff meetings, HR, staff compensation, etc.)	Administration: All Admin except HR; includes: church office, computers, communications
Denominational: UU Island Network, mentor one UU minister, attend UUMA, UUMOC, CUC meetings	Denominational: UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee, mentor one UU minister, attend UUMA, UUMOC, CUC meetings
Supervises:	Supervises:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth (who, in turn, supervises SELCY assistant(s) and Sunday child-minders), • Bookkeeper • Ministerial Intern (2016-17) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church Administrator (who, in turn, supervises office staff, custodians, and maintenance technician) • Director of Music (who in turn, supervises Accompanist) • Ministerial Intern (2017-18)

Contacting Your Co-Ministers

We, Rev. Melora and Rev. Shana, share one position. We split the areas of church work between us (see portfolio split above). We also split the minister’s work week.

When are Rev. Melora and Rev. Shana available to see me?

The simpler answer:

We are available for meetings Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Friday is our sermon writing day, which we try to reserve for service preparation. Monday is our day off (a Sabbath from church business, but we are still on call for emergencies. Call our cell phones).

The more detailed answer:

Usually, our work week looks something like this:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:30am to 2:30pm	Day Off; available for emergencies	Rev. Melora & Rev. Shana	Rev. Melora & Rev. Shana	Rev. Melora & Rev. Shana	Worship Prep	sometimes work special events	Rev. Melora & Rev. Shana
2:30pm to 9:00pm		Rev. Melora	Preacher works until 5pm	Rev. Shana	Preacher continues worship prep.	workshops, rites of passage, etc.	Off except for Jazz Vespers

The bottom line:

We care about you. We want to be available and accessible to you! Please feel free to call our cell phones, text, or email or set up a time to meet in person.

Rev. Melora (250) 891-6330 rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca

Rev. Shana (250) 891-6331 rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca

REFUGEE REPORT

SUELLEN GUENTHER

Sunny moved into a furnished room in the home of a retired teacher on August 20, so our financial responsibility for her has ended. However, we are still interested in her welfare and will provide guidance and friendly support if needed. We are very hopeful she will eventually be able to finish her university degree at UVIC and pursue the career of her dreams in electronic music.



The suite has been emptied and cleaned and the contents are stored under the Sanctuary, ready for the Sari family when they finally arrive. The Refugee Committee is still in place and the funds for support of the Sari family are being held in trust by the church in the Refugee Fund until the family arrives in Victoria. We remain cautiously hopeful.

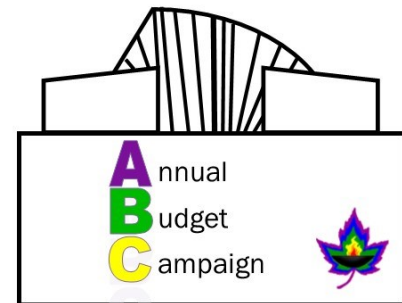
ANNUAL BUDGET CAMPAIGN 2018

ABC TEAM

Meet your 2018 Annual Budget Campaign Team

Sunday October 15 at Noon

This year, we are celebrating all of us *Being Together* again! Our beloved ministers Revs. Melora and Shana and their family have returned from sabbatical.



Watch for *Your Invitation* to our CELEBRATION LUNCH coming mid-September

Mark PLEDGE SUNDAY and CELEBRATION LUNCH on your calendar

SUNDAY OCTOBER 15 at Noon

Looking forward to all of us being together again!

Your ABC Team: Barbara Boyle, John Hopewell, Marion Sollazzo,
Shirley Travis, Barry Wiebe, Christopher Wulff, Jennifer Young

New (familiar) Face at the Piano



Braden Young has joined the Church Music Program as Collaborative Pianist following the resignation of Victoria Beauchesne. He will be playing for services throughout the summer.

In the fall, he will be accompanying the Chalice Choir and playing for three or four services per month. We also welcome Sandra Fletcher, who will be directing the Farmhouse Bell Ringers in the fall.

Welcome back Braden! Welcome Sandra!

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



We Care!

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

Barbara Boyle at 250-381-0264

Val Roberts at 250-477-7192

or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

Walking with Rev. Melora



On sabbatical, I was reminded that walking – and simply being outside – can be good for body and soul. I thought I'd invite you to join me this fall. Walks will include some walking and some sitting; some mindfulness practices and some time to chat as we walk.

Thursday, September 14, 10am

Cedar Hill Rec Center at 3220 Cedar Hill Rd. <https://goo.gl/maps/yZkr3M4AAop>
Meet in the lobby

Wednesday, October 18, 1pm

Congregational Labyrinth at church, 5575 W Saanich Rd, north of Farmhouse building
This one will have a sitting only option for those who can't or don't wish to walk.

Sunday, October 29, 12:30pm

Intergenerational Walk – Bring the kids!!

