



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY

*Practices to
 Transform Ourselves
 and Our World
 January's Theme*



Love & Justice

*The Practice of Caring for The World
 and Those Who Share It*

Theme graphic designed by Dar Gareau-Levy

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

February 5 When Justice is Not Clear to Everyone

Chalice Choir

Reverend Melora Lynngood WA Larry Boldt

Our new national Unitarian Universalist vision states that "our interdependence calls us to love and justice." What do we do when we can't agree on what 'justice' is in a given situation? What do you do when something that seems so clear to you is not clear to someone else? What do you do when the 'right' and 'wrong' of a given issue is unclear to you? How do we walk through the greys and the disagreements, and still move together toward love and justice in the world?

Congregational Meeting after the service today.

February 12 One More Step?

Chamber Choir

First Unitarian CUC Members WA Susan Layng

We, as Canadian Unitarian Universalists, envision a world in which our interdependence calls us to love and justice. As members of the CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council) and of this congregation, Kjerstin Mackie, Diana Smith and Pat Kinrade will explore some questions about what our faith asks of us when we attempt to respond to the journey of healing and reconciliation between Canadian Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people. It all begins with our stories. You will be reminded of your stories. We all have Aboriginal stories.

**February 12, Spirited Jazz – Jazz Vespers with the Susannah Adams Quartet
 7 pm -Tokens of Love-**

Join Reverend Shana and the Susannah Adams Quartet as we get you ready for Valentine's Day with an exploration of different expressions of love and the traces it leaves behind. Joining us will be Susannah Adams, vocals; Gary Theal, guitar; Richard Moody, violin; and Sean Drabitt on bass. Join us for this soulful and musical evening.

February 19 Child Haven Sunday

Chalice Choir

Reverend Shana Lynngood, Members of the SRC, WA Oliver Belisle

Each year we set aside a Sunday to lift up and support the work of Child Haven International. Begun in 1985 by Bonnie and Reverend Fred Cappuccino, Child Haven International is a registered not-for-profit charity that assists children and women in India, Bangladesh, Tibet in China and Nepal who are in need of food, education, health care, shelter and clothing, and emotional and moral support. Join us as we share stories of their important work.

Services continued next page

Services Continued-

February 26 **Classism**

Reverend Melora Lynngood

WA Dan Klimke

Men's Choir

Class is such a complex demographic category – based partly on income, partly on education, partly on type of employment, partly on... ill-defined cultural differences. As class is complex, classism is complex. Today we delve into the complexity, with an eye to uncovering classism we have absorbed and how we can work against it in society.

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SEL

FAYE MOGENSEN

SElections on Love and Justice

Valentine hearts, flowers and chocolate are what come to mind in February. They can be important expressions of love, but they barely scratch the surface of what the word means. This month, our focus on love and justice calls us to spread our caring into wide circles. In the children and youth programs, we will be aiming to do this in many ways:

The Forest Guardians will have a chance to experience the ‘love’ that our forest offers, and look for evidence of ‘justice’ in the great outdoors.

Did you know there are an amazing number of children’s books focused on love and justice? The Spirit Explorers will be finding inspiration in them.

The Questors’ creative juices will be flowing as they plan details of our Chalice Chapel (February 26) that focuses on Love and Justice. In conjunction with it, leaders will be helping the children prepare food and comfort for people making use of one of the city’s shelters.

The OWL class will continue to explore best practices in relationships; and on February 5, they’ll be hearing stories and perspectives on life and love from a panel of people on the LGBTQ spectrum.

Youth’s Soul Round is bound to bring up some deep thoughts about love and justice. On the lighter side, the group is offering a time of friendship for all ages with their “Games Night” (Friday, February 24) – see the box below for more details.

On one of the first days of March (almost February), SEL-CY leaders will be gathering for a time of friendship and, amongst other, an exploration of how love helps us in our work with children and youth.

Valentine’s Day was the fifth century Catholic answer to their populace’s desire to continue to celebrate the Roman fertility festival of Lupercalia. I like our UU answer to the current Valentine commercialism that has arisen!

Warmly, Faye Mogensen,

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

**YU*UTH BOARD GAME CAFÉ
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 24, 6:30 -9:00**

Drop by for snacks, drinks and games! We’ll have a variety to choose from, and a game master at each table. Come one, come all! Questions? Email FayeM@victoriaunitarian.ca and she’ll pass your message along. *Recommended for ages 7 and up. If your family is keen to come and needs childminding for a little one, please let Faye know.*

*Practices to
Transform Ourselves
and Our World
January's Theme*



Love & Justice

*The Practice of Caring for The World
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FEBRUARY THEME - FROM REVEREND MELORA LYNNGOOD

Our congregation's mission says, in part, that we aspire to 'transform ourselves and our world through compassionate action.' In recent years, we have been exploring themes and spiritual practices each month that can help us work toward that goal. The themes are gleaned from, and based upon, materials provided from the Soul Matters network, which serves Unitarian Universalist congregations across Canada and the United States.

<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/> .

Last year and this year, in the month of February, the month that includes "CUC Sunday" (CUC=Canadian Unitarian Council), we have joined with other Canadian congregations to choose a Canadian theme of our own making. Last year, we explored "Reconciliation". This year, we explore "Love and Justice". The words are taken from the new vision created and voted upon by the member congregations of the CUC (including our congregation).

CUC Vision Statement

As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we envision a world in which our interdependence calls us to love and justice.

