



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

SERVICES IN DECEMBER

DATE: December 2, 2018
TITLE: Poverty: Three Voices
HOMILISTS: Don Vipond, Kym Hines,
Dar Levy

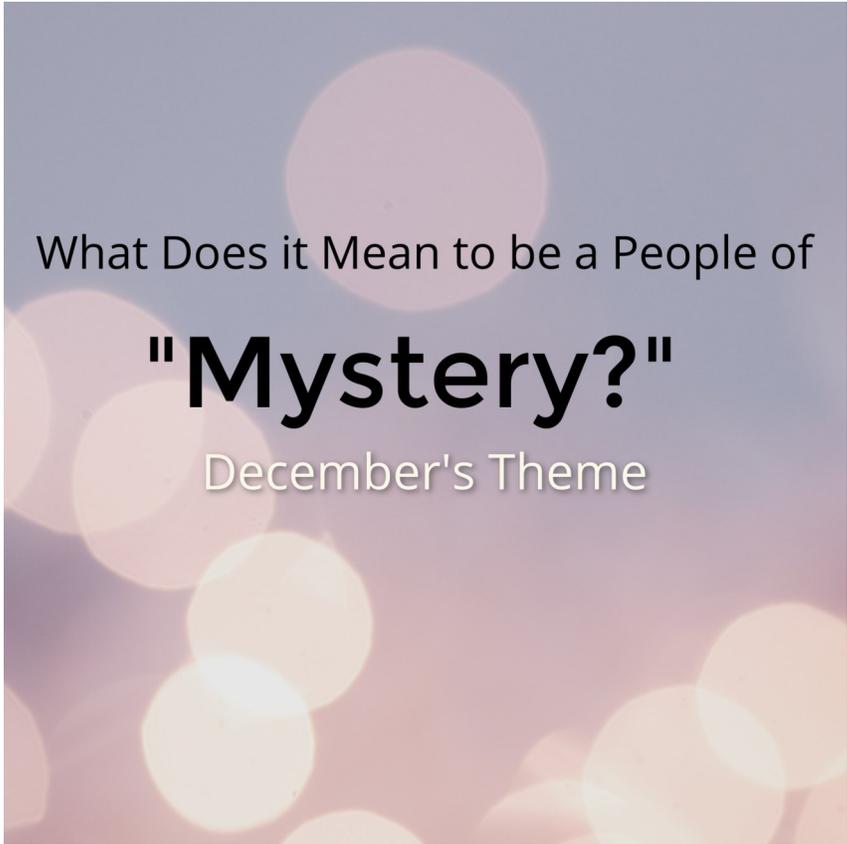
Chalice Choir

WA: Shelley Motz
Join the Social Responsibility Coalition
as they share three different
perspectives on the topic of poverty.

DATE: December 9, 2018
TITLE: Mystery Averse
HOMILIST: Rev. Melora Lynngood

Men's Choir

WA: Doug McGinnis
Does the unknown make you wary or
uncomfortable? Would you rather
know than not know? Unitarian
Universalists are often thought of as
people who are comfortable in the
'grey,' people who embrace the
mystery. But that's not easy for all of us. In this service, we look at the spiritual challenges presented to
those of us who tend to be mystery averse.



DATE: December 16, 2018
HOMILIST: Rev. Shana Lynngood
WA: Kressa Sissu

TITLE: At Home in the Unknown
Farmhouse Ringers

There is so much in life that is unknown and unknowable. How do we make peace with that fact? Can we even go so far as to find a home in that unknowing? Are there ways we can befriend the mysteries of human existence so that we can live with a greater sense of peace and calm in our everyday lives?



Continued on the next page...

Services continued from the previous page...

DATE: FRIDAY December 21, 2018

TITLE: Winter Solstice: Winter Quiet Spiral Ritual

HOMILIST: Arran Liddel, Director of SEL-CY & Rev. Melora

WA: Oliver Belisle

Gather in the Lion Hall at 4 pm for pizza and simple craft activities. At 4:45 pm, we'll move into the Sanctuary to begin our ritual by the light of a single candle at the centre of a spiral of evergreen boughs.

Each child will be invited to walk the spiral, in candlelight and slowly, magically, the room will grow brighter. The youngest children will go first. The "young at heart" will be invited to participate in the ritual after the children. Treats and hot apple cider await in the Lion Hall when the ritual is complete, or when the young grow restless.