Tod Inlet Trail — Gowlland Tod Provincial Park, Wallace Drive

<https://www.victoriatrails.com/trails/tod-inlet/#overview> Bring bag lunch (if rainy, we'll eat at church first).

This is an experiment. We'll see how it goes, and tweak as needed. May add more walks, stay tuned.

**Let me know if you plan to come to any of the above: rev.melora@gmail.com (subject "walk");
cell/text 250-891-6330**

GREEN CORNER

EDWIN E. DANIEL

Are Canadian Consumers Allowed to Avoid Genetically Modified Salmon?

On August 11, the Times Colonist reported (page B4) that "*4.5M tonnes of GE salmon sold in Canada.*" Later the article says it was 4.5 tonnes, but that is still a large amount. Canada refuses to label GE modified foods in deference to the companies that make them, and to impede people like me from refusing to eat GE foods.

I refuse to eat them because as a retired scientist, I know that they were barely tested (90-day feeding trials) in rats for safety. I also know that some studies, disputed by the makers of GE corn, have shown that rats fed GE corn over a longer time developed tumors and died sooner compared to controls.

Even more fundamental reasons for avoiding GE foods are the understanding that they are produced for profit (to grow faster or to allow herbicide and pesticide use and industrial farming rather than organic farming practices). Most of us understand that the profit goal is not aimed at keeping us healthy. It is certainly not aimed at avoiding global warming or war. So my advice, which I will follow, is to only eat wild salmon. Only wild salmon is certain not to be GE. I intend to live beyond my 92nd birthday next month by avoiding GE food.

A Note Regarding the Environmental Action Team (EAT):

Thanks to Ed for writing about an important issue this month. Ed was a very active member of our team for several years and currently acts as consultant. Your Environmental Action Team has been around for a long time as a sub-committee of the Social Responsibility Coalition. We are active in educating and encouraging action on various environmental issues, leaving each person the freedom of their opinion. Our first meeting of the "season" will be mid-September. Look for date and time in the e-weekly. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Judy Gaylord at jgaylord@shaw.ca

BOARD BUSINESS**LORNA ANTHONY**

The following is a snapshot of the Board meeting held on August 1st, 2017. The minutes will be posted in the Lion Hall.

A review is under way by John Worton and Lynn Beak to ensure our church constitution and bylaws comply with the new Societies Act.

Clarification was asked for regarding “financial contribution of record” for members. John W. will follow up with Membership committee.

Marion Pape reports that work has begun on analyzing the objectives put forth by the three strategic planning sessions. They will be presented at the September 24th congregational planning session.

Shirley Travis, archivist John Stewart and office administrator, Nadia are working on goals for maintaining church records, many of which now sit in individuals’ computers. Nadia is also organizing historical computer documents to make them readily available.

A 1-day CUC regional gathering of the Islands is to be held in the Spring of 2018. The location is set for First Unitarian. Date and theme will be decided following a Zoom conference on October 4th.

Ministerial Intern report – Shirley T. Chris Wulff and his wife, Ariel, have moved to Vancouver where Ariel has accepted a position at North Shore Unitarian Church. Chris will be in Victoria over weekends until his term ends in June 2018. Commuting is not an unusual situation for interns.

Treasurer, Jane Wilson, gave the financial reports which are in good shape.

The Diversity Team and Pride Parade were discussed. Currently there is no one sitting on the Diversity team so this year’s Pride Parade and attendance at the Festival were organized in short order. The heavy parade banner was carried by too few. With the receipt of an excellent report from Liz Graham and comments from others, the Outreach Council, SRC and Chaplains will be working together with the Board to better prepared for next year.

The Board would like to appoint a member to replace the vacancy in the Property Management Council.

An agenda for the Board’s retreat on August 22nd was approved.

Our Board and the Capital UU Congregation Board will be meeting on September 19th for our annual gathering as we discuss and plan common ventures.

A clarification was made of comments regarding the newsletter. In the interest of saving postal fees, a request had been made for members/friends to receive copies digitally. For those who prefer a hard copy, no payment is necessary.

Word was received that the refinishing of the sanctuary floor would not be completed by Sunday, August 6th. Arrangements were made to hold the service outdoors.

Read into the minutes were new members, Shannon Roberts and her daughter, Elizaveta.

Resignations were received from Pat McMahon and John Lancaster, who are moving to Salt Spring Island.

Alex Van Tol and children Ethan and Jonas have to take a break for now because of time commitments.

As always, please feel free to chat with me about concerns or ideas,
Lorna Anthony, President

Remember our give-and-take food cupboard in the farmhouse hallway.

Take as you need, give as you can.

SELections on Promise

"Say Yes. Whatever it is, say yes with your whole heart & simple as it sounds that's all the excuse life needs to grab you by the hands and start to dance."