As Canadian Unitarian Universalists:

Seven [principles](#) guide our choices,

Six [sources](#) nourish our spiritis,

Five [aspirations](#) help us grow.

As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we aspire to be:

- **Deeply Connected:** We strive to foster healthy relationships amongst and within UU communities, with the broader world and with all life.
- **Radically Inclusive:** We strive to create hospitable, diverse, multi-generational communities.
- **Actively Engaged:** We strive to work joyfully for a just and compassionate society, experimenting with new forms of community.
- **Theologically Alive:** We seek to be ever-evolving in our understanding, open to new knowledge.
- **Spiritually Grounded:** We seek transformation through personal spiritual experiences and shared ritual.

For Vision and Mission, go to: <http://cuc.ca/vision-and-mission/>

Your Questions.

Here are this month's questions to help start your pondering. As usual, we recommend that you consider focusing on one question that most intrigues you. Ponder it, journal and/or doodle about it, share your reflections with a loved one who is willing to just listen, discuss it with others at coffee hour after church.

1. To what extent do you feel that you are :

- Deeply Connected?
- Radically Inclusive?
- Actively Engaged?
- Theologically Alive?

Continued next page

- Spiritually Grounded?
2. To what extent do you think our congregation is each of these things?
 3. What might you do to help our congregation (and/or our Unitarian Universalist movement) be one of these things?
 4. To what extent might striving to be any one of these things (as individuals, as a community) help us to feel our interdependence and respond to its call to love and justice?

With love and appreciation for each of you and your earnest striving to “transform self and world through compassionate action,”

-Reverend Melora

BOARD BUSINESS

LORNA ANTHONY

The following is a short snapshot of a very l...o...n...g Board meeting held on January 10, 2017 at the home of Karen Furnes. A full set of minutes will be posted on the bulletin board in Lion Hall.

- In keeping with having church staff attend Board meetings, Karen Potts, our bookkeeper, gave details of her job and how the Board members can provide extra assistance; eg. ensuring requisitions are properly filled out.
-
- The job posting for the Church Administrator position is on several websites including The First Unitarian Church of Victoria website, Indeed, WorkPlace BC and Craig’s List.
-
- Purchase of a defibrillator was approved. Following purchase, a workshop for its use will be organized.
- Purchase of a lockbox to assist with outside rentals was approved.
- Lorna met with the Committee on Ministry which will function as Sabbatical Committee while the Ministers are away. They have put together a detailed contact sheet which is in the January and February newsletters and will be available from the office. The Board and Sabbatical Committee will work closely together with the Board handling the functional operational concerns and the Sabbatical committee dealing with more of the personal issues. Coffee with the Board and Sabbatical Committee is planned for April 9 in the sanctuary following the church service.
- David Hoadley, chair of the Finance Committee, led a discussion on the 2017 budget which is to be presented for congregation approval at the General Meeting on Sunday, February 5 in the sanctuary following church.

Acknowledgement was made of the terrific job done by the ABC team and the generosity of our members/friends. The ABC target was surpassed.

Several other agenda items were deferred to February.

Please know that I am available to chat at any time.

-Lorna Anthony, President

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

RESOURCES FOR CONGREGATION DURING MINISTERS' SABBATICAL

~Post this list on your fridge or by your phone~

Our ministers, Reverends Shana and Melora Lynngood, are taking a four-month Sabbatical (March 1 – June 30) before their regular six-week summer study leave/vacation. They will return to their regular full-time co-ministry (1/2 time each) on Tuesday, August 15, 2017. As part of their contract with us, our ministers accumulate one month of sabbatical for each year of service.

While our ministers are on sabbatical, the congregation will have both ongoing resources and special supplemental resources to support our continuing shared ministry. We will continue to have ministerial support through our half-time Ministerial Intern, Chris Wulff. The Committee on Ministry's expectation is that the ministers will not be called back during their sabbatical. If you experience an emergency between March 1 and August 15 call a member of the Sabbatical Team (see below). While our ministers are away, and every day, let us take care of one another, and, as our mission says, "strive to transform ourselves and our world through compassionate action."

Below is a listing of resources available to the congregation. Copies will also be available at the back of the Sanctuary and/or from the Church office starting January 8. **Feel free to tear off this sheet** (or print it out if you are reading this on your computer) **and post it on your fridge or by your phone.**

Oversight

<p>Committee on Ministry Ongoing function Acting as Sabbatical Team</p>	<p>Works with the Ministerial Intern to support congregational health. Do you have a question or need help and you don't know who to call? Call one of us. We will help you find the resources you need to address your concerns.</p>	<p>Kent Haden, Chair 250-479-6563 kent@hadensoftware.com Suellen Guenther 250-727-0454 sguenther@shaw.ca John Hopewell 250-721-3920 hopewell@telus.net Margot Lods 250-920-3893 mlods@shaw.ca Mary-Ellen Nicol 250-590-4107 nicolme@yahoo.com Hanny Pannekoek 250-385-2299 hannyhugo@shaw.ca</p>
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Worship

