



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN DECEMBER

December 3 Transformation -

Men's Choir

From the Barnyard to the Wider World

Jan Greenwood WW:* Dan Klimke

Jan Greenwood has been a member of several Unitarian Universalist communities and is presently a member of Capital UU in Victoria. She nurtured the loves of her life, her flock of children, in Victoria and later lived in the interior of British Columbia. She is an avid outdoors person, former nurse, social activist and lover of music. Join us as she shares some of the ups and downs of her life, such as situations and lessons learned as she grappled with a pivotal moment of her early years which became a lifelong exploration and which prompted a strong sense of what fairness and justice mean. Much later, an invitation to attend a potluck supper led to a welcoming community which enlightened, encouraged choices and solidified the principles she aspired to.

December 10 The Present of Your Presence

Chalice Choir

Reverend Melora Lynngood

WW: Oliver Belisle

Winter holidays can make us frantic with busy-ness, sometimes cranky, sometimes even melancholy. We're told that the best present is our presence. How do we sink down into that grounded sense of inner peace, from which we are able to be our best selves, fully present for others with love, care, and steady calm?

December 17 Hearing Old Stories in New Ways – An Intergenerational Service

Bell Choir

Reverend Shana Lynngood and Faye Mogensen WW: Shelley Motz

We will explore one of the central stories of the season from differing perspectives, focusing especially on the Huron Carol. Join us for a service full of storytelling and exploration of how we can be present to the many meanings a story stirs within us. What do we see as modern people? How does a different cultural perspective add to our understanding? How can we be present to old stories in new ways? Children and youth are invited to remain with us for the whole service.

December 24: NOTE: No Sunday morning Service. Come to our evening services!

December 24, 4:30pm Christmas Eve Service for All Ages

Music: Braden Young & Friends

Reverend Melora Lynngood WW: Shelley Motz

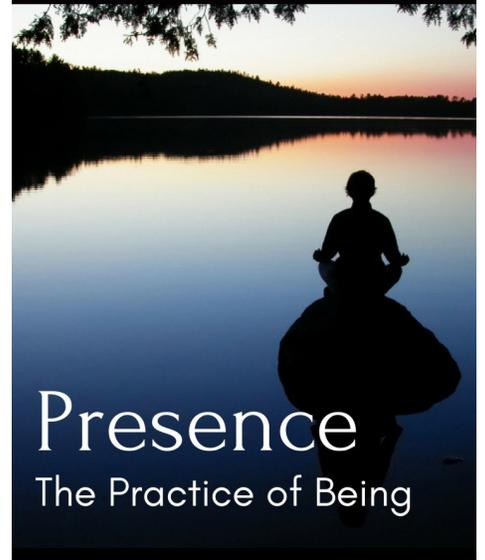
Unitarian Universalism draws on wisdom from many of the world's religions. Join us on Christmas Eve as we reflect on the Christian story of Jesus' birth and the ways in which we can hear this ancient story anew each December. This is a service for all ages – bring the kids! The service will include lots of carols and the traditional candle lighting during "Silent Night."

*WW = Worship Weaver

Please bring donations for people without homes, see suggested items on page 7.

Practices to Transform
Ourselves and Our World

December's
Theme



Presence
The Practice of Being

Services continued next page

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**THE DEADLINE FOR
 SUBMISSIONS TO THE
 JANUARY ISSUE OF THE
 NEWSLETTER IS
 DECEMBER 19**

Services continued on

Sunday, December 24, 8:00pm Christmas Eve Vespers
Reverend Shana Lynngood WW: Larry Boldt

Music: Braden & Hillary Young

This contemplative service will include traditional lessons and carols as well as a contemporary lesson. How will the story of the birth of baby Jesus speak to you this year? We will offer one another "tidings of comfort and joy" as we lift up our hopes for peace and goodwill to all. Special music will be offered by Braden and Hillary Young.

December 31 Here and Now: A Reflection on Time
Oliver Belisle WW: Anna Isaacs

No Choir

As a new year approaches, we take a moment to reflect on the nature of time, the joy of presence, and the obstacles that may prevent us from staying connected to the Now. These topics have been addressed by sages, philosophers, and spiritual teachers for centuries, and in modern times, people like Alan Watts, Ram Das, and Eckhart Tolle have done tremendous work to raise awareness of the present moment. What can we gain from their work, and how can we apply their insights to our day-to-day lives?

See You at the Choir Concert

December 8 at 7pm



**ADMISSION BY CASH DONATION
 TO THE FOOD BANK — NO FOOD PLEASE**

FROM YOUR MINISTER

REVEREND MELORA LYNNGOOD

Our congregation is a part of the UU Soul Matters Sharing Circle. We have run small groups and theme exploration sessions based on these materials.

This month, we invite all of you to consider exploring our theme of “Presence: the Practice of Being,” through trying one of two spiritual exercises and/or through contemplating the quotations and questions below. You may also consider sharing your experiences, thoughts, feelings, and insights with family, friends, and/or your fellow congregants. May your experience be rich, meaningful, and sustaining.

Quotations & Questions. Choose one (or let one choose you). Write in a journal, doodle, or talk through your responses. See where the question takes you over the course of the month.

1. “This is the first, the wildest and the wisest thing I know: that the soul exists and is built entirely out of attentiveness.” ~Mary Oliver

In what ways do you engage in the spiritual practice of attention? In what ways does that practice nourish or shape your spirit?

2. “Presence is removing judgment, walls and masks so as to create a true and deep connection with people or experiences.” ~Amy Cuddy

To what extent are you able to remove judgement, walls, and masks from the presence you offer others? What would it be like to be fully present to someone without any judgement at all?

3. What absence walks with you more days than not?

4. “Sometimes, people can go missing right before our very eyes. Sometimes, we lose sight of ourselves when we're not paying enough attention.” ~Cecelia Ahern

Has someone ever gone missing right before your very eyes? Why? Have you ever lost sight of yourself? What would happen if you brought your full attention and presence to either of these situations?

5. “Allow your life to be a work in progress. Do not hurry to mold the masterpiece; always there is more to be done. Life is always unfinished business.” ~Richard S. Gilbert”

Would you be more present to your life if you weren't trying to perfect it or win at it?

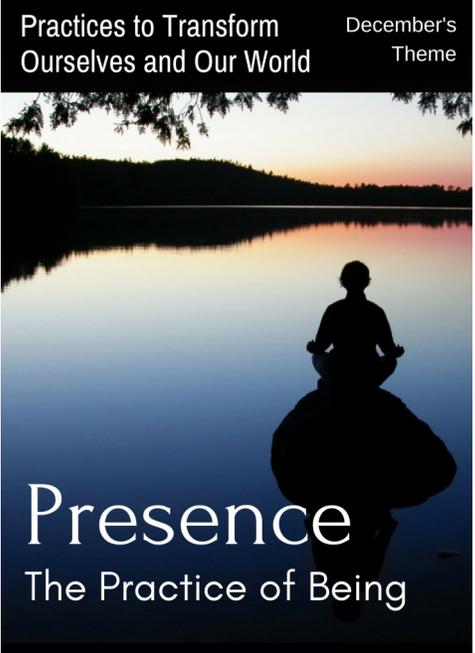
6. “Learn me slowly; be patient with my pages.” ~Pavana

In what ways do you allow patience to shape your presence?