-Brian Andreas

This month, as usual, each of our children and youth groups will be creating a group covenant to help create a safe space for spiritual exploration as they navigate the joys of connecting with new and old friends. In saying 'yes' to the covenant, group members will feel the power of promise. Other religious traditions focus on confession or right belief, but as Unitarians we place our hope in the act of making and keeping commitments.

Many of you will be happy to hear that the SEL-CY assistants from last year are coming back, this year on a volunteer basis. Cheryl is curating the Children and Youth Art show that you can enjoy in the Sanctuary all this month. Barbara will be joining other program volunteers in helping with the children some Sundays. As well, I am very pleased to announce our new staff member, Arran Liddel. The assistant position has been in ongoing flux/experimentation, and this year we have decided to direct the funding towards youth leadership in the form of a Youth Coordinator. Arran will work with both the Junior Youth (last year's Questors) and Youth Group. Of course, he can't be in both places at once and so we will need ongoing volunteer support, but he has much expertise to offer and will be a backbone for both groups. Those of you who attended the Pride Service on July 2 have already witnessed Arran in action. He has lots of experience in working with youth, inter-generational community and communication, and is currently pursuing a Masters of Divinity. We are truly fortunate to have found such a promising new employee.

When you visit our website at <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/children-youth/our-programs/> and click on 'curriculum' to find details about this coming year, you'll notice that as well as Coming of Age Program for Junior Youth and our open approach to Youth Group, we are offering two ages levels of Our Whole Lives (OWL) sexuality education this coming year - gr. 4-5 in the fall, and K/1 in the New Year. Please tell your friends and family, as both groups have room for more participants. With this plan, the remaining young children will be grouped together. In the fall, K-3 will help us pilot CUC's latest Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guide, in the New Year gr. 2-5 will have series of 'Unicamps,' each focused on a different topic.

September 10 is our "Homecoming Sunday" and a special all-ages Water Communion. I look forward to seeing each and every one of you then!

Warmly,
Faye Mogensen

Say *Yes*

Giant Book Sale and Bake Sale Saturday September 23

What do we need?

BOOKS. Please bring your books to the church library beginning September 3 or to the Sanctuary on Wednesday, September 20.

DVDs, CDs, VINYL. They can be included with your books. No cassette tapes or VHS please.

LOW BOXES. Please save any low boxes (produce boxes work well) to help us organize and display the books. We'll need the boxes **September 20.**

SORTERS. Opening the bags and boxes of books is like Christmas!
We'll sort from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 20 and Thursday, September 21,** 10:00-5:00. It does help to know which day you will come and whether you will come in the morning or afternoon.

SELLERS. Shifts are 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 12:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. on **Saturday, September 23.**
We need someone to blow up balloons at 8:30 a.m. on Sat. September 23.

PACKERS. We need a crew from **3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 23**
to pack up all the unsold books and get the Sanctuary ready for Sunday.

BAKERS. Cakes, cookies, bread, muffins, cupcakes, jam, and pies all sell really quickly.
Last year, people were especially looking for non-sweet items like muffins and bread.
Pies are also a hot item.

PRICERS AND BAKE SALE SELLERS. Pricers 8:30-9:30. Sellers 8:30-12:00 & 12:00 -2:00 or earlier.
Saturday, September 23.

BUYERS. Tell your friends. Our book sale has a reputation for quality books. And the prices are low.

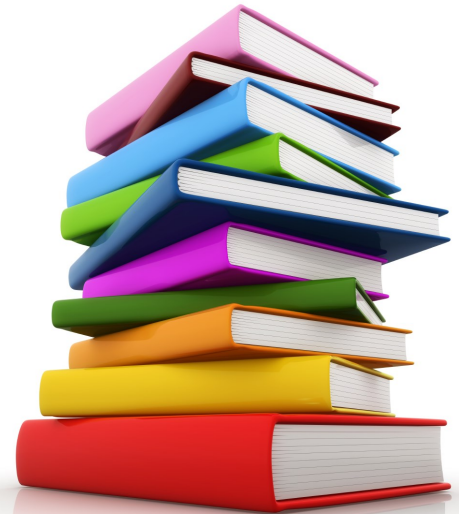
If you've worked the Book Sale before, you know how much fun we have!

Contact: Suellen Guenther sguenther@shaw.ca or 250-727-0454.

Please do not donate textbooks, encyclopaedias, Reader's Digest condensed books, computer books, or magazines. They don't sell. Please put them in your recycling.



Giant Book Sale and Bake Sale



**Saturday September 23
9am to 3pm**

**First Unitarian Church of Victoria
5575 West Saanich Road**



Paperbacks	\$1
Soft Covers	\$2
Hard Covers	\$3
Vinyl	\$1
CDs	\$1
DVDs	\$2

Payment by Cash Only
Browse the books then check out the Bake Sale
SALE PRICES from 2pm TO 3pm

MUSIC NEWS

NICK FAIRBANK

SINGERS and BELL-RINGERS NEEDED!