<p>Worship Committee, Ongoing function</p>	<p>Coordinates lay led services and guest preacher services</p>	<p>Chair, Dan Klimke 250-665-8087 dan.klimke@gmail.com</p>
<p>Guest Preachers</p>	<p>Preach the Sundays our ministers would normally preach</p>	
<p>March 5</p>	<p>Martin Settle, Co-Executive Director of the Unitarian Service Committee</p>	
<p>March 12</p>	<p>Chris Wulff, Ministerial Intern</p>	
<p>March 19</p>	<p>Rev. Meg Roberts, served congregations in Calgary, Montreal, and Edmonton</p>	
<p>March 26</p>	<p>Sabine Lehr, Inter Cultural Association of Greater Victoria</p>	
<p>April 2</p>	<p>Revs. Marcus and Emily Hartlief Co- Ministers, North Shore Unitarians</p>	
<p>April 9</p>	<p>Rev. Al Tysick, Dandelion Society</p>	

April 16	Chris Wulff, Ministerial Intern
April 23	Rev. Steven Epperson, Minister, Vancouver Unitarians
April 30	Margot Lods, First Unitarian Church of Victoria
May 7	Right Reverend Dr. Logan McMenamie, Bishop, Anglican Diocese of BC
May 14	Dr. Paul Bramadat, University of Victoria
May 21	Social Responsibility Committee
May 28	Chris Wulff, Ministerial Intern
June 4	Rev. Samaya Oakley, Minister, South Fraser Unitarian Congregation
June 11	Chris Wulff, Ministerial Intern
June 18	Dr. Suresh Basrur, Victoria Hindu Parishad And Cultural Center
June 25	Susan Breiddal, palliative response team counsellor, Victoria Hospice

Dispute Management		
Dispute Management Resource,	This resource is available to anyone and/or group experiencing an impasse in their relationships due to strong difference of opinion in working on Church matters; a block which interrupts the flow of working well together. A solution-focussed process will invite participants to co-create ideas that lead to a successful outcome. This service is really quite "behind the scenes".	Chris Wulff 647- 708-2622 Chris@victoriaunitarian.ca Lorna Anthony 250-592-4831 lranthony@shaw.ca

Staff Supervision		
Human Resources Chair, filling in for ministers March 1 – June 30, 2017	Supervises Office Administrator and Bookkeeper	John Worton 250-220-6258 jcworton@gmail.com
	Supervises Music Director and Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth.	Marion Sollazzo 250-721-1741 sollazzo@shaw.ca

Rites of Passage		
Lay Chaplains, ongoing function	Rites of passage for Non-Members/ Friends (fee)	Oceanna Hall Kjerstin Mackie Anne Vaasjo laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca
Lay Chaplains, and Intern Minister filling in for Ministers, March 1 – August 15, 2017	Rites of passage for Members and Friends (no fee; church pays lay chaplain)	Chris Wulff Chris@victoriaunitarian.ca

REFUGEE REPORT**SUELLEN GUENTHER**

Now that cold weather has set in, Sunny's support committee are working with her to make sure she stays warm. Andy is ensuring her place is warm enough and Pat Kinrade is helping her find warm tops and fleece-lined leggings to supplement her winter wardrobe.

Sunny worked the 4:00 pm – midnight shift about three times a week at the Spaghetti Factory Restaurant over the holidays. She would like to be promoted from bussing tables to serving, because the tips are better, but she needs to work there longer before that happens.

Kristina sends this update on Sunny: "Sunny and I are working on finding out more about the requirements for the UVic joint degree in music and engineering. She needs more formal training in music theory, and we are in correspondence with a theory teacher from the Conservatory of Music about that. We hope to meet with UVic staff in this week or next to talk about Sunny's qualifications in mathematics and other courses. Meanwhile, Shelagh is looking into possible scholarship options for Sunny at UVic. So progress is being made towards Sunny's educational goals. She is continuing to take English at Camosun, at the Lansdowne campus this term, as well, and working one day a week at the Spaghetti Factory."



UPDATE ON OUR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Intern Committee ratified the Learning-Serving Agreement with Chris Wulff in the Fall. This agreement was created with Chris and Reverend Melora and outlines the learning goals and responsibilities of the intern. Once ratified, it went to the Ministerial Credentialing Director at UUA, the body that oversees all aspects of ministerial training and credentialing. Our congregation is expected to give Chris direct ministerial responsibilities and engage him in a wide range of ministerial duties, including worship, religious education, pastoral care and counseling, programming, institutional management and finance, program development, plus community and social action.

Chris speaks with the Intern Committee every month about his experiences and plans with respect to serving our congregation as he navigates the first year of his two year, part-time internship. As we experienced in December with Chris sharing his family lifestyle, there are learning and growth opportunities for both the congregation and Chris as we get to know him more fully and he brings his whole self to serve us. The intern committee is responsible for providing evaluations to the UUA educational bodies that will require we conduct periodic evaluations soliciting input from the congregation.

During our Ministers' sabbatical, Chris's role as intern will not change: he will not assume the role of our co-ministers as he is part-time and working on his learning plan. In our Ministers' absence, he will receive Ministerial supervision from Deborah Faulk, Minister of the Calgary Unitarian Church.

Thank you for supporting the different opportunities and challenges Chris has encountered with your grace and compassion. Please feel free to contact me, Chris, a Minister, Fran Pardee or Margaret McKelvie with questions, concerns or joys that may contribute to a healthy Intern Program at the First Unitarian Church of Victoria.

-Shirley Travis, chair

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

MARY THEAL

Amy Frank, Artist !

Biography

Artistic expression has been an important part of Amy's life since her childhood. It became a means for her to express and to channel her struggles with mental illness.

Amy was born on April 3, 1986 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. Her family relocated to Victoria, British Columbia, her current home, one year later. From an early age Amy's appreciation of art and her artistic abilities were nurtured from home. Amy's parents enrolled her into public school art classes, art focused summer classes, and into the Victoria College of Art where she took her first course in 1999.