Children and youth are invited to bring a small special object that gives them comfort or warmth in the winter nights that will be placed in the spiral before the ritual begins (objects will be returned to owners at the end).

DATE: December 23, 2018

TITLE: Experiencing the Mystery

HOMILIST: Rev. Melora Lynngood

Chalice Choir

WA: Shelley Motz

Come experience a sense of mystery in this service built of music, poetry, chanting, and meditation.

DATE: MONDAY December 24, 2018 at 4:30pm—Christmas Eve Family Service

TITLE: Familiar and Mysterious

HOMILIST: Rev. Shana Lynngood

WA: Madelaine Clarke

The Christmas story is so familiar that we have it memorized; and many have even become somewhat numb to its magic and charms because of its annual retelling. And yet, it has within it many mysteries and much beauty. In this intergenerational service, we will explore how to hear the story anew and seek a fresh connection to the message and possibility it contains.

DATE: December 30, 2018

TITLE: The Selfish Act of Giving

HOMILIST: Ryan Guenther

WA: Oliver Belisle

Charity and volunteering are almost always framed as altruistic actions, with all the focus on how someone else will benefit from our good deed. In fact, we often feel guilty about deriving pleasure from something which is supposed to be selfless. This is completely backwards, doing good should feel good because it's good, and it's okay to admit it. The road to hell is paved with good intentions, but a stairway to heaven can be built from selfish acts.



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DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE IS DECEMBER 18!

Don Mills, as an Elder, will light the chalice on Dec 16

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.



COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Talk to us. Do you have a concern about our church that you would like the ministers to know? One purpose of the Committee on Ministry (CoM) is centered on developing a strong, healthy relationship between the Minister(s) and the Congregation. Members of the CoM are:

Suellen Guenther, **Chair**; John Hopewell, Mark Danley, Jeri Dause, Andy Lee, Mary-Ellen Nicol.

Since September, many people within our church including the Annual Budget Campaign, the Finance Committee, Ministers and the Board, have been working diligently to develop a sustainable 2019 Budget. Congratulations to everyone for doing the best job we can.

Unfortunately, board members are facing a \$20,000 deficit budget and are recognizing a serious and growing trend over the last several years - that the deficit is growing each year. Finance Committee set the 2019 pledge target at \$336,000 but projected pledges are only \$327,500. Further, the 2019 budget reflected decreased levels of other revenue. We will not be in a position to approve most of the 2019 requests for funding, including staff benefits. Our hearts are in the right place but we are challenged with a shortfall in revenue.

75% of our revenues come from pledges and these funds go into supporting high quality church programs and services. Pledges are still coming in and we encourage you to keep them coming. We are still hoping to reach our goal. Decisions on the budget will be made at the December 4 Board Meeting.

This issue concerns us all and we must work together to solve the problem. In spite of the deficit situation, we are a strong and stable church that is well supported by our members. We know that we need to better understand how to put our church on a solid financial foundation for 2020 and beyond. The board approved the Terms of Reference for a Long Term Planning Committee to research patterns and trends to come up with a sustainable plan for the 2020 budget and beyond.

My optimism comes from knowing how great we are as a church. In the last short while, consider what we have accomplished. We have inspiring services; a wonderful program for children, terrific music and special events such as the reconciliation talks by Dr. Brokenleg and Maureen Gruben our Inuvialuit artist-in-residence. Last, but not least, our church plays a significant leadership role in the region with our GVAT outreach. All these programs deserve continued support.

See this amazing video that was premiered on Sunday, Nov. 18th at GVAT's Discernment Assembly. <https://app.frame.io/presentations/e11f08c8-da51-4588-a0b2-45ffa976efb3>. A sizeable FUCV delegation was led by Rev. Melora and Susan Layng.

Board members would be happy to hear your comments. You may contact Marion Pape at marion-pape@shaw.ca or any other member of the board. Thanks for caring so deeply.

“We cannot accomplish all that we need to do without working together”.

Bill Richardson

The Location Task Force has begun its work. Last year's strategic planning process told us that within our congregation there is a very wide range of views about our location. The purpose of the Task Force is to report to the Board and congregation on how we can improve on current use of our property and whether new places and formats for church activities should be used.



Does this mean there is currently a proposal to sell our property? No!

Does it mean we are exploring all options to improve accessibility to our services and programs? Yes!