If you have ever considered singing or playing in one of our musical groups, September is a good time to join.



The Chalice Choir, the Men's Choir, the Farmhouse Ringers (handbell choir), the JAMMers, and the Chamber Choir are all looking for new talent for the 2017-2018 year.

Contact the people below for more information about each group:

Farmhouse Ringers (rehearsals on Monday mornings):

Sandra Fletcher spstudio@hotmail.com

JAMMers (meeting times TBA): Peter Hancock hancockp@telus.net

All other groups (rehearsals on Thursday evenings):

Nick Fairbank info@fairbankmusic.ca

250-514-2669

Come on....

We know you're out there

...you shower singers

...you car crooners

...you backyard belters



The Chalice Choir WANTS You

Come and Join Us!

Our first rehearsal is Thursday August 31 at 7:30pm
in the Church Sanctuary

Email: Jen Young (hellojenyoung@gmail.com) or
Penny Boyce (pjboyce@shaw.ca) for more information

ENGAGING WITH RECONCILIATION

Faye Mogenson, Children's Spiritual Development and Learning Director, will be piloting a CUC-developed series with the young children this fall.

We are pleased to have received funding from the Innovations Fund to support our congregation's continuing commitment to fostering reconciliation with indigenous peoples. A 'cluster' of us are coordinating these two activities. Watch the *E-weekly* and upcoming newsletters for more details.

On January 19-20, 2018, we are sponsoring, with Theatre for Living and Cadboro Bay United Church, *šxʷamət (home), an interactive forum play* about reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This will create a deeper understanding of the issues and honour our interdependence. It's interactive, engaging and transformative. Plan to be there and mark the dates now!

We are getting ready to host *indigenous artist[s] in residence* in Spring 2018 to provide a means of educating and engaging children, youth and adults in our congregation in indigenous ways of knowing and encouraging deeper relationships. We'll be engaging in a conversation about the purpose and best means to make this happen in the coming weeks.

Kathryn Harwood, Diana Smith, Lynn Beak, Pat Kinrade, Jennifer Girard and Susan Layng, Board Liaison
...as a creative means to act, demonstrate our commitment and lay the foundation for active involvement.

GETTING YOUR ADVANCE CARE PLAN DONE

A workshop on four Mondays

Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13, and 20

1:30-3:30 pm in the Common Room

Presented by Choices in Dying Victoria

Have you written your Advance Care Plan describing the medical treatments you want and don't want, if you are not able to speak for yourself? Have you filled out the required form appointing a representative and an alternative to speak for you, if you cannot speak for yourself? If your answer is NO, this is the workshop for you. Perhaps you have been intending to do so, but haven't got around to it. There are reasons for this, other than procrastination.

By the end of this workshop, you will actually have completed your Advance Care Plan, ready for signing. At the end of the first session, you will be asked if you wish to continue, which means committing to complete the course including some "between-sessions activity" (aka homework). A \$5.00 fee includes the booklet *My Voice*, payable at the first session.

Registration: This is a repeat of the course that was given last Feb/March. 17 people were left on the wait list. If you were one of these people, a place is being held for you **until Sept. 15th**. Be sure to register by then. Otherwise it is first-come, first-served. The maximum number of participants is 24. In order to facilitate preparation of materials, preregistration is required.



To register, email or phone Margot Lods, mlods@shaw.ca or 250-920-3893 **before Oct. 9th**. Please put in the subject line, **Advance Care Plan Registration.**

(Note: I will be away Sept. 4-11. You can email, but my phone answering machine will be turned off. I will not be answering emails until I return.)

Orange Shirt Day Saturday, September 30

September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day annually, in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and wellbeing, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters.

(Note that schools may observe Orange Shirt Day on Friday, September 29, so feel free to wear your orange shirt to show support both Friday and Saturday!)

From orangeshirtday.org :

The Story Behind Orange Shirt Day

"I went to the Mission for one year. I had just turned 6 years old. We never had very much money, and there was no welfare, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission School in. I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had eyelets and lace, and I felt so pretty in that shirt and excited to be going to school! Of course, when I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt. I never saw it again, except on other kids. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! Since then the colour orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. I finally get it, that the feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the Mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years...I want my orange shirt back!" -- Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, Dog Creek, BC

"This orange shirt taken from one child is a symbol of the many losses experienced by thousands of students and their families and communities over several generations including: loss of family, language, culture, freedom, parenting, self-esteem and self-worth, and painful experiences of abuse and neglect. Wearing orange shirts are a symbol of defiance against those things that undermine children's self-esteem, and of our commitment to anti-racism and anti-bullying in general. http://www.orangeshirtday.org/uploads/7/9/8/7/79871818/orangeshirtday_14.pdf

"The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind: a discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. Orange Shirt Day is a day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those that have been affected. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult, from now on!