Amy's artistic expression has been greatly influenced by her turbulent teenage years, marked by the early onset of bipolar disorder. Her mental illness created tension and discord in all areas of her life. Teachers and school administrators labeled her a troublemaker, her friendships were fractured, and she became the target of school bullies. As her confusion and inner turmoil increased, Amy's need to bring meaning and order to life led her to begin writing poetry. Shortly afterwards she also began to incorporate pen and coloured pencil drawings into her coping strategies. After many years marked by turmoil and struggle, including homelessness, drug abuse, and extended stays at psychiatric care facilities, Amy has succeeded in creating a stable, happy, and meaningful life.

In the past few years Amy's art and writing have been published and she was awarded the Heart Award for her website and its successful advocacy for those with mental illness. With time and with the help of an amazing support network Amy's depression has faded and her highs have become easier to manage. Her artwork has become more than a coping technique, it has evolved into a career. Through her artwork, writing, and website, Amy continues to promote awareness around mental illness.

[www. Amyfrank.ca](http://www.Amyfrank.ca)



In addition, Amy has agreed to give a short talk in the farm house after church on February 20.

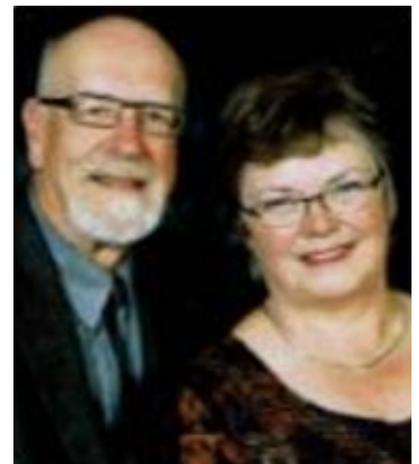
LEGACY CIRCLE TESTIMONIAL

Liz and Mike Graham

"When we recently revised our wills, we decided to leave a legacy to the church. Since we make the church one of the priorities in our lives, it should continue to be a priority after we are gone. It occurred to us that once we are no longer living, our pledges would cease. Leaving a legacy is one way of continuing our support of our beloved community."

If you are interested in learning more about making a bequest to the church, would you please contact Frances Hancock at 250-477-1310. One may remain anonymous and all information is confidential.

-Thank you



HONOURED VOLUNTEER**MIKE FIBIGER-CROSSMAN**

I've been involved with the Unitarian Church since the early nineties when I was introduced to it by my wife Nille, who has been a member on and off since the early sixties. I came to appreciate the values and principles the UU subscribes to and enjoy many of the community inspired events the church organizes- such as our Neighbourhood Group and the Jazz Vespers.

As a retired landscape gardener I truly love immersing myself in the Grounds and Gardens projects. It enables me to apply the creativity that I developed over a fifteen year career in landscaping. At the church I get to work alongside friendly gardening companions and cherish the beauty of our church site as well as the natural surroundings. At the same time I benefit from the opportunity to get a good workout.

Volunteering on our church grounds is very fulfilling. Unlike 'real' work where I had to do it, with the volunteering there is no pressure on me. I have had the luxury to pick and choose the projects that interest me the most and that excited me regarding the creative element involved. The first big project was creating and helping to build the terraced area at the entrance. That was also the spot Nille and I chose for Shana to 'remarry' us in 2013. Then there was the stairway at the north end of the sanctuary that John Waters and I built followed by the further development of the Memorial Wall area. Finally in 2016 I helped with the construction of the new children's playground area at the Montessori School and the finishing of the 'orchard' area.

I have mentioned just one of the many people who have helped in all these projects. But I would be remiss if I did not mention my most regular helper 'extraordinaire' and that is 'Wee Jocko'. He often accompanies me to help keep me engaged in what is most important; him. When we arrive he has lots of fun helping me dig holes and generally runs around exploring. Then again if I lose track of time when working, he will round me up and remind me that I possibly forgot he has an afternoon nap that is coming up soon and we have to get back home so he can sleep on our bed.

All in all these past years involved with the church have been very rewarding for me. I would just like to thank all the people that I feel have become friends over these years with a special thanks to Earle Anthony whose management skills have made it possible for me to enjoy the work.

A word from Nille: "What you're off to the church again? For how long? Today?" Seriously though I see how much fulfillment Mike derives from working outside at the church. He is always disappointed when a planned work project is cancelled for some reason.

Earle Anthony says:

I have worked closely with Michael over the last decade in my role as chair of the Garden and Grounds Committee and as a member of the Memorial Garden Committee. Michael is a skilled carpenter and landscape architect. He has an excellent understanding of trees, plants and natural systems. He is a skilled operator of gardening tools and equipment including the power saw.

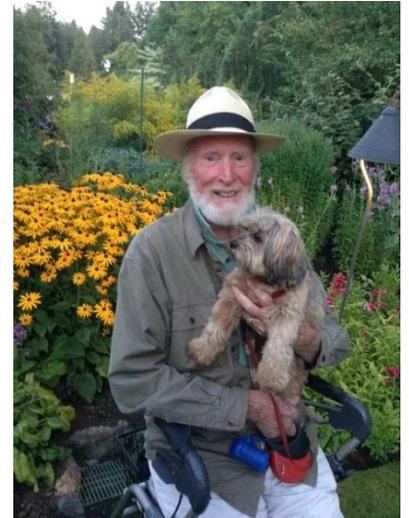
Most importantly he has the ability to conceive, design and construct complex landscaping projects. During the last 10 years, Michael has overseen many projects on the church property including the railings at the back entrance to the sanctuary, the upgrade of the memorial garden site, the brickwork around the fire hydrant and most recently the renovation of the children's playground area.