By the end of 2019 the Task Force will prepare a report to the Board with options and recommendations and any major decisions will be made by the congregation.

Currently the Task Force is developing our work plan, sifting pertinent information from last year's strategic planning process, analysing where our members live, and starting to look at some churches that offer programs from more than one site. As we move forward we'll be examining demographic information and projections, taking a close look at our property and its potential, questioning whether there are better alternatives, and consulting with anyone who wishes to talk to us, both face-to-face and through a survey.

In the meantime, feel free to speak to any of the Task Force members to answer your questions or provide your advice. We are all in the directory.

John Hopewell & Liz Graham (co-chairs), Steve Sharlow & Shirley Travis, assisted by Rebecca Mellett (Board Member), Marion Pape (President) & Rev. Shana Lynngood.



Christmas Wreath Making for the Sanctuary

an invitation from Hanny and Betty

On Saturday December 8th 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 am 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.

In this month that will bring us winter solstice and Christmas and send us quickly toward a new year, we will explore the theme of mystery. For some the idea of mystery is maddeningly unclear. We want answers and certainty. We like to feel in control and able to steer our way through our days. For others, the notion of mystery is comforting and simply part of life's equation. Whether you find the notion of mystery—all that can not be explained about existence—calming or frightening, this month will be a chance to dig deeper and explore. Where do you find you feel answers are necessary? Are there places in your life where not knowing and trusting the many possibilities felt hopeful, or even empowering? As we explore I invite you to consider the questions below from our Soul Matters Network and also your own sense of your comfort level with mystery. Do you have a high threshold for sitting with the unknown? Or, do you find yourself impatient and frustrated by things that defy easy explanation? However you feel, it will be good to explore it together.

See you in church,

Rev. Shana

1. What was the first mystery to capture your imagination? How does that still shape you today?
2. Who has taught you the most about “living with and loving the mystery”?
3. What’s the most unprovable thing you place your faith in?
4. What mysterious experience still nags at your disbelief?
5. Pico Iyer says that, “The opposite of knowledge isn't always ignorance. It can be wonder. Or mystery. Possibility. And in my life, I've found it's the things I don't know that have lifted me up and pushed me forwards, much more than the things I do know.” When has “what you don't know” pushed you forward into new possibilities and greater knowing?
6. It's said that we stop struggling to feel at peace once we experience the mysterious and transcendent “love that will not let us go.” Has this been true for you? Maybe more importantly, what if it's true?
7. **What's your question?** Your question may not be listed above. As always, if the above questions don't include what life is asking from you, spend the month listening to your days to hear it.



The Mystery that is Life

Twos Weeks Before Christmas

Imagine this. You are sitting on a piece of damp cardboard in a downtown store alcove. You have two scarves wrapped around your neck and over your head. It is raining, not hard, not lightly, just steady. It is past midnight but the merry store and street lights keep you awake, only allow you to doze. You are chilled through and through, you can't feel your toes in your wet socks – and it's a long time before Rev. Al arrives in the dawn's early light, with your wake-up coffee and maybe a blanket. Meanwhile who's going to come by to hassle you? Police? Thugs?



Homeless in the night.

That's why we are asking you to look at this shopping list and deliver long before Christmas: Toques, mitts, towels, sleeping bags, gloves, socks, scarves, sleeping bags, new underwear, water-proof boots. You can build on these needs, given the above scenario.

Please brings such gifts to the church, soonest. They are needed now. We'll forgo the collection for the Christmas Eve service this year, given the urgency. If you put them in or on or beside the purple tote box alongside the table near the front door, we'll see they get to those in need downtown. Right away.

Thank you.

Don Vipond

First Unitarian Support for Children in Mongolia

by June Fukushima

B.C. residents Chelvan and Julie Veloo could not turn away from what they experienced in Mongolia. They witnessed children and adults living outside in freezing temperatures near garbage dumps so they could feed themselves and make their livings from what they scavenged. These villagers' nomadic, herding way of life had ended as the horses they relied upon died from the extreme cold. As non-registered residents of Ulaanbaatar, the villagers fend for themselves but now have the support of the Veloo Foundation. <http://www.veloofoundation.com>



The church's Zoie Gardner Overseas Fund (ZGOF), dedicated to the education of girls overseas, made a financial contribution in 2018 to support the girls (and boys) in the project called Children of the Peak through the construction of a new kindergarten building.