7. “At the end of the day: do others feel loved in your presence? This is the spiritual bottom line.” ~Masin Kipp
“Attention is the rarest and purest form of generosity” ~Simone Weil

Who do you think feels loved by your presence? What do you do to make it so?

Is there someone else to whom you might also extend that gift?



Continued next page

Continued from last page

Spiritual Exercise, Option A: Uncover a World in Itself

“The moment one gives close attention to anything, even a blade of grass, it becomes a mysterious, awesome, indescribably magnificent world in itself.” ~Henry Miller

This exercise invites you to tap into Henry Miller’s magic. Simply do as Miller suggests:

Pick one place, object or animal and give it your attention and presence until it becomes a world unto itself.

Additionally, figure out your own way of recording the progression from a singular or simple object to an entire world. Maybe you keep a journal and write about something new you notice each time you return to it. Maybe take a new photo of it each time and look back at the photos to see what changes and emerges over time. Maybe just sit with your chosen focus for a whole day and see where it takes you.

Take your time as you chose your focus. Maybe it is a blade of grass or a singular flower. But then again maybe it’s that food truck outside your office at lunch time. Or the old toolbox your dad passed on to you whose story and world you’ve yet to discover.

Spiritual Exercise, Option B: the Gift of Your Presence

"When you love someone, the best thing you can offer is your presence. How can you love if you are not there? The most precious gift we can offer others is our presence. When mindfulness embraces those we love, they will bloom like flowers." ~Thich Nhat Hanh

This holiday season, **choose one person whom you will gift with your presence.** Invite them over for tea, or invite them to join you on a walk, or visit them in their home if that’s most comfortable for them. And then listen, really listen. Wonder how they are, what it is like to be them, let your care for them pervade your very presence. If your recipient is a child, you might play with them a game of their choosing – and also listen, listen, listen. Let them know you care what they think and feel and experience. In giving the gift of *your* presence, you may find you receive the gift of *their* presence as well.



FAREWELL CELEBRATION FOR FAYE SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

Please join us for a party in the sanctuary after the service on Sunday, December. 17, to celebrate Faye Mogensen’s last day as our Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth. There will be coffee, tea, and special food for the celebration while we recognize Faye’s many gifts to our church.

Please plan to attend if you have ever worked with Faye in the SELCY program in any capacity over the years, as you will be acknowledged as well.

A special cake and cookie decorating area will be available for the children.





For me, the SEL-CY logo created by Sarah Harris is a perfect image of this month's church theme, "Presence: the practice of being." So often children are our best teachers, showing us how to live in the moment and notice what surrounds us. Many times I am "awakened" to the present moment by a child. This month, the sharing might be of the joy of discovering a sparkling water droplet on the branches of a tree, or the delight of the simple act of ripping gift paper.

Children are also great reminders of the importance of our presence to each other. For them, and us all, the best present we can offer is "presence." Think of how you felt when someone offered their presence to you by giving the gift of doing something together. Or a time when someone showed that they really "saw" you by choosing a gift that reflects something especially unique about you. Or a time when someone helped you be more present to life by giving a gift that helps you stay focused on what's important. Perhaps you'll give someone a gift like that this year.

In the transitions service last June, I told you that the year my family and I lived on Haida Gwaii was a true gift. My children were small and constantly reminding me to "live in the moment." On top of that, we knew our time there was limited and so we were very present to the forests, beaches and their inhabitants; the ever-changing weather; and the people of Haida Gwaii. Similarly this fall, knowing that I am leaving my job, I have been able to enjoy and savour it to the maximum. It especially helps that all of you are so lovely! I will miss my leadership role here and seeing you all on a regular basis but, as I stated in my letter earlier this fall, I am being present to where I am in life, which is the call to explore new challenges. Some of those challenges will be far away, others will be here in Victoria. What I hope most of all, is that I will continue to cultivate and share the joys of being present.

Here is my wish for all:

May we find time to notice the magic that is everywhere around us.

May we experience great joy in the small things.

May we truly notice the people around us.

With love and gratitude,

Faye Mogensen

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

ADULT OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) PROGRAM

The Adult OWL Team is delighted to announce that registration is now open for the Adult Our Whole Lives (OWL) program at FUCV. While we have a long history of offering comprehensive sexuality education for teens and an ever-expanding program for younger age groups, this is the first time that the Adult program will be offered here. OWL addresses a wide variety of issues surrounding sexuality, identity, relationships and values, all through a lens that focuses on self worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice and inclusivity. Our intimate relationships, with self and others, can have a significant effect on our mental and physical health, our sense of personal fulfillment, and our ability to hold compassionately the diverse experiences of other people. The Adult OWL program gives special consideration to issues around aging and sexuality, the different stages of relationships, and the complexities of sexual and gender identities and expressions.



The Program

The Adult OWL Program will run its twelve workshops over six Saturday mornings (usually the second Saturday of the month) from 9:00am-1:00pm at FUCV. We anticipate that the lessons will be divided as follows, but will also be trying to assess group priorities during the first session in case there are other areas the group wants to bring in.

January 13 - Introduction, Sexuality and Values, Sexuality and Communication

February 17 - Sexuality and Spirituality, Discovering the Sexual Self

March 10 - Experiencing the Sexual Other, Sexual Attraction and Early Relationships

April 14 - Sexuality and Developing Relationships, Sexuality and Committed Relationships

May 12 - Sexual Diversity, Sexuality and Family

June 9 - Sexuality and Aging, Sexual Health

Registration Requirements

Because the program benefits from consistency in the group we will give priority in registration to those who know that their schedule allows them to attend at least five of the six sessions. We build stronger trust and offer better support to one another when we are able to have some shared frames of reference and a covenant that everyone was involved in creating and has committed to. Participants are also required to be at the first session, on January 13. Our minimum group size is 14 people and the maximum is 20, so we encourage you to register as soon as possible on the FUCV website at <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/adult-owl> or by calling the office.

The Team

FUCV's Adult OWL team is composed of Fran Pardee, Peter Hancock, Jacqueline McAdam, and Ministerial Intern Christopher Wulff. All have been trained to offer Adult OWL by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

Why Do We Offer Sex Ed in the Congregation?

Sexuality is much more than what's covered in biology class. Sexuality is also about relationships, responsible choices, justice, inclusivity, and self-image...all things which are intertwined with our faith and values. Intentional sexuality education is especially important in a world in which people of all ages are constantly bombarded with media messages about sexuality. Some of the most important "milestone" decisions we make in our lives, such as marriage/life partnership and creating families, involve relationships and sexuality.