The church membership has benefited significantly from Michael's efforts over the years to improve and enhance the church property and grounds.

Karen Uldall-Ekman says:

Some weeks, Mike often seems to be living at the church while he is working on one of his many and increasingly varied volunteer projects: from laying interlocking bricks, installing wooden hand posts, digging ditches, building a garden area outside the choir door, upgrading the memorial wall and the children's playground area. And those are only the few that I happen to know about.

Most volunteers often have a particular type of work they prefer. However, Mike is multi-talented and always surprises me with his broad range of skill and depth of knowledge in the many areas he volunteers to take on. He often works alone for hours with quiet focus. In warm weather Mike will often drop by the office for a drink of



water for himself and for Jocko – his small, brown and handsome four-legged companion. Occasionally, while Mike is working elsewhere outside, Jocko will suddenly appear alone in the office – standing silently and waiting for a surreptitious treat.

We are very fortunate to have Mike's wide talents and practical direct approach to the many ongoing projects that are inevitably produced by our church property with its continual complexity of needed upgrading. Thank you, Mike!!

SHARE YOUR STORY: A SERMON WRITING WORKSHOP

Cost: Early Bird special to January 31 is \$40 (February 1-15 \$50) Includes lunch and two online group coaching sessions.

Maximum 24 participants so register early. *Registration deadline February 15.*

For more information or to sign up contact registrar Anna Isaacs isaacs.anna@gmail.com or 250-472-0117 (texts welcome).

Out of town participants welcome! Limited home hospitality is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Islands Network, hosted at the First Unitarian Church of Victoria: 5575 West Saanich Road, Victoria, BC.

Meg has been a Unitarian minister for the past 14 years. She has served congregations in Edmonton, Montreal, Calgary, and now is in her fifth year as the quarter-time consulting minister with Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship. Meg lives in Vancouver where she does a community ministry: *Spirit Arts* – using our creativity in spiritual exploration.

Invite others at facebook.com/events/364169043938033



CALLING ALL INNOVATORS

Do you have an idea for doing things differently in our church community: a new program or service or a new way of doing an existing program?

We have a deal for you: The Ruth Humphreys Innovations Fund trustees are calling for proposals.

The Innovations Fund will provide funding for opportunities and new ideas that add value to our congregational life.

Applications will be received for time-limited grants to projects, of up to \$10,000 per year that:

- Apply new and different methods to existing programs,
- scale up successful and innovative programs and services,
- 'beta-test' or experiment with new ideas,
- offer collaborative approaches to address an issue or opportunity,
- improve the delivery of current programs and services.

Al Hoffman, John Tiffany, Betty Sherwood, Lorna Anthony and Gerry Brimacombe are the trustees. Reverend Shana serves as trustee *ex officio*. You can contact any of the trustees with your questions.

Further information and funding application forms are available from the Church website (Innovation Fund) and the Church office. **DEADLINE is Thursday, March 31, 2017.**

It's time to get those creative juices flowing and get those applications in. We are anxious to give you money. How often do you hear that?



NEW MEMBERS

ALEX VAN TOL

Roberta “Bobbee” Engel

We — my husband Sam and I — had been attending First Unitarian last spring, when we were staying at a B&B in James Bay (January to April 2016). I love the ministers, and knew then that if we decided to move here, I would really like my church.

We did end up moving here, and Victoria’s weather had a lot to do with it. Because of my spinal problems, I need a walker to get around. Though I’ve lived most of my life in Ottawa, where I was a member of First Unitarian for over 15 years, the harsh winters were making it more difficult to manage a daily walk with Sam and our sweet dog, Saydee.

I was a librarian by trade and have many family photos and papers that need cataloguing so they can be shared. I enjoy walking with Sam and Saydee, and making a home for the three of us. I belong to a knitting group in James Bay at New Horizon’s Senior Centre; knitting is part of every day. New Horizon offers many activities; I enjoy their Friday Forum and will attend exercise classes there, as well as the water exercise program at the Y close to our home.

I love being a Unitarian and all it stands for. I enjoy a community of like-minded people, and I knew that I would find it at a UU church. Happily, we recognized Nanw in church a few weeks after we arrived! We live in the same building, and so can now give her a ride to and from church. It is so nice to learn the history of our condo building, as well as the history of the church by someone who has lived it. The First Unitarian building is lovely, and come spring I hope to take a stroll around the grounds with my walker and see the rest.

No one else in our family lives here, though: Sam and I packed up and came here alone, leaving our wonderful grandchildren behind. But we have a lovely home —and we have each other. That is all that is needed. We have made friends here and I know we will never regret moving to Victoria

**Samuel ‘Sam’ Wilmott**

I’ve been a member of the First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa since about 1989. I’ve been an usher, served as a worship associate for two years, was a Fall Fair sub-organizer, and served on the board of the associated Unitarian House Seniors’ Residence for six years. Given all that — as well as the fact that I enjoy Sunday morning services, and that Bobbee and I have moved to Victoria — I don’t want to walk away from being associated with a Unitarian congregation. Much attracted me to First Unitarian, especially the people and the ministers (who are also people, of course!). Secondarily, I am fond of the building too.