"The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come."

From Orange Shirt Day Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/orangeshirtdayeverychildmatters



MINDFUL JOURNEY TO INDIA

JOAN WALDER

Join us in 2018 on a Mindful Journey to India! India has become a favourite destination for Mindful Journeys and we have brought it back by popular demand. This is an opportunity to travel with other UUs and to enjoy the wonder and colours of India. Daily meditations and evening reflections help us to experience our travel more fully.

Please contact me if you would like an itinerary of the trip and information about Mindful Journeys. I will gladly send you our ebooklet of Mindful Journeys from 2006 to 2016 with comments and stories from our travelers.

Joan Walder
saranac2@gmail.com

AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD**SUELLEN GUENTHER**

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.

Esquimalt: New Convenor Maureen Sherlock tells us, "Nineteen people from the Esquimalt NG met on August 4th at the lovely home of Gloria and John Hopewell. We enjoyed sharing our stories of summer and travel. We are planning to have another potluck in early October."

Fairfield: Lynn Beak writes that their group gathered Aug. 13 at the home of Herb and Phyllis Girard for a summer picnic. Their theme was: "What is your favourite summer activity or best summer holiday memory?" They are saying farewell to Pauline Kenneally and Roger Sanford, who have moved to the James Bay NG, and are welcoming Kathy Vinton, who has moved to Fairfield from Grand Central.

Far Out: Phyllis Aherne reports their group was quiet this summer, but they will be gathering in September at her place for a potluck lunch. They will also miss Edo Nyland, who died suddenly and peacefully at home on Aug. 13.

Grand Central: Convenor Marya Nijland has been struggling with computer problems, but she has issued an invitation to members of her NG to gather for tea and cake on Sunday afternoon, August 27, from 2-5 pm at her home, where she and Philip will offer a warm welcome.

James Bay: Lynn Hunter has joined the Board, but she is still helping out as NG convenor for now. She writes, "James Bay Neighbourhood Group will gather for coffee/tea and conversation at the home of Adeleine Morris on August 22nd. We will rev up our engines for the fall, including providing goodies for coffee time at the church in September."

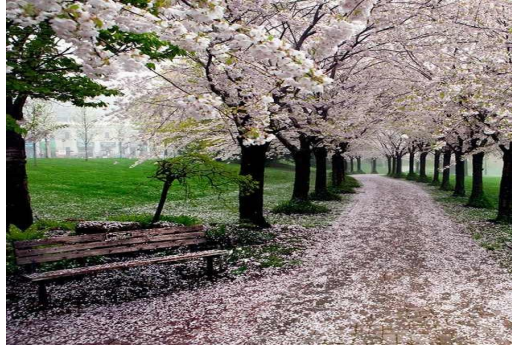
Oak Bay: Lots happened in Oak Bay over the summer. John Tiffany writes, "Some members of OBNG gathered at Jim & Karla Thomson's home on August first to celebrate Frank Monaghan's birthday. A fun time was had by all. OBNG provided coffee hour treats for the month of July (five Sundays! but we all soldiered on anyway). We are having our welcome to Fall potluck on Saturday, September 23rd at 5:30 PM at Jany's & Tiff's home at 1536 York Place. Throughout the summer, we have continued our monthly luncheon on the third Wednesday of the month at the Fern Cafe in the Monterey Rec Centre."

Royal Oak East: This NG meets four times a year, but they are delaying their September meeting until October 17. Hanny and Hugo will be hosting that one. Members of the group have been supporting one of their group who is in poor health, and was also visiting Winnie Bocking in her care home until her recent passing.

Royal Oak West: Fran & Peter Hancock are on the move, having sold their house, but despite intermittent computer access, Fran continues to gather her NG. She writes, "Jennifer and Lance Young have kindly offered to host a potluck dinner at their home of 760 Genevieve St. on Friday, September 22nd. Details of the event and directions for parking will follow from the Young family. This will be a great opportunity to welcome Lynn Bonner to our NG, as she was looking forward to meeting members from the Memorial Team and ROW who recently hosted the memorial service for her daughter Sophie."

Western: Susan Lean has a lot on her plate following the recent death of her 97 year old mother. She writes, "I will be getting back in the saddle in September to restart our neighborhood potlucks. Western is doing the coffee goodies this month (August) and we have had a good response from some of our young people. I thank them very much. I'm so looking forward to the coming church year."

Path to Membership



Are you new to our church?

Have you just discovered our church or are you a Unitarian from elsewhere?

Would you like to know more?