FROM THE SRC

DON VIPOND

At Christmas, who can we help? And how?

At Christmas time, many of us can't abide the thought of people going without. It spurs us to a particular generosity. This month, this Christmas, your Social Responsibility Coalition respectfully invites you in particular to support the Dandelion Society and Bridges for Women. Both have websites for you to explore. The collection at our Christmas services will go to these two compassionate organizations.

When I wrote street minister Allen Tysick about material needs, he replied:

“Your church has been so good to the Dandelion Society. Thank your congregation so much for me. What I need the most is blankets. If anyone has old blankets at home that they are not using, that would be great. Sleeping bags would be great as well. Socks are always needed at this time of the year, as are gloves. A gift card for Tim Hortons or for McDonalds, to get someone out of the cold for a while, is always welcome. Also, toothpaste and toothbrushes.”

If you would like to contribute in this way, please bring these items and leave them by the SRC table near the main door. We will see they get delivered to Allen, for distribution among the homeless people he calls family.

- Don Vipond

MUSIC NOTES

NICHOLAS FAIRBANK

1. Friday, December 8, 7:00pm is the Annual Winter Concert. Admission by cash donation to the Food Bank (no food please). Music by all the choirs and musical groups, carol-singing, and of course great refreshments afterwards provided by choir members.

2. Thursday, December 21, 7:00pm - Winter Solstice service, including a full performance of the newly written *Vesperae pro Serveto* * by Fran Dearman and Nicholas Fairbank, commissioned by FUCV. Seventy singers and a chamber orchestra will perform the movements of the *Vesperae* interspersed with texts, meditation and ceremony led by Reverend Melora.

* *More about the Vesperae Pro Serveto, (from Kristina Stevens, Project Manager)*

It is an exciting time for the Vespers Project (*Vesperae Pro Serveto*)! The poetic Latin text has been written by the Reverend Frances Dearman. The tuneful and evocative music has been completed by Nicholas Fairbank and is being rehearsed by the Chalice Choir, the Chamber Choir, and Via Choralis.

The funding is in place: generous grants have been received from the First Unitarian Church of Victoria Foundation, the Canadian Unitarian Council, and the Unitarian Universalist Association, as well as generous donations from individual church members.

Accomplished musicians have been hired for the orchestral accompaniment: violin, viola, cello, contrabass, flute, clarinet, French horn as well as piano.

The concert date is:

**Thursday, December 21 at 7:00pm at the First Unitarian Church of Victoria
(as part of the Solstice service)**

Many of you have been involved in this project, and all will be charmed by the lovely music and thoughtful text.

Winter Wish



Friday December 8
7pm

Doors Open at 6:40pm

First Unitarian Church
5575 West Saanich Road

**Featuring our Choirs and Bell Ringers
plus a few surprises**
Admission by CASH donation (no food)
All proceeds to the Food Banks
Reception to Follow

GREEN CORNER

JUDY GAYLORD

Seasonal Thoughts on Winter Warmth

This is the time of year when most of our carbon footprints are at their highest, depending on our heating fuel and whether we are taking long holiday flights to see loved ones (or simply to escape the cold grey season). Luckily there are ways to compensate for all that extra greenhouse gas emission. If you heat with oil, or even old baseboard heaters, installing a heat pump can dramatically reduce your energy bills as well as emissions. Your Environmental Action Team had to cancel a workshop on this topic earlier this year but the speaker has now recovered and we hope to offer it again soon.

To assuage the guilt about that Hawaii flight, you may want to consider buying carbon offsets. Many travel websites offer them, but caution is needed as the voluntary offset market is largely unregulated.

The David Suzuki Foundation offers the following advice.

One issue to consider is the offset project type. For example, although quite popular, offsets from tree-planting projects are problematic for a number of reasons, including their lack of permanence and the fact that these projects do not address our dependence on fossil fuels.

Another important issue to consider when purchasing offsets is “additionality.” An offset project is considered additional if it isn’t business as usual. Typically, this means that the project wouldn’t have happened without the extra funding from the sale of offsets. Additionality is extremely important, as the entire concept of offsetting, i.e. purchasing greenhouse gas reduction credits from a project elsewhere, is based on the premise that those reductions wouldn’t have happened otherwise. Only by buying offsets that have met additionality criteria can you be assured that your purchase is resulting in a net benefit for the climate.

Other criteria of high-quality carbon offsets include: validation and verification of the project by reputable third-parties; steps by the project developer to ensure that each offset is only sold once (e.g., by listing the offsets on a public registry); and systems in place to control “leakage,” where the creation of a GHG reduction in one region causes an unintended increase in GHG emissions somewhere else (for example, protecting a forest in one location could simply shift logging to a forested area in a new location).

The David Suzuki Foundation and the Pembina Institute have prepared a guide, *Purchasing Carbon Offsets*, to help Canadians assess the quality of carbon offsets and the vendors that sell them.

More information at <https://davidsuzuki.org/what-you-can-do/carbon-offsets/>

HONOURED VOLUNTEER

BETTY SHERWOOD

Don Mills, as an Elder, will light the chalice on December 17. Don Mills received his PhD in Sociology from Stanford University, and taught and did research at the University of Calgary. He joined our church in 1988, and became an Elder in 2003. He was on the Church Board for five years, and has chaired various Church committees including the Executive and Personnel/Human Resources Committees. You will have met him, still volunteering, this time as a Greeter on Sunday mornings.



CHILD HAVEN INTERNATIONAL (CHI) - NEPAL

"If you haven't yet made all of your charitable donations for 2017 and are looking for a worthy cause, please consider donating to Child Haven for a special extra project I would love to see given to the children of the Nepali home. You have probably heard about CHI through various functions in our Church. It is an organization of Children's Homes founded by Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino 30 years ago. You may have met Bonnie and Fred already in the past. Fred is a retired Unitarian minister, so we have many connections with the organization. They have eight orphanages in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Tibet.

Several of our members have worked as volunteers at some of these orphanages in the past 25 years, and the church decided some years ago to make CHI one of its special projects with an annual Sunday service and collection (next one is in March 2018). Supporters also hold a fund-raising dinner in the community, usually in April. All this money is sent to CHI's General Fund.

I have met many of these members and was very impressed by their experience. So, I decided to go to the orphanage in Kathmandu, Nepal, last March. I spent three months with 100 children and staff there. It was a life changing experience. All the love shared with children and youth. Helping and getting to know staff and friends meant more than words can describe. The love and caring one received there is more than one can give. They are kind and giving to us volunteers, even though they have very little themselves. I learned things about their culture and I was able to share things that are unique to Canadian culture with them. I was a registered nurse before I retired and one of my quests while there was to teach them something about health practices. I re-organized their health room, medications, etc., and took care of many sick children while I was there.