My parents moved here in 1969/1970, so I’ve been here a lot over the past 45 years. Bobbee and I only moved here at the end of July 2016, however, so in spite of my having visited Victoria a lot, I’m really a new resident.

We’ve both had enough of putting up with Ottawa winters, and I’ve had enough of putting up with Ottawa summers (although Bobbee disagrees with me about that).

Walking the dog, change ringing at Christ Church Cathedral, and working at designing a new text-processing computer language that creates websites and other publications are my main activities. I’m intending to add returning to swimming a few times a week to that, the way I did in Ottawa.

Jewel Spooner

I decided to become a member of this church very quickly. They say ‘seize the day’, and I believe in the power of now. My friend Nancy visited me one day; as she was singing so happily, I found myself curious about her music. I’ve felt connected to this church for many years but one day, from the inner landscape of this heart, my longing spoke to me.

I like many things about this church. For years I wondered who were the visionaries that created this sanctuary of sacred space. Music sounds beautiful in this space; on my first day I enjoyed reading the “Singing the Living Tradition”, and was happy to witness the inclusion of many faith streams. Like a mirror, this book held some of my favorite songs, chants and words of wisdom from diverse backgrounds. I like the kindness and acceptance of everyone at FUCV, as well as the creativity, unity, musicality, idealism, and the high level of commitment to loving service.

When I was 18, I had taken a trip to Vancouver and, like many people, fell in love with the Salish sea at sunset. I moved here as a nurse at age 23, when my family asked me to care for my grandmother. I have lived on Vancouver Island for 40 years. This area holds a depth of family history; my husband and his family’s name (Spooners) is well known in this area. My mom, brother, sisters and many cousins all live in Victoria. Family is everything to me. Having time with my children and grandchildren is very important. Teaching songs to my grandkids is a joy. I love music and hold a heartfelt passion to ‘grow into the light of music’. Painting, yoga, teaching and chanting all give me genuine joy.

Although I drive in from Sidney, I look forward to the sounds and sights of nature. Hearing the frogs singing last spring was a highlight of my time thus far. It was joyful celebration of life. I look forward to music service in the choirs, and am grateful for this church’s music foundation. Our choirs are awesome.



THE ORION VESPERS PROJECT**KRISTINA STEVENS**

I observe the signs of imminent nightfall with awe, thanks, and reverence, with gratitude for peace and plenty. As rest and sleep approach, I am mindful of those who will not rest this night, of those who sacrifice their sleep to care for others. I walk into nature in the gathering darkness to a place of observation. Observation leads to reflection, recognition of the harshness life can bring, as well as life's beauty. Mindful of the inequities of life, I pledge action towards the healing of the world. I praise and respond to the interconnected world, commit to a life of purpose, and surrender to the blessings of sleep.

**ON A DARK COLD WINTER'S NIGHT....LOOK UP.....AT THE SAPPHIRE CLOAK OF THE NIGHT SKY
THE CONSTELLATION ORION HAS RISEN....THE HUNTER OF STARS
SIT FOR AWHILE AND WATCH THE JOURNEY OF THE STARS**

WELCOME TO THE ORION VESPERS PROJECT

Kristina Stevens and her team have brought the talents of Reverend Frances Dearman and Nicholas Fairbank together to create a uniquely Unitarian Universalist *Vesperae pro Serveto*. Reverend Dearman has written a seven-part Vespers in Latin addressing the darkness of winter and Unitarian Universalist responses to it. You can check out the Latin text and English translation on our church website, [here](#). See the paraphrase of the content below.

Nicholas Fairbank, our Music Director, has been commissioned to set the text to music. The commission will be for four-part choir (soprano, alto, tenor and bass), piano, and six other instruments to be chosen by the composer in consultation with the FUCV project management team. The length of the seven part work will be approximately 3 ½ minutes each, for a total of 25 minutes of music.

We have used the Canadian League of Composers guidelines to determine a fair fee for this commission: \$14,000, plus \$500 for copying and other costs. Funding will come from grants and donations, not from the church's operating budget. We are applying for grants from the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Canadian Unitarian Council, and our own church's Foundation, as well as inviting donations from individuals.

HOW DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN BRINGING THIS WORK TO LIFE? Make a tax-deductible donation to the First Unitarian Church of Victoria with "Orion Vespers Project" in the memo line. Together we can make it happen!

MAY YOU ALL BE CHERISHED WARMLY, ABUNDANTLY...MAY WE HAVE PLEASANT REST...AMEN



WOULD YOU LIKE TO SERVE AS A WORSHIP ASSOCIATE NEXT FALL?

We are recruiting now for Worship Associates to start in September, 2017. Do you have some stories to tell? Do you like writing? Are you good at organizing and responsible follow-through? Are you comfortable speaking clearly into a microphone? Would you like to help us co-create worship services? Are you not sure about some of this, but would like to learn how?

Mandatory training Saturday, September 9, 9:30-4:00pm. Monthly meetings with the team. Two to three-year terms.

For more information and to apply, click on <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B1tDXaD9A-sAaWRMcUINY1BFdmM>

If you don't have web access or if you have further questions, contact Rev. Melora [250-891-6330](tel:250-891-6330) text/cell.

So cold, you're blue?

Take heart!

AUCTION FEVER IS COMING

April 21, 2017

Fun Friends Food Funds



Mark your calendar. Don't Miss It!