Julie Veloo wrote to the ZGOF team:

"Thank you so much for being so instrumental in helping us be able to offer these children a real and tangible brighter future. It will be SO wonderful to be able to say that there truly are no more children under the age of six scavenging in the garbage to survive!"

The Zoie Gardner Overseas Fund is privately funded. If you have interest in this fund, please contact June at june.fukushima@gmail.com or Fran Hancock at hancockf@telus.net.

Songs for a Winter's Night

Saturday December 8 at 7pm

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

**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

Spiritual Exploration & Learning: A People of Mystery

The theme of mystery seems like a good fit for the quiet, dark and contemplative month. But that's a paradox, isn't it? To create the holiday mood, we go crazy with the hustle and bustle of parties, gifts, decor, merriment, and services. And yet at the center of the season sits the symbol of the opposite of busyness: The quiet flame of a candle standing out against the deepening of the night, capturing the mystery that it often takes darkness and silence for us to perceive, hear and connect to what matters most. Taking us to this mysterious space of clarity and connection is what this month's children's sessions are all about:

- Dec 2: "Let the Mystery Be" - invites our children into the practice of connecting to gratitude and appreciation.
- Dec 9: "The Mystery All Around Us" - invites our children into the practice of connecting to the miraculous in the ordinary.

Dec 16: "The Mystery of Us" - invites our children into the practice of connecting to the divine in others and ourselves.

Dec 16 is the last day of children's programming for the winter holidays. Programs will resume Jan 6

Learn more about upcoming sessions here: <https://victoriaunitarian.ca/children-youth/curriculum/>

We will also have two intergenerational services in December:

- Dec 21 (Friday): "Winter Solstice, Winter Quiet" intergenerational service
- Dec 24 (Monday): Christmas Eve intergenerational service

See pages 1-2 for descriptions

May your holiday season be rich with the mystery of creative chaos that always seems to magically work itself out. And as you help our children sit back and wonder at the many gifts all around us, may you to find yourself visited by those same moments of gratitude and awe.

10
things
I hate
about
you



Youth Movie Night (Grades 6-12) : Friday, Nov 30

5.30 pm at Quadra Village Community Centre

Join us for Friday night movies! We will explore how relationships (friendships, family community and romantic) are portrayed in film. Do they portray the type of relationships we would like to have? How would you do things differently? Popcorn provided!

10 Things I Hate About You is a 1999 film about a pretty, popular teenager who can't go out on a date until her ill-tempered older sister does. The film parallels

Shakespeare's comedy, *The Taming of the Shrew*, set in a modern-day high school. [wikiquote.org]

To register visit: <https://victoriaunitarian.ca/children-youth/>

Winter Solstice: Winter Quiet, Friday, Dec 21

Gathering at 4 pm; ritual begins at 4:45 pm.



Gather in the Lion Hall at 4 pm for pizza and simple craft activities. At 4:45 pm, we'll move into the Sanctuary to begin our ritual by the light of a single candle at the centre of a spiral of evergreen boughs. Followed by hot apple cider in the Lion Hall when the ritual is complete. **All are welcome.**



Our Whole Lives - Sexuality Program for Youth

Between January and June 2019 we will offer OWL Programs for children and youth in **grade 4 - 8, 7 - 9** and **grade 10 - 12***. Our trained OWL leaders look forward to helping youth explore questions about relationships and healthy boundaries in this relevant, age-appropriate, inclusive and interactive program. It is built on four core values:

- Self worth
- Sexual Health
- Responsibility
- Justice and Inclusivity

* **Grade 10 - 12 OWL** will be offered in weekend retreat format to allow youth from outside Victoria to participate.

We will have an information session for parents on **December 2nd, at noon** in the Farmhouse Common room.

OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Lorna Anthony: Past President. was born and raised in beautiful Victoria. When I married Earle in 1967 we moved to Kamloops and then Kelowna for 10 years where our two daughters were born. Upon returning to Victoria in 1977 we were looking for a spiritual home for our family and learned about the Unitarian Church in James Bay. We joined in 1978. I returned to university full-time in 1979 so my volunteer activities were mainly during the Spring of those years between university classes ending and the children's summer vacation. I typed library cards for the new Alcorn Library and I typed the directory. A gestetner was used – no computers in those days! I graduated from UVic with a Psychology degree and then worked 3 ½ days a week as an Infant Development Consultant at Queen Alexandra Centre for Children's Health. Dr. John Tibbles was my Medical Director. At church I chaired several canvasses and helped out where needed in other areas. Earle and I moved to North Vancouver from 1990 to 1995. Earle had taken a job in Vancouver in 1988 so there was a lot of commuting both ways until our younger daughter graduated from high school in 1990. My time in North Vancouver was consumed with being coordinator of the North Shore Special Olympics. When we returned to the Island, we bought a small acreage in Central Saanich and developed a hobby farm which we ran for 12 years. The church had moved to West Saanich Road. Since then I have been active in a number of areas – among them are Chair, Special Events Fundraising; Chair, Canvass; Ruth Humphreys Fund; Service Auction; President; Past President. I have enjoyed all areas of my involvement mainly because of the people I have worked with and being able to get to know them at a more personal level. A time that remains extra special for me was having the honour of being part of the Search Committee which brought Revs. Melora and Shana to First Unitarian.



Kathleen Zimmerman: Board Secretary. Kathleen grew up on a small family farm in the Interior of BC, the daughter of Swiss immigrants. After volunteering on a moshav in Israel, she decided to study agriculture (a B.Sc. and a M.Sc.) at the University of Guelph in Ontario. She met her first husband at Guelph, and they worked together in Indonesia on a Sustainable Development Project for two years. Their son was born in Jakarta. After returning to Canada and completing a second M.Sc. (Resource Management) at UBC, she worked in the agricultural sector for almost 20 years.

While studying at UBC she was introduced to Unitarianism, and became a member of South Fraser Unitarian Congregation in Surrey for over 20 years. In a small congregation everyone pitches in, so over the years she held the positions of Board Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, and worked on various committees.

After being widowed, she decided to move to Vancouver Island and met her second husband. They live on a small farm in Metchosin, and she loves the return to her rural roots.



Marion Pape: Board President, served as Vice-President of the Board, 2017-18. She also served on the Environmental Action Team, SRC, FUCV GVAT Core team and GVAT Board of Directors. Born in a small Roman Catholic homestead north west of Toronto she attended high school and university in Toronto and has since, seen this beautiful country to the north, east and west. She moved from the NWT to Halifax as Nova Scotia Provincial Librarian in 1993 where she first became a Unitarian. She was a member of First Ottawa Unitarian Congregation when she worked on secondment with Industry Canada for two years on a public access to the Internet granting program. She moved to Victoria from Salt Spring Island in 2012, with her husband, Manfred, who died in 2013. She was a member of the Salt Spring Unitarian Fellowship, having served for 6 years as Lay Chaplain. She is also a member of the Salt Spring Zen Circle where she accepted the Buddhist precepts in 2014. She served as alternate CRD Director for Salt Spring Island with Gary Holman for 5 years. As a librarian, her emphasis was on implementing state of the art, on-line information systems that could not be bent at the corners and democratizing access to information for people from the smallest fishing villages to the towns and cities of Nova Scotia. Marion strives to bring her bodhisattva heart to what she loves best in engaging people in making decisions for the common good. Thinking strategically, she enjoys the FUCV Strategic Planning process. Marion is blessed with a son, Andrew, who lives in Victoria with his wife, Sara and 4 year old Sheamus. She is impressed with the generosity of spirit and caring nature of the FUCV congregation and hopes to contribute to decision-making on the board that will be both loving and enduring.



UU Women's Retreat at Bethlehem Centre February 8th to 10th, 2019

Special rate of \$215.00 includes six delicious meals, private rooms, and a main room for activities. Expect connection with other women, several discussion circles to choose from and time for yourself. There is a 6km trail around the small lake and a labyrinth to walk in the centre's beautiful and relaxing setting. Expect spiritual renewal at this special place and time.

Spaces are limited and registration will be happening very soon. To hold your space, contact Jane (janefoxincomox@gmail.com)

NOTE: There are 4 accessible rooms available

This Lifeline thing – for those in peril in the neighborhood

New person: What is this thing I hear about called Lifeline?

Old person: The name actually is the Lifeline List Project and it's been operating a church project for 14 years.

New person: What's it do and why?

Old person: Let me begin with a little history. Thirteen years ago, we were getting a sporadic but persistent stream of phone calls to the church office from people asking for help. Most calls came from local women and many of them had run out of food for their children and were looking for help. Or they were going to be evicted or have their phone or their electricity cut off, Our response was uneven, to say the least. Some people we helped, some got lost in the shuffle. What we badly needed was a consistent rational, practical, compassionate approach to assisting where we could - and some way to finance that help.