One thing I noticed while I was there was their lack of "First Aid " knowledge. What if someone had an allergic reaction, fracture, trauma, or even no knowledge of the importance of being well hydrated? The list goes on. Although there is a hospital not far from the home, it could be too late to get there if you do not know how to identify and how to recognize a problem and deal with it as soon as possible. The staff need to know this critical information. I conducted a crash course on some of the issues but I felt that staff really needed more in-depth learning in order to be really helpful. So, we searched for an organization who could put on workshops for such groups and found that there is a Red Cross group who will give a workshop for the orphanage.

So far, I privately raised almost \$700 CDN, but it is not quite enough to fund the workshop. We need another \$400. This is over and above CHI General Expenses but I think it is sorely needed. I would appreciate it very much if you would support this cause close to my heart. If you can address your donation to the Church and mark it as "Health Workshop Fund for CHI in Kathmandu, Nepal" a charitable receipt will be issued.

Thank you!

~Mariko Matsumoto



FAIR TRADE SUGAR AND COFFEE ON SALE NOW!



Now on sale in the church office in support of HOW and Mindful Yarning: fair trade Organic Cane Sugar grown in Colombia. Perfect for your holiday baking! This unrefined sugar is made from three varieties of sugarcane. Farmers harvest cane and deliver it to the local press where the juice is evaporated, cooled and sifted into soft, caramel-toned sugar. 2kg bag only \$13!

NEW Winter Blend Coffee

Warm up this winter with a delicious coffee blend. Winter coffee features the best of our Tanzanian, Ethiopian and D.R. Congo coffees. 1lb bag for only \$13!

Hanny and Betty invite you to a Christmas Wreath Making for the Sanctuary



On Saturday December 2nd we will be making large Christmas wreaths for the Sanctuary. Join us for what has become a joyous tradition. There will be tea, coffee and homemade muffins to sustain us while we work.

We will start at 10:00am in the Lion Hall and by noon we will have glorious wreaths decorating the Sanctuary for the Christmas season. There will be wreath frames available, greenery and decorations, and lots of help. Bring pruning shears if you have them and, if you wish, gloves.

Donations of holly, cedar, fir, etc. would be wildly appreciated! Contact me, Betty, at 250-382-4656 or bsherwood@shaw.ca to let me know if you will be there.

SRC ACTION OF THE MONTH



**CANADA WON'T SIGN TREATY TO ABOLISH
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**
Find out why and what can be done from Dr Mary-Wynne
Ashford and Dr. Jonathan Down
After the service at 12:00pm on Sunday December 3
in the Sanctuary



The United States and North Korea have been hurling escalating threats of nuclear attacks at each other, and the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has moved the doomsday clock forward to two and a half minutes to midnight, the closest it has ever come to the apocalypse.

At the same time, the world has moved dramatically forward toward nuclear disarmament in a new Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons. This Treaty, which is now open for signature by nation states, is largely the result of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), a coalition of 468 organizations in 101 countries. For its work, it will be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in December 2017.

Canada does not plan to sign this Treaty, regarding it as useless and divisive. Many young people who have grown up since the end of the Cold War in 1991 are unaware of the horrific consequences of a nuclear war, and thus are not alarmed by the present situation. The speakers will suggest some actions that can be taken and brainstorm with the audience about other ideas.

Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford is a physician and educator who has been active in nuclear disarmament for thirty-three years. She was President of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and of the Canadian Affiliate, both for two terms. Her award winning book, *Enough Blood Shed: 101 Solutions to Violence, Terror and War*, has been translated into Japanese and Korean.

Dr. Jonathan Down is a pediatrician who is a member of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and of the Physicians for Global Survival (Canada), IPPNW's Canadian affiliate. Dr. Down attended the international conferences that led to the Treaty, and is also active with the Physicians for Social Responsibility in the US.

CENTERED ON SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Join the Unitarian Universalist Islands Network at the beautiful Bethlehem Centre in Nanaimo from February 9-11 for two days of rest, reflection and renewal. In a gorgeous, natural setting with walking path and labyrinths, our program, led by First Unitarian Church of Victoria's Ministerial Intern Christopher Wulff, will explore dimensions of developing spiritual maturity through personal reflection, small group dialogue, poetry and song.



Have you yearned to go deeper in your spiritual life, to follow that path of the free and responsible search for truth and meaning? Building on the work of Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons, 2015's Religious Humanist of the Year, spiritual maturity is about those places of faith and practice where we find ourselves growing more able to encounter what is real instead of living in fantasy; to acknowledge and accept our own limitations; to know wonder, blessing and generosity; and to offer radical, active and compassionate love for ourselves and others. Working through the twelve elements of spiritual maturity, we will find wisdom, comfort and challenge in other spiritual and religious traditions, as well as in our own intuition, experience and UU practices.

**Registration and further details available online at <http://victoriaunitarian.ca/spiritual-retreat>.
Early bird registration, before January 1st, \$300. Regular price, before January 20th, \$325.**

BOARD REPORT**LORNA ANTHONY**

The following is a snapshot of our Board meeting held on November 7, 2012. A complete set of minutes will be posted on the Lion Hall bulletin board or will be available from the church office.

Strategic Planning:

A lengthy discussion ensued to examine the document provided by Marion Sollazzo that outlined the recurring themes for action resulting from our four strategic planning sessions to which all members/friends were invited to participate. In early December a survey will be sent to all members/friends with the recurring themes so that priorities will be determined. Hard copies of the surveys will be available as well as Board members with laptops to assist members. The results will be ready for the January 21 General Meeting. The Board's intention, as has been stated from the start, is that these priorities will be set by the congregation with the Board taking responsibility to ensure they are acted upon.

New SEL-CY Director:

Several applications have been received. As of the Board meeting, the closing date had not been reached. Faye will be involved in the orientation of a successor.

Islands Regional Spring Gathering 2018:

A one-day regional Spring Gathering had been proposed by the CUC in which regions across Canada could meet to discuss a common topic. Lorna, Martha McDougall and Chris Wulff met by Zoom with other congregations across B.C. It has been decided that we here on Vancouver Island have a unique relationship with other congregations on Vancouver and Salt Spring Islands under the umbrella of Unitarian Universalist Islands Network (UUIIN). We meet together at summer camp, retreats, homily writing workshops, etc. Also, the Boards of FUCV and Capital UU Congregation maintain a close relationship with the plan to meet twice each year. First Unitarian has reached out to the UUIIN with an open invitation to participate in events happening in our church. Because of this, we have opted to not hold a specific regional Spring gathering.

Ministers' Reports:

Our Ministers maintain very busy schedules. Reverend Shana reported that in February she plans to convene a group of people who are not feeling connected to the church at this time. Reverend Melora will continue to hold group walks as part of her ministry.

Ministerial Intern Report:

Chris is currently working at the church Friday to Sunday, three weeks per month. His learning service document is being reworked to identify the projects he will be undertaking in the New Year.

Treasurer's Report:

The majority of expenses are in line for this point in the year. Two forums to discuss paying off our mortgage and other financial issues will be arranged prior to our May Annual General Meeting.