"What is the role of people of faith in times like these? To comfort and heal, and of course, to offer a different way forward, a way that protects creation and insures justice for all." - Rolling Justice Bus, supported by KAIROS Victoria.

On Wednesday, March 8, our Social Responsibility Coalition and our favourite storyteller Faye Mogensen are partnering with KAIROS Victoria to be one of four faith groups leading a four-week Vigil for the Peace River Watershed. A different faith community will lead vigils Wednesdays Feb 15, 22, March 1, 8. Please come and join us on the legislature lawn, at 12 noon.

Faye has offered to plan the March 8 program - which will include stories, music and times of connection - and share some very pertinent stories from her book, that lift up racial injustice and the power of community - themes that relate to Indigenous rights.

The Site C hydroelectric dam project will flood an 83 km stretch of the Peace River forever altering the terrain, and will negatively impact Indigenous fishing and hunting practices, traditional land use and physical and cultural heritage resources in ways that cannot be reversed. Another key aspect is environmental damage and the destruction of much needed good farming land which could provide sustainably produced supply of fresh vegetables to over a million people.

FUCV has long been an active member in KAIROS; you may remember the Blanket Exercise they did for us last year. The vigil on March 8 is one way of interpreting our sixth principle (seeking peace and justice), our seventh principle (interconnected web) and our first principle (dignity and worth) of First Nations people, as well indeed of all women, as March 8 is also International Women's day. We hope to see you there.

VIGILS FOR THE PEACE RIVER WATERSHED

Dates: Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8
Time: Noon- 1pm
**Location: Front steps of the
 Legislature Building**

***Everyone who cares about the beautiful
 Peace River watershed, Site C dam, and the
 issues raised by its construction is welcome to
 attend and participate.
 All our relations!***

**For more info: graceful@shaw.ca
 Lead Organization: Rolling Justice Bus
 Vigil leadership provided by:
 Mindfulness Community of Victoria
 Esquimalt United Church
 Faith in Action
 First Unitarian Church of Victoria**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FROM KAIROS ON THE PEACE RIVER VALLEY AND SITE C DAM

KAIROS is a faith-based social justice organization of eleven Canadian churches and religious organizations that focuses on Indigenous rights, international human rights and ecological justice. Members, which includes the FUCV, deliberate on issues of common concern, advocate for social change and join with people of faith and goodwill in action for social transformation.

The following is extracted from the KAIROS briefing paper on the construction of the Site C dam and flooding of the Peace River Watershed:

"Enabling construction of the Site C dam to proceed while the West Moberly and the Prophet River First Nations are in court contesting the project constitutes a failure to uphold their rights to free, prior and informed consent as set out in the *UN Declaration*.

A joint federal-provincial review panel identified 22 significant adverse environmental effects. Flooding an 83-kilometre section of the Peace River valley will negatively impact Indigenous fishing and hunting practices, traditional land use and physical and cultural heritage resources in ways that cannot be reversed

If built, the Site C dam would flood over 31,000 acres of agricultural lands including some of B.C.'s best farmland, capable of providing an annual, local, sustainably produced supply of fresh vegetables to over a million people.

On May 19, 2016, in an intervention virtually without precedent, the Royal Society wrote to the prime minister and issued a statement signed by 250 scientists and academics expressing deep concern about "significant gaps and inadequacies in the regulatory review and environmental assessment process for the Site C Project ... [which] did not accord with the commitments of both the provincial and federal governments to reconciliation with and legal obligations to First Nations, protection of the environment, and evidence-based decision-making with scientific integrity."

HEATER VENTS

Please do not close or otherwise block any of the heat vents in the sanctuary or any other room in the main church building. Doing so causes the system to overwork, and results in uneven heating in the building. Thank you!

- Dan Klimke

RE-GIFTING SALE REPORT

We made just over \$2,000 for the church at our three Re-gifting Sales this holiday season.

I just want everyone to know that my gathering of stuff for Re-gifting Sales has come to an end. I have really enjoyed this fundraiser, and hope that someone else might take it on. It really is about finding new homes for useful and interesting things. Thanks to all who kept a box in the closet to add to and to hand over to me.

-from Nellie Van Leeuwen

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: Pat McMahon writes, "Four of us met for coffee January 10. The next coffee meet-up will be February 21, the third Tuesday of the month, 2:30 at Fol Epi/Cafe Fantastico. Barbara Boyle will host a potluck dinner at Cedar Shores on Friday, February 3, at 6:00." Esquimalt will also be providing treats for coffee time in February.

Fairfield: This NG will be working with James Bay to host a Souper Sunday on February 19.

Gordon Head: Mary Cramer writes, "We provided after-coffee goodies for the five weeks of January, beginning with the morning of January 1. That was an early start to the New Year! We will be having out next potluck on February 19 at the home of Sue Clement Thorne and Michael Thorne who moved into our NG recently.

Grand Central: The cold weather caused pipes to burst in the home of Convenor Marya Nijland. She writes that they have had plumbers there to fix the problem and the house is a mess. She adds, "Thinking back on Reverend Melora's sermon on Sunday, which was on creating art/craft in times of troubles...and...IT WORKS FOR ME!!" When Marya and Philip recover, Grand Central will look at gathering as a group in February or March.