We know it can be daunting to get to know people when everyone seems to already know everyone. And we know it can be hard to get to know us in the coffee hour. So, if you **would** like to get to know us better, we hope the steps below will help.

STEP ONE: Drop by the Visitors' Table near the front of the sanctuary. Ask questions. Fill out a Visitor Welcome form on which you can indicate if you would like to receive the monthly newsletter, weekly electronic mini-newsletter, be connected to your Neighbourhood Group, or have your own name tag.

STEP TWO: Church Orientation, October 8, 12noon—1pm

This is a gathering for all newcomers, whether you have just walked through the door or been coming for several months and want to know more about us, whether you eventually become a member, or choose to be a friend of the church. The Orientation provides basic information about our congregation and ways to make connections.

STEP THREE: Considering Membership, November 5, 12:15—2pm

This session will help you determine whether you would like to officially become a member of our church. Whether you join right away, not yet, or not at all, the session will be informative and enjoyable, as we will be talking about things that matter in a small group setting with warm and interesting people.

Events are held on Sundays, after the church service, in the Farmhouse Common Room in the building just north of the main sanctuary building. A light lunch will be available and child minding is provided on request. To sign up for either or both of these events, or if you have questions, please contact **Reverend Shana Lynngood** at rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca or cell (250) 891-6330.

STEP FOUR: Application for Membership. Fill out the application found in the membership packet. Submit the application and a financial pledge or contribution to the office. Your name will be read into the membership records at the next board meeting. Voting privileges commence 60 days after and you will be recognized at the next New Member Ceremony.

Another event to watch for:

Periodically, a two-part event called **Introduction to Unitarian Universalism** is offered which is designed to give more in-depth information about UUism. Whether you are not yet a member, a new member or have been a member for a long time, if you wish to know more about our denomination, this is for you.

We are so glad you have found us and we are looking forward to getting to know you.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES**CHRISTINE JOHNSTON****Two exciting international conferences from Denominational Affairs Coalition****IARF is the International Association for Religious Freedom to be held in August 2018 in Washington DC**

It was established by Unitarians in 1893 and included liberal groups from all religions. It is open to anyone who is keen and not just leadership people. Christine Johnston has attended all these congresses since 1993, inspired by the Rev Phillip Hewett who was a staunch supporter. In 1999 several of us at First helped host the one at UBC. They are held every 4 years only.

The upcoming World Congress will take the form of a broad interfaith conference and will be held at the end of July/beginning of August 2018 in Washington, DC. The Congress is being organized by our member group, the Unitarian Universalist Association, and the co-sponsors, the United Religious Initiative and Religions for Peace USA. It will be the sixth Congress in the United States (the last one was held in 1987 in Stanford, CA.)

International Council of Unitarians and Universalists Meet in the Khasi Hills of India, February 2018

During the next International Council of Unitarians and Universalists Conference, February 11 - 15, 2018, in the Khasi Hills of Northeast India, UUs from the world over will explore the multifaceted nature of shared global faith and strive to better articulate that shared faith. Participants will hear from several keynote speakers, each speaking not only to the unique expression of UUism in their faith community, but also about bridging the differences in faith expressions to become a stronger, more united voice for religious freedom in the world. Participants will gain experience in multicultural religious conversations and explore how to share those conversations with their faith communities.

For details about the conference, including cost, how to get there, applying for a tourist visa, and registration, please refer to the CUC brochure.

World Parliament of Religions in Toronto, November 1-7, 2018

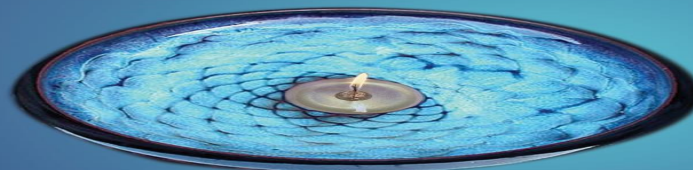
This is far larger than the IARF with up to 10,000 participants but is well worth attending if you may be in Toronto in November. Some Victoria UUs attended one in the 90s and found it fascinating.

Envision – Engage – Energize 2017 Western Region Fall Gathering

Fellowship with UUs from Alberta, Saskatchewan,
Manitoba & Thunder Bay
Hosted by the Unitarian Church of Calgary
and the Canadian Unitarian Council

Join us in Calgary to take part in invigorating sessions on:

- *Congregational Growth & Vitality: Rev. Dr. John Pentland & others
- *Truth, Healing & Reconciliation: Rev. Samaya Oakley
- *Songs of Social Significance: Tony Turner & Jane Perry
- *Children's Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Program
- *Youth conference
- *And much more!



October 13 – 15, 2017
Register by September 29 at
<http://cuc.ca/western-region-fall-gathering>

Announcing an invitation to join the Western Region Fall Gathering 2017!