Photo Directory:

Nancy Dobbs received the approval to explore an in-house photo directory.

Names for Committee on Ministry:

A confidential slate of possible members was submitted by the Board to fill the roles of current members rotating off the committee.

Property Management:

An in-camera discussion was held regarding a property maintenance decision.

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Motion on a revolving fund for Ruth Humphreys Innovation Grant to Truth & Reconciliation group:

Moved by Jane Wilson, seconded by John Tiffany that the board approve the establishment of a revolving fund to be known as the “TRC Fund.” Two of the proposal applicants will be the authorized signatories for the fund: Diana Smith and Lynn Beak. Motion Carried.

Budget Discussion:

An in-camera discussion was held to discuss the first draft of the 2018 budget. As of today’s meeting date, 86% of the projected total had been received. Volunteers have begun to follow up with the 97 pledge units not yet heard from.

Future Agenda Items:

Because of the lengthy three-hour meeting, several agenda items were tabled until December.

Membership Changes:

Read into the minutes were New Members Sharon Flaherty and Renate Herberger and the Death of Jean Evans.

As always, please know that questions and comments are welcome.

E-mail me at lranthony@shaw.ca or telephone 250 592-4831.

-Lorna Anthony, President



December 25 Potluck Dinner

**1:00 pm in
the Lion Hall**



Sign up in December for this popular event!

Look for Barbara Nyland in the Lion Hall after the Sunday Services.

Two turkeys will have been donated but we need two volunteers to cook them!

You will be asked to sign up for one of the following:

**Salmon * Cooked Vegetables * Salad * Vegan dish * Turkey Stuffing
Cranberry Sauce * Buns * Dessert**

Beverages will be provided

Everyone is asked to bring a small gift — around \$5.00

Strategic Plan Update and What's Next for the Congregation

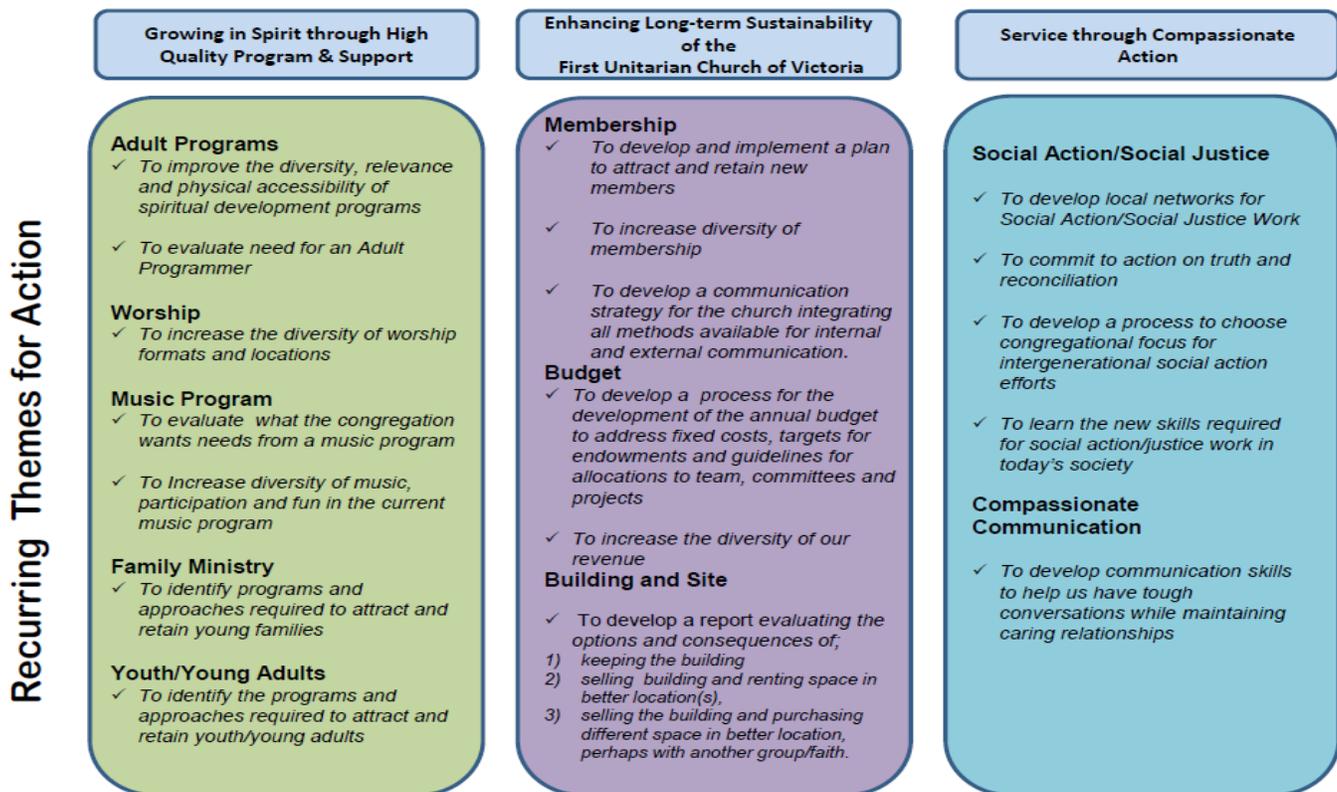
December 2017

From the Core Team: Rev. Shana Lynngood, Marion Sollazzo, Marion Pape, Rebecca Mellett

The Core Team has made a lot of progress on the Strategic Plan since the September 24 consultation session number four. To date we have had upwards of 90 different participants from the Congregation attend one or more of the four strategic plan sessions. We are quite impressed with this participation.

Below you will find the chart titled *Strategic Priorities: Recurring Themes for Action* prepared by the Core Team based on the ideas that recurred several times during the engagement sessions.

Strategic Priorities



At the November board meeting the document was reviewed and each board member identified their top 3 objectives for action. In the conversation following this exercise the board determined that although we have had very good participation in the strategic planning process, we still need to reach more of the congregation. To that end, we will conduct a survey of the entire membership to gather your views of the most important objectives we should address first.

Watch for the online survey in your mailbox in early December for online completion. If you don't have a computer or need help getting started, board members will have their laptops at church after service on Dec. 10 and Dec. 17 to assist you. Thanks for giving of your time and ideas. We really need your feedback about what you consider are the top priorities for FUCV over the next 2-3 years. We will also be asking questions about whether you are prepared to commit your energy to particular projects over the next 2- 3 years.

-Marion Pape

MAASAI FRIENDS4GOOD**KRESSA SISU**

I am a fairly new member to UU and I am thoroughly enjoying this welcoming community!

I was never one to have Africa on my "bucket list," but volunteering in Tanzania for five years now has become a passion and a heart-opening experience that I am so grateful for.

Our group is called Maasai Friends4Good and we have charitable status through Enterprise 4 Good. Our focus is supporting a Maasai Village in Makuyuni, Tanzania. Their focus is educating their children and we now have four classrooms and three enterprises to help sustain our school project.