James Bay: Lynn Hunter sends this account of a new venture for James Bay, "Fourteen of us gathered at the Imagine restaurant in James Bay where we had the back room for lunch on Saturday, January 14. It was not ideal as we were at a long table and therefore unable to talk to anyone but our immediate neighbours. The service was disappointingly slow but the food when it finally appeared was very good and reasonably priced. We talked about future meetings: people appreciated the Saturday time slot as some are still working and can't otherwise make it to mid-week events. The other conversation was about Steve Soule's letter of resignation from the church. We also talked about our up-coming Souper Sunday event on February 19. It was a good meeting in spite of the acoustics and slow service. We will continue to make modifications to our meeting time/location to try to accommodate as many people as possible."

Nearby: This group is hoping to gather for a potluck on Friday, February 3. Convenor Elaine Klimke has put out a call to the group for a host. Their backup plan is to use the church Lion Hall.

Oak Bay: This group worked with Western to host a very successful Souper on January 15, with many interesting and unusual soups to choose from. They served about 100 people and received \$514.00 in donations to the church. Oak Bay plans to meet for a potluck in mid-February at the home of Doug and Mice McGinnis.

Royal Oak East: This group meets four times a year, so their next gathering will be March.

Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock writes, "After the recent warm-hearted Royal Oak West Neighbourhood potluck dinner at Jen and Lance Young's home, we are looking forward to another get-together in late winter or early spring. Please contact Fran if you are willing to host this event in the afternoon or evening on a day of your choice."

Western: Susan Lean and her group worked with Oak Bay to host the January 15 Souper mentioned above.

BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- 1 Jean Mihell, Koba ter Neuzen
 2 Brenda Pengelly
 4 Nanw Cariad, Kieran Domney, Anne Swannell
 6 Clara Buttemer
 7 Laura Anderson, Sandra McMullen
 8 Jerrelyn Dause, Marcy Calberry,
 9 Katrin van der Leeden
 9 John Stewart, Maggie Nixon
 10 Yvonne Bondarchuk, Forest Sterling
 11 John Lancaster
 12 Phyllis Gardiner, Anna Isaacs, Dan Klimke
 13 Ben and Teo Smith
 15 Morgan McCallum
 16 Kellina Dyer, Robin Sacker-van Gessel,
 17 Jon Taylor
 17 Larry Boldt
 20 Ted Humphreys, Penelope Hagan
 21 Leslie Gillett, Mary-Ellen Nicol, Ryan Adam
 22 Sheila Drew, Ruth Ralston
 26 Sandra Haywood
 27 Thane Waldie
 28 Jean Wallace

BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY

- 5 Lorna Anthony
 12 John Worton
 19 Jim Jordan
 26 John Tiffany

COMMUNITY DINNER

Friday, February 17, 6:00 pm

Spaghetti Night

This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun, delicious meal.

Dinner is by donation. **Everyone is welcome!!**

Spaghetti is served with a choice of two very yummy tomato sauces, meatball or vegetarian, plus garlic bread.

Please bring salad, dessert or beverage to share.

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

CONTACT CHANGES

E-mail changes

Barbara Nyland's new e-mail is:
barbaranyland2@gmail.com

Contact correction:

About 35 directories have incorrect information for Sam Wilmott.

The correct information is:

Roberta (Bobbee) Engel & Samuel (Sam) Wilmott
 Suite 203 - 1120 Fairfield Rd
 Victoria, BC V8V 3A7
 Preferred phone: 778-679-4438
 Preferred e-mail: robertaengel@gmail.com
 Preferred e-mail: sam@wilmott.ca
 Bobbee primary ph: 778-679-4438
 Sam primary ph: 778-679-5608

Lisa & Andrew Niven

2915 Palsson
 Langford, BC V9B 5S8
 250-433-3243

Brandon, Charlie and Flora

Lisa's e-mail: alniven@gmail.com

Andrew's e-mail: adgniven@gmail.com

Western NG

Bill Glassman & Lies Weijs

609 Foul Bay Rd
 Victoria, BC V8S 4H2
 250-595-6990

Bill's e-mail: eweij@ryerson.ca

Lies' e-mail: eweij@ryerson.ca

Oak Bay NG

Frank Monaghan

210 - 2230 Cadboro Bay Rd
 Oak Bay, BC V8R 5G9
 250-595-0927

e-mail: frank08@shaw.ca

Oak Bay NG

Change of address:

Lifetime member Yvonne Bondarchuk moved to a new care home in September of 2015. Current address is Yvonne Bondarchuk

C/o Arrowsmith Lodge

266 A Moilliet St
 Parksville, BC V9P 1M9

She is not able to talk on the phone.

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

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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

Lay Chaplains

Oceanna Hall 250-886-1077

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

Anne Vaasjo 250-385-1603

Intern Minister

Chris Wulff
 (647) 708-2622 cell/text
Chris@victoriaunitarian.ca
 Or leave message on ministers' office phone (250) 744-2601

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

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Nick Fairbank
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Assistant Church Administrator

Sarah Versteegen

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
5	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	12-1:30pm	Congregational meeting	Sanctuary
12	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	7-9pm	JAZZ VESPERS	Sanctuary
13	FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY		
17	6:00pm-9:00pm	Community Dinner	Sanctuary
19	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	11:45-1pm	Souper Sunday	
26	10:30-11:30am	SUNDAY SERVICE	Sanctuary
	12-1:00pm	Coffee & conversation with the ministers	

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



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The **deadline** for submissions to
the **March** issue is **February 14**.
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,
Myra Rippon and Edo Nyland (proof-readers); and Karen
Uldall-Ekman (production, distribution and paid advertise-
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