A welcome to all interested, whether in Western Region or across the Country
[who knows what travels may take you to Alberta], join us as we

Envision – Engage – Energize

Oct. 13 - 15

WRFG 2017

Calgary, Alberta



Does your congregation need to re-energize itself? Are you looking for ways to refresh your purpose, to position yourself for growth, to become better known in your communities, and to attract a young and energetic demographic?

Join us in Calgary at the 2017 Western Region Fall Gathering to hear strategies for attaining these goals, to take part in an invigorating session on Truth, Healing and Reconciliation, or to enjoy an engaging arts and music stream.

Just a few items to whet your appetites!

- Congregational Growth & Vitality with Rev. Dr. John Pentland & others
Check Dr. Pentland's book *Fishing Tips* for amazing ideas on tapping into congregational vitality!
- Truth, Healing & Reconciliation with Rev. Samaya Oakley & Jeff Webber
This full- day Stream will also be open to the general public!
<http://cuc.ca/truth-healing-reconciliation-registration-calgary-2017>
- Children's Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Program
A very Special Children's Program is being planned using the new children's *Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guide* from the Canadian Unitarian Universalist writing team.
- Songs of Social Significance with Tony Turner & Jane Perry
Music often motivates and energizes our social justice action. Join this amazing workshop with two awesome guides as you explore music and the power to do justice.
- Youth Conference for ages 12 to 20
Through theme games we'll have some serious fun while contemplating what games can teach us about rules, winning & losing and what to do when you keep having to 'go fish.'
- Young Adult Special Gatherings! In addition to welcoming YA to the full WRFG Sessions, there will be special gathering times as well. Please watch for further updates and note a range of fee options available!

All are welcome and we look forward to seeing many of you in October!

CUC Website information and registration link-

<http://cuc.ca/western-region-fall-gathering>

Majority governments elected by a minority of voters?

The first article in this series, in August, noted that our governments are hugely influenced by corporations and the wealthy, and that we the people have little say over policies despite letters, rallies, etc. One way to strengthen our democracy is to change the voting system.

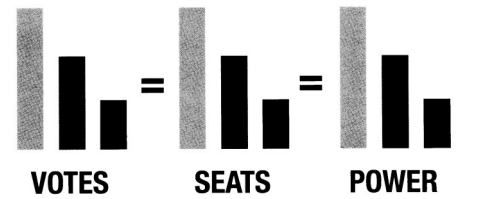
In most democratic countries, the proportion of seats each political party has in parliament is nearly the same as the proportion of votes each party received in the preceding election. This is “proportional representation” (PR—see graph). Canada is an exception: we frequently have majority governments wielding all the power that got elected with less than 50% of the votes (sometimes less than 40%).

This is possible because we still use the “First Past the Post” (FPTP) voting system. With FPTP, parties need only win more votes than any other party to win a seat. In a two-party system, this works well, but with more than two parties the results are often unfair.

Furthermore, with FPTP, people frequently feel a need to vote strategically because otherwise their vote doesn’t count towards electing anyone. E.g., no Green candidate has ever been elected in mainland B.C. Green votes there are counted, but they don’t count—they’re wasted! With PR, if the Greens get 10% of the votes, they get 10% of the seats in parliament (or the legislature).

Votes are also wasted when a candidate gets more votes than needed to win a seat. Say, for instance, two candidates are competing in a riding where a hundred votes are cast. When one candidate has 51 votes, he/she has won the seat. If that candidate gets 75 votes, 24 of those votes are unnecessary, they don’t affect the outcome, they also are “wasted votes.” Some forms of PR resolve that problem, too.

Next month we’ll look at three forms of proportional voting that could be used in B.C.

Proportional Representation Matters!

Sign the Declaration of Voters’ Rights!
www.fairvote.ca

COMMUNITY DINNER – BAKED POTATO NIGHT

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8 AT 6PM

We will be serving baked potatoes with loads of toppings!
Vegetarian options will be available.

Everyone is welcome! Please come join us as we start the new church year!!
Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

To help with clean-up please bring your own plate, cup and cutlery.
A rinsing station will be provided.



Community Dinner is a multi-generational event
and an opportunity to meet new people or catch up
with friends over a casual, fun delicious meal.

“ENVISION - ENGAGE - ENERGIZE”

The Unitarian Church of Calgary has joined with Canadian Unitarian Universalists across the country, committed to engaging with the Truth & Reconciliation 94 Recommendations. UCC welcomes you to share in a wider learning community as we together seek

“TRUTH, HEALING & RECONCILIATION”



Truth, Healing & Reconciliation

Indigenous & Non-Indigenous
Educating for Change

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL



Part I:

“TRUTH, HEALING & RECONCILIATION”

Welcome to the beginning of a shared journey towards truth, justice, healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples. Share in the exploration of reconciliation and decolonization as they are addressed within the framework of our Unitarian Universalist principles.