I am a Team Leader and we do this work by bringing groups of volunteers together with our Maasai family to complete a build. We laugh, work, dance and sing and before you know it we have done a build.

It could be a classroom, a kitchen or a latrine, whatever is needed at the time. We take our project direction directly from the elders of the community. Together we have had amazing accomplishments.

I am excited to announce that I am Co-Team Leading another group on April 7, 2018. Your whole trip including your flight is Tax Deductible! If going to Africa and making a difference is on your list of things you want to accomplish, come and join me for this heart-opening, amazing experience! Your life will be changed forever!

Check this video out and you will get a feel for what we do!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3yilK6pYaU>

***Leave a Legacy that will last for generations!
For more information please contact me:
Kressa Sisu kristinasisu@gmail.com 250-588-8605***



Walking In Spirit with Reverend Melora

Our experiment continues. Walking – and simply being outside – can be good for body and soul. Join us!

Walk will include some walking and some sitting; some mindfulness practices and some time to chat as we walk.

Rain or shine – wear weather appropriate clothing (walking in rain can be good for the soul too!)

Cedar Hill Golf Course (this meeting spot allows us to walk the ‘top half’ of the walk at Cedar Hill Rec Center; in September, we walked the ‘bottom half’) 1400 Derby Road, Victoria

Map link:

<https://goo.gl/maps/hgSFhwetft42>

We'll meet at the parking lot entrance sign, pictured here.

RSVP rev.melora@gmail.com subject “walk”; cell/text 250-891-6330



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're in, please call the church office.

Cadboro Bay: This small group, with help from a few others, kept us in treats during coffee time in November. In mid-October they enjoyed afternoon tea at the Petch's.

Esquimalt: Maureen Sherlock writes, "Esquimalt Neighbourhood Group would like to welcome newcomers Evelyn Peters and Robert Stock to our group. We will be having a coffee get-together on November 21, hosted by Anne Vaasjo and John Stewart."

Fairfield: Louise de Lugt reports that about 12 members of Fairfield NG gathered at Lynn and John's for a potluck on October 22 and they are looking forward to their Christmas potluck at Forrest and Diana's on December 17. They will continue their tradition of a gift exchange.

Far Out: A few members from Far Out went on a field trip! Phyllis Aherne writes, "A small group of Far-Outers enjoyed a day trip to the Ismaili Center in Burnaby on November 1. It was very enjoyable and informative with a bus trip from the ferry to the Center, a tour of the beautiful building designed by Bruno Freschi, a lunch hosted by the center and a bus trip back to the ferry. The Burnaby Center is one of six in the world and very impressive. We learned a great deal about the center and the history of the Ismaili movement. If any of the neighborhood groups are interested, the tour is done several times a year and information may be had by contacting the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society CSRS at UVic, 250-721-6695."

Gordon Head: Mary Cramer writes, "We are planning to have a tea for several new members to our NG in the coming weeks. Our members had one car accident last month and three hospitalizations. All are on the road to recovery, so it was a good month." On top of all this, Gordon Head will be strapping on their aprons to keep us in coffee-time treats for the month of December.

Grand Central: Marya and Philip will be hosting a drop-in tea at their home on Saturday, November 25 from 2:00-4:00 pm. Children are welcome and there will be treats and games for the kids. They would like to welcome new members to their group and are looking forward getting to know them.

James Bay: Lynn Hunter writes, "The James Bay NG met November 8 at the home of Pat Kinrade for a delicious potluck lunch. It was good to have Daphne Dunbar join us. While she appreciates her new home at Douglas House which makes life easier for her, she misses seeing her friends from church, so this was a good opportunity to get caught up. Karen Gallagher from Capital Congregation attended the lunch. She is trying to get more social occasions for FUCV and Capital to meet. They have a pub night at the James Bay Inn on the third Monday each month to which we are all invited. We are going to stay connected. We decided our next James Bay NG meeting will be for pot luck lunch in January at Myra Rippon's home."

Nearby: Nancy Dobbs writes, "By the time the December newsletter 'goes to press,' Nearby and Royal Oak East will have hosted the November 19 Souper Sunday. Working together on a Souper is a great way to get to know others in a different Neighborhood Group. Nearby will gather at the home of Laura Doyle and Nellie Van Leeuwen on Saturday, December 2 for a potluck and to welcome Rebecca, Russell and Natnael (Natty) to our neighborhood group. They are moving to Brentwood Bay in December. We will also be saying good-bye to Pam Harte, who is moving to Sidney and the Far Out NG. Pam has watched over us for 'Care and Concern' for many years. She will be missed."

Oak Bay: Tiff writes, "Oak Bay NG will be having a holiday potluck on Sunday, December 3 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm at Mike and Liz Graham's home. It will be a gift exchange (pick a number, pick a gift, and the horse trading starts). We will also be having our monthly luncheon on the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 11:45 am in Monterey Rec Centre's Fern Cafe."

Royal Oak East: Hanny Pannekoek writes, "We had postponed our September meeting to October and at that gathering we decided to have our next gathering on January 13. This will be a Saturday afternoon appetizers and dessert event. Our group, together with Nearby, will organize super Sunday lunch on November 19. We are well on our way to offer a fine menu!"

Continued next page

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Royal Oak West: Fran Hancock is already looking ahead to January. She writes, “There has been an overwhelming prompt response from members of ROW to supply soups and desserts for the SOUPER SUNDAY on January 14, as well as offers of help, which are really appreciated. We look forward to welcoming two new visitors to the church, Evan Guengerich and Fritz Schulze, at our next NG potluck, so please contact me if you are interested in hosting a lunch or dinner in your home during the winter. Thank you.”

Western: This group has taken a rest this fall until John is stronger and able to get out more. Susan is hoping they can start their regular monthly potlucks on the second Saturday in December.

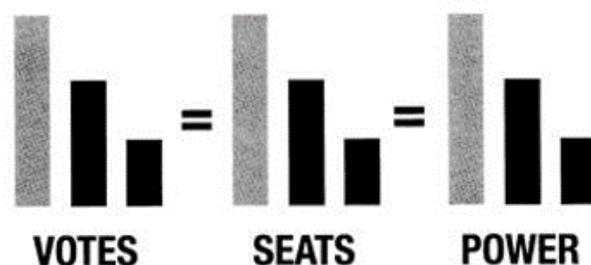
SRC DEMOCRACY TEAM
PHILIP SYMONS / SONYA IGNATIEFF

What is proportional representation, anyway?

This month we were going to consider how people could vote knowledgeably on different proportional representation (PR) voting systems when the media circulate myths about them. However, we have discovered that some of us don’t understand what “Proportional Representation” is, so we’ll clarify that first.