New person: And that was the Lifeline List Project?

Old Person: Right.

New person: How does it work?

Old person: The project comes in three parts. First, the sponsors. We said to church members and friends: if you will become a sponsor for the Lifeline List, here is what we promise: We will only ask you for money once a year and never for more than \$200, sometimes less. We will only call on you when we have a local person with an urgent need and we will tell you what we can about them without betraying confidences. And if you become a sponsor, you can get off the list any time you want, with just a phone call, no questions asked.

New Person: When these people call for help, how do you know if it's genuine?

Old person: That's part 2. The project has a handful of experienced women from our church who serve as assessors. Only women do this work because most of the people we help are women. An assessor visits the person who has asked for help, meets them face to face, listens carefully, looks around, gets the details.

New person: Then what?

Old person: The assessor writes a report on what she has found and makes a recommendation. Or she may want to talk to the administration team about what she found. Together, they settle on a response. If it's to help, the administration team usually delivers the help. We don't give cash. We pay bills, deal directly with landlords, maybe buy food vouchers. Frequently we invite the trustees of the Ethel May Trust, another church fund, to help cover the costs.

New person: Sounds organized. How's it working?

Old person: Really well. Over the years we've developed good working relationships with a number of local organizations, the Cridge Centre for the Family and Victoria Women's Transition House, to name two, They sometimes refer urgent situations to us. The assessors protect us from being scammed and the sponsors (there are about 65 of them at the moment) make it happen. The project has been tweaked over the years and now runs like a well-oiled machine – one which helps us to live our principles. Since October of 2004, we've helped about 400 local families get past barricades which had them desperate.

New person: Why are you telling me all this?

Old person: Two reasons. First, you asked; second, we always need sponsors The administrators are Don Vipond donandclare@shaw.ca and Margaret McKelvie MMcKelvie@Richmond-systems.com and they will be happy to field any of your questions or comments.

Khaled, Raweah and their children are settling into Victoria well. They have been with us just under two months and are now happy to be based in their own home on Blackwood Street in the Hillside area. Andy, Hanny, Betty and Pat spent a few busy days at the beginning of November organizing the move, setting up the kitchen, and working with the family's cousin and friends who unloaded the truck and carried furniture. It was truly a group event. On moving day, children played on the floor and women from the Syrian community kindly provided a wonderful dinner for our volunteers.

Khaled and Raweah are now very eager to dive into ESL training and are moving quickly in that direction with Pat's assistance. Khaled has been studying alone and as a result, has qualified to enrol in Level 3 ESL classes at the Inter-Cultural Association for 6 hours per week; on January 7 he will start Level 2 English at Camosun College which has also granted him full financial aid to assist with the course. The Refugee Committee is investigating child care assistance for Raweah to free her for ESL training outside the home and, in the meantime, Shelagh, Colin Nelson and Katherine are spear heading a growing group of volunteers who will help with conversational English sessions at Blackwood Street.

Mohammed, the family's six year old little boy, had his first day at kindergarten at Quadra Elementary on November 13 and walked the few blocks for the first time with Claire and his mother. Exciting days ahead for him, probably with stories to tell his younger sister, Wasan.

While some time is devoted to dental and medical visits organized and managed by Mariko and supported with ongoing translation assistance by Sara, the family has enjoyed Fall outings with volunteers to Willows Beach, Swan Lake, Central Library and beyond.

Volunteers who would like to assist the family are very welcome and should contact Lynne Bonner.



THE FOOD BANKS FUND collected over \$1000 this summer,

The amount was divided:

St John the Divine Food Bank \$500

Shelbourne Food Kitchen -\$500

We have 6 food banks to which we rotate the donations, totally about \$3000 a year.

Any questions?



NEWS FLASH!

At the GVAT Discernment Day

on November 18th, the results of the voting by the 21-member organizations was finalized. The two issues that garnered the most votes were Housing and Mental Health/Addictions. It was determined that both issues would be looked at through a climate change and reconciliation lens. The FUCV Core Group seriously considered each theme carefully concentrating on the four that were voted on by our congregation. It was not an easy process, but ultimately, we chose to place our vote on Housing and Climate Change. There was some disappointment within the room that Climate Change was not selected as its own theme, but it was emphasized that a climate change lens would be a very important component of Housing and Mental Health. The next step will be the Action Research Teams which will work on the research and investigation of each issue in detail to be able to present our findings to the decision makers. If you are passionate and motivated to be a part of an ART (Action Research Team), please let the Core Team know. Your participation would be most welcome.