Part II:

“KAIROS BLANKET EXERCISE”

A local Elder group guides us in the conclusion of our day in this multi-generational learning exercise that takes participants through 400 years of Indigenous history in the space of a couple of hours.

October 14, 2017 • 10:00 am — 6:00 pm
(lunch included)

Hosted by: Unitarian Church of Calgary & the Canadian Unitarian Council

Location: Wild Rose United Church • 1317, 1 St NW. • Calgary

Register by September 29 at

cuc.ca/truth-healing-reconciliation-registration-calgary-2017

\$90.00 Adults | \$50.00 Students & Low Income [self-defined]



CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL

BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

- 2 Stephen Lentz
- 3 Zahira North
- 4 Sam Harris, Caleb Tilson
- 7 Louise Cole, Sarah Versteegen
- 8 Andrea Pite and John Waters
- 9 Sam Tilson
- 10 Christine Petronis, Bruce Stirling
- 11 Shirley d'Estrube
- 12 Sheldon Crisp
- 13 Anne Vaasjo
- 14 Jean Evans
- 15 Tobin McTaggart
- 17 Suzanne Garmsen
- 18 Peter Hancock
- 20 June Fukushima
- 22 Lini Henderson, Elinor Bazar
- 23 Ed Daniel
- 24 Bert MacBain, Braden Young
- 25 Clare Vipond
- 28 Charles Niven
- 30 Sandra Jaques

**CONTACT CHANGES
NONE TO REPORT**

BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY

- September 03 Lynn Hunter
- September 10 Rebecca Mellett
- September 17 John Worton
- September 24 Marion Pape

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

For a comprehensive listing of First Unitarian Church of Victoria events, please visit victoriaunitarian.ca/members/events/.

September

2017

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	10:30 AM Sunday Service 3
LABOUR DAY 4	5	6	7	6-9 PM Community Dinner in the Sanctuary 8	9	10:30 AM Sunday Service 10 12-1 PM Coffee with the Ministers
11	12	13	14	15	16	10:30 AM Sunday Service 17 12-1:30PM Coffee with Faye (SELCY)
18	19	20	21	22	9AM-3PM FUCV Annual Book Sale 23	10:30 AM Sunday Service 24 12-2:30 PM Strategic Planning Session 4
25	26	27	28	29	30	

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

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 churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca • www.victoriaunitarian.ca

Office hours: Monday thru Thursday 11 - 4; Sunday 9 - 1; closed statutory holidays on weekends

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 Cell phone: 250-891-6330
 rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca

Reverend Shana Lynngood
 Cell phone: 250-891-6331
 rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca

Minister Emerita
 Reverend Jane Bramadat
 250-652-1272

Intern Minister

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

Anne Vaasjo 250-385-1603

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 for Children and Youth**

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Director of Music

Nick Fairbank
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Church Administrator

Nadia Kozak
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Assistant Church Administrator

Sarah Versteegen

Officers

President	Lorna Anthony
Vice President	Marion Pape
Treasurer	Jane Wilson
Secretary	Karen Furnes

Board Members

Trustee	John Worton
Trustee	Nancy Dobbs
Trustee	Lynn Hunter
Trustee	Rebecca Mellett
Trustee	Susan Layng

UUIN NEWS

SHARON FULTON

The UUIN would like to spread the word about upcoming events that are open to all interested Unitarian Universalists on Vancouver Island and surrounding Islands.

We are better together!

Islands Chapter of CUSJ

Meets monthly in Victoria.

You can participate via Zoom from the comfort of your own home.

Contact Leslie Gillett at leslieucv@gmail.com for more details.

Unitarian Women's Retreat September 15 – 17, 2017

Bethlehem Retreat Center, Nanaimo

Contact Janice Hocking at tjhocking@shaw.ca for more information.

The 28th Annual HeyUU Men's gathering will be held September 29th to October 1st 2017 at the Sasamat Outdoor Centre near Port Moody. This is an amazing gathering open to all those who identify as male.

For more information please visit <http://heyuu.ca>.

Ads appearing in this issue are not necessarily endorsed by the Church



NEWSLETTER ADS

Ads are business-card sized; please submit in pdf format. Rates are as follows:

Members & Friends:

\$80/year \$50/6 months \$30/3 months \$12/month

Others are 50% more than prices above:

\$120/year \$75/6 months \$45/3 months \$18/month

Double-sized ad (wider or taller) is 50% extra i.e. non-member:

\$180/year \$112.50/6 months \$67.50/3 months \$27/month

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THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

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The **deadline** for submissions to
the **October** issue is **September 12**.
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

Barbara Nyland & Jen Young (editors); Doreen Burgess
and Myra Rippon (proof-readers); and Nadia Kozak
(production, distribution and paid advertisements).