Proportional representation simply means that the proportion of seats held by the different political parties (Liberal, NDP, Green) in the Legislature or Parliament is directly proportional to the number of votes each party received at the preceding election. In the last provincial election the Liberals received 40.4% of the votes, the NDP 40.3%, and the Greens 16.8%. Under PR, those parties would have got 40%, 40% and 17% of the seats in the Legislature. However, the Liberals actually got 49% of the seats, the NDP 47%, and the Greens only 3%. This is because our current voting system, known commonly as First Past the Post (FPTP), is not a fair system.

Proportional Representation Matters!



The relation between the proportion of votes each party gets and the proportion of seats each party holds is often more skewed even than in our last provincial election. In the last federal election, for instance, the federal Liberals got 39.5% of the votes but 54% of the seats. This gave them a majority government with essentially all the power despite 60.5% of voters voting for other parties. Under PR, a party can only form a majority government if it has more than 50% of the votes *and* seats.

Some people believe that majority governments are more stable and can “get things done” better than minority governments. Apart from greater stability being a myth, as explained in the November newsletter, the “false-majority” governments can get things done, alright, but sometimes these are things that most voters don’t want!

There are many different proportional representation voting systems, some of which are inappropriate for B.C. and would never be used here. All PR systems emphasize certain values in addition to proportional representation that voters may want. We’ll examine that next month.

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: *Newcomer Orientation, December 10, 12:15—1:00pm*

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 and January 7, 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.

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER

- 1 Mike Greenly
 4 Daphne Horne, Victoria Barr
 5 Dawn Fizzard
 6 Michael Eckford, Edie Taylor
 7 John Dalgety, Liz Graham, Susan Bowers
 8 Diana Smith, Cheryl Hall
 9 Laura Doyle, Johanna Billung-Meyer
 10 Nancy Dobbs, Kathryn Harwood, Finlay (Fin) Taylor, Henry Hagan-Braun
 11 Lesley Duthie, Kyunje Thokme
 12 Dorothy Jones, Ellen Gabelmann
 13 Nadia Cantera
 14 Mohammad Banacee, Mary-Stephanie Walrafen
 15 Rowena Locklin
 17 Penny Boyce, Valerie Howe
 18 Jim Jordan
 20 Rosemary Harrison
 21 Gloria Hopewell, Lisa Hitch, Paula Steele, Nolan Branch
 22 Archie McGugan, Hugo Suttmoller
 23 Ruth Welburn
 26 Edith Jasechko-Burton
 27 Christina Harris
 28 Aaron Brimacombe
 29 Sharon Flaherty
 30 Deanna Hutchings

**NEW MEMBER, RESIGNATION,
CONTACT CHANGES****New Member:**

Renate Herberger
 11120 Rosborough Road
 North Saanich, BC V8L 5M3
 250-656-1312
renatemermaid@gmail.com
 Farout Neighbourhood Group

Resignation:

Sylvia McDonald [Moved to New Westminster]

Changes in contact***Phone updates:***

Jasmine Taylor's phone is not in service.
 We are making contact to update her number.
 Sandra Haywood 778-677-4214

E-mail updates:

Kathryn Saunders kathryngs@gmail.com
 Kathryn Harwood k7harwood@gmail.com
 June (Leigh) Waters leiwtrs@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY

- December 3 Nancy Dobbs
 December 10 Lynn Hunter
 December 17 John Worton
 December 24 Karen Furnes
 December 31 John Worton

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONGRESS

Denominational Affairs recommends the **International Association of Religious Freedom Congress** aka “IARF” in **Washington DC, USA, 29 July – 1 August 2018.**

This conference will be held at George Washington University’s Marvin Center.

The theme is “*Reimagining Interfaith Cooperation*”. *Co-sponsored by the UUA.*

Young adult stream is one highlight of such congresses and is subsidized.

More details are available from Christine Johnston, who has attended six IARF international conferences and loved them all. With the World Parliament in Toronto, ICUU in India, and the IARF in the USA, there are lots of opportunities to attend an international conference this coming year. This one is sponsored by the IARF assisted by the UUA or Unitarian Universalist Association, the United Religions Initiative, the United Church of Christ, Religions for Peace, the World Congress of Faith, the Interfaith Funders Group and multiple faith communities.

IARF Theme and Program

The program focus is prioritizing interfaith relationship building and resource sharing, and will feature a keynote panel with Rev. Jennifer Bailey, Dr. Mohamed Elsanousi, Rabbi David Saperstein, and a fourth panelist to be confirmed. There will be five “Program Tracks” of Learning; Training and Skill-Sharing workshops; “Circle Small Group” meetings; and diverse Worship and Spiritual Focus opportunities. Program Tracks in Development:

1. Cultivating Inclusive Communities in the Face of Religious Discrimination
2. Community Organizing: Initiating and Sustaining Social Change Movements
3. Staying “Woke”: Recognizing Privilege, Challenging Systemic Oppression
4. Interfaith Organizing in a Changing Spiritual Landscape
5. Making A Movement: Building Skills to Bring Interfaith to the Next Level

Registration

See www.reimagininginterfaith.org as well as IARF’s website (www.iarf.net) for updates and further details. Early registration US \$295 with Young Adults only \$100. University suites or local hotel.

THE FOOD CUPBOARD IS CLOSING

After considerable thought and discussion, your Social Responsibility Coalition has agreed that it is time to shut down the food cupboard.

The reason? It is not serving the church community well. It began when a handful of coalition members were persuaded that there was a need for it among several families of our congregation. We hoped that we could encourage them to use such a cupboard. Either we were wrong about the need or we failed to persuade those who could have used it to do so. Either way, the food in the cupboard has been gathering dust. Yes, it helped the occasional person the occasional time. But its effectiveness has been virtually nil.

The Coalition does not see the effort as a mistake. We are forever looking for ways to do the things we believe need to be done. Some ways work, some don’t. On the cupboard, we made a well-motivated miscalculation and it’s now time to acknowledge that, close the cupboard and look at other options. What is in the cupboard will go to food banks.

If you have a comment or a fresh idea, we would be happy to hear from you. Please phone Clare or Don Vipond at 250-652-5491 or email them at donandclare@shaw.ca

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

5575 West Saanich Road • Victoria BC • V9E 2G1 • Phone: 250-744-2665
 churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca • www.victoriaunitarian.ca

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

Ministers

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

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

The ministers' day off is Monday.

Intern Minister

Chris Wulff
 647-708-2622 cell/text
 chris@victoriaunitarian.ca

Minister Emerita

Reverend Jane Bramadat
 250-652-1272

Lay Chaplains

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

Oceanna Hall 250-886-1077

Anne Vaasjo 250-385-1603

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

Faye Mogensen 250-744-2695
 FayeM@victoriaunitarian.ca
 Faye is in the office Tue, Wed, Thu and Sun.

Director of Music

Nick Fairbank
 music@victoriaunitarian.ca

Church Administrator

Nadia Kozak
 churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

Assistant Church Administrator

Sarah Versteegen

Officers

President	Lorna Anthony
Past President	Shirley Travis
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
Trustee	John Tiffany

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!

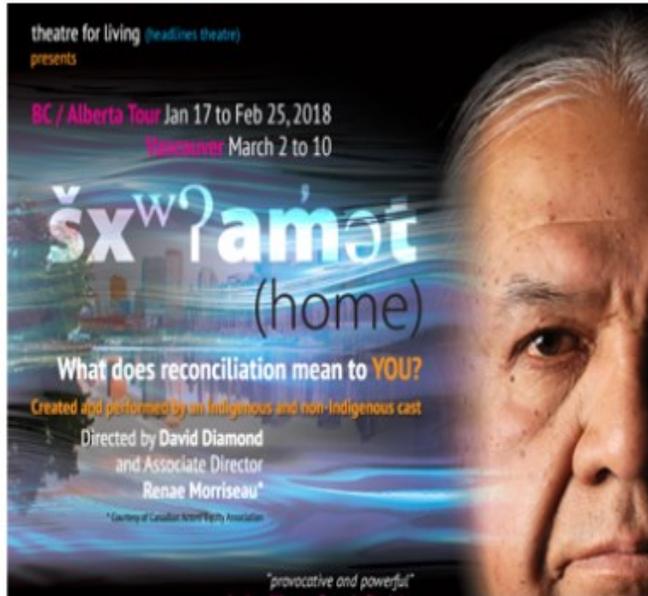
Care and Concern Committee
 for hospital and home visits, or just to talk...

Barbara Boyle at 250-381-0264

Val Roberts at 250-477-7192

or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

šxʷʔamət (home) is coming to Victoria January 19-20, 2018 and then travelling to 20



communities across BC and Alberta.

The title of this production, **šxʷʔamət**, is based on a **hə́łqəmiṇə́m** (a local Indigenous dialect) word used to reference **home**. This word has so many different meanings to all of us who are living on this land.

Created and performed by a mixed Indigenous and non-Indigenous cast and production team, **šxʷʔamət (home)** weaves together stories based on real life

and challenges us to make reconciliation real and honourable.

What Does Reconciliation Mean To You?

There's a conversation happening in Canada about Reconciliation and the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities across this country. If we are sincere about the desire for reconciliation, what kinds of shifts in perceptions and behaviours need to take place? What is the pulse of change each of us are shaping? How do we break down the walls of colonization that surround us all? Is Reconciliation possible without respecting promises and guarantees made regarding Indigenous consent for projects on Indigenous land?

šxʷʔamət (home) will invite audiences to change the patterns of behaviour inside characters who are struggling with these issues – patterns that audience members recognize inside themselves – and rehearse true reconciliation.

*"Provocative and entertaining, this production is created and performed by an Indigenous and non-Indigenous cast, and asks us to imagine what reconciliation really means. It is innovative theatre that is engaging and challenges your perceptions. **šxʷʔamət (home)** asks very important questions about how we navigate reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Canada in true and honourable ways that do not replicate colonial ways of the past and present."*

Victoria: two performances at the Songhees Wellness Centre, 1100 Admiral's Road

Friday, January 19 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, January 20 at 7:30 pm

Online tickets are available NOW for \$17.

[Detailed information and a link to buy your tickets online can be found here.](#)

Continued next page

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You will be able to purchase \$15 tickets personally in December and January at various locations [details forthcoming] or at the door for \$20.

“We expect it will be sold out, as the public response to the original 2017 Vancouver production was very powerful. We played to 91% houses and started getting invitations from communities as soon as we began. Purchase your tickets now.”



“provocative and powerful”
Andrea Warner, Georgia Straight

“Theatre for Living’s work is powerful, potent, connected.”
Humaira Hamid

“If you do nothing this year... at the very least GO SEE THIS PLAY!”
Betsy Bruyere, Aboriginal Community Equity Services

We acknowledge with gratitude the [Songhees Nation](#) for hosting the play at the Songhees Wellness Centre and for the active involvement of many Coast Salish communities in the region. The Victoria production is being sponsored jointly by Cadboro Bay United Church and First Unitarian Church of Victoria. Please forward to your friends and connections now. This is a unique opportunity, not to be missed.

Calendar Highlights December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10:00 Wreath Making 10:00 Farmhouse Ringers Rehearsal 10:30 Depression & Anxiety Support 12:45 Buddhist Meditation
3 10:30 Sunday Service* 12:00 AHA Meeting: Guest Speaker Avi Sirlin 12:00 Nuclear Disarmament Talk	4 10:00 Farmhouse Ringers Rehearsal 7:30 FUCV Pub Night (Canoe Brewpub)	5 1:00 Board Meeting	6	7 6:30 Men’s Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Chalice Choir Rehearsal	8 7:00 Winter Concert	9 12:45 Buddhist Meditation
10 9:30 Family Song Circle with Nancy Dobbs 10:30 Sunday Service* 12:15 Newcomer Orientation	11 10:00 Farmhouse Ringers Rehearsal	12 12:00 Sandy Merriman Cooking 12:00 SRC Potluck	13 1:00 Care & Concern Meeting	14 7:30 Chalice Choir Rehearsal 12:00 Staff Lunch	15	16 10:30 Depression & Anxiety Support 12:45 Buddhist Meditation
17 10:30 Intergeneration Sunday Service 12:00 Celebration for Faye	18	19 11:00 Committee on Ministry Meeting 7:00 Vespers Rehearsal	20	21 7:00 Winter Solstice Service & Vesperae Pro Serveto	22	23 12:45 Buddhist Meditation
24 <i>no A.M. service</i> 4:30 Christmas Eve Service for all Ages 8:00 Christmas Eve Vespers	25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 1:00 Community Potluck	26 <i>Boxing Day</i>	27	28	29	30 12:45 Buddhist Meditation
31 10:30 Sunday Service*						

*Children and youth programs run concurrently with the service.

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

Our Sheila Drew of the Avalon Singers invites you to this anniversary Celebration! Proceeds will fund a bursary for a University of Victoria music student.



the
Avalon
S I N G E R S
present

Bidding
You **Joy!**
on our 20th Anniversary

special guests
The Village Squires
Iris Hung

Laurie Walker, Director
Kathy Russell, Accompanist
with Brad Hawkes, Percussionist

Location: **St. Aidan's United Church**
370 St. Aidan's St.

Date: **Friday, December 15, 2017**

Time: **7:30 pm**

Admission: **\$15.00**

www.avalonsingers.com

Ads appearing in this issue are not necessarily endorsed by the church.



Astrid Firley-Eaton
Design

interior design
colour consultation

250-384-3405
afe@firley.ca

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:

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samvic@shaw.ca

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yanapetroniscounselling@gmail.com

Yana Petronis, MA, CCC

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Erin Lumley

Lawyer and Mediator
Jeremy Carr & Associates

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Please tell our receptionist that you require a mediator prior to sharing other information to ensure neutrality through the mediation process.

Legal Services Society matters accepted




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The **deadline** for submissions to
the **January** issue is **December 19**.
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).