"...an alliance of like-minded organizations (unions, congregations, environmental and front line service groups) working together to build a strong power base and creating a grass-roots cohesive response to social-justice issues that will hold politicians responsible for decades to come . . ."

At a GVAT Meeting held on Thursday, November 8th, the Strategy Hub, that is, representatives from the member organizations came to a consensus regarding the six themes that will be presented and voted on at the Discernment Day to be held at Cadboro Bay United Church on Sunday, November 18th. There were thirteen in all gleaned from the listening campaigns held by most of our 21 members. The top six in order of priority were:

- 1. HOUSING**
- 2. POVERTY, EMPLOYMENT & INCOME INEQUALITY**
- 3. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT**
- 4. MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION**
- 5. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**
- 6. SOCIAL ISOLATION & AGE-RELATED COMMUNITY NEEDS – YOUNG AND OLD**

FUVC had placed Housing, Climate Change, Mental Health and Poverty as our top four. It appears most of our member organizations had the same outcome which isn't surprising. From this list of six, members from the 21 organizations will vote and narrow the selection down to two issues. Once the two themes are decided, we will then require 'energetic' people to work on the Action Research Teams to study and do the research needed to become knowledgeable in the various aspects of the issue. This process will commence in the new year.

LNG Could Undermine BC Climate Plan

The Environmental Action Team (EAT) would like to present some points for your consideration before the release of the BC Climate Action Plan. Our members have a strong ongoing concern about climate change and its effects, which was reinforced by the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.

We feel that any expansion of fossil fuel production cannot be justified. At this time such production must be curtailed if there is to be any hope of constraining global temperature rise to non-catastrophic levels. In this regard we applaud efforts by the BC government to oppose the Trans Mountain pipeline but feel strongly that any expansion of LNG production would be equally detrimental to climate goals.

Some estimates suggest that we would need to eliminate all fossil fuel cars and home heating by 2030 to balance out the huge impact of LNG if we want to meet our inadequate greenhouse gas reduction goals. The Citizen's Climate Lobby estimates that we are already losing over \$1 billion in annual subsidies promoting the fossil fuel industry, which includes tax and royalty breaks as well as tax exemptions and rebates. This is money that we can't afford to lose--and money that is slowing our transition to a clean-energy economy.

Ideally, we would like to see a 95% reduction in Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) by 2040. Many municipalities are already moving in this direction and it is achievable if we reallocate all current fossil fuel subsidies to renewable energy. We should be providing more incentives and infrastructure for electric vehicles, transit and cycling as a way to reduce our transportation footprint. A carefully monitored annual carbon budget would be a useful tool and has proved very successful in the UK. We encourage you to use the foregoing as a basis for writing to your local MLA.

ZOIE GARDNER OVERSEAS FUND**JUNE FUKUSHIMA**

Own Don School, Myanmar/Burma

The Zoie Gardner Overseas Fund team is pleased to report that in 2018, the fund supported the building of the Own Don School in the Mandalay region of Myanmar/Burma. This was one of seven schools built by the Canadian charity, MBSF, under the direction of Roger and Sharon Brain of North Vancouver.



The impetus to build schools in Myanmar/Burma came as a result of Roger and Sharon experiencing an unexpected life-changing event that shook Roger's sense of purpose. Sharon introduced Roger to her Buddhist meditation teacher Steve Armstrong who had trained as a monk in Burma.

Steve invited Roger to accompany him to Myanmar/Burma to visit Buddhist monasteries. In speaking to the monks in remote villages, it became clear to Roger and Steve that building schools would have a significant impact on the lives of children, families and villages. Many schools have been built since that initial visit, including teacher accommodation, and a nunnery that serves as a home and school for orphans.

For more information about the charity in Myanmar: <http://myanmarburmaschools.ca>

(Please know that citizens of Myanmar refer to their country as Myanmar.)

The Zoie Gardner Overseas Fund (ZGOF) is a privately funded project of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria. The member's intention for the fund is to provide support for the education of girls in overseas countries.

A Board appointed committee of church members, identifies and monitors appropriate Canadian charities to receive gifts. In 2018, funds were given to four school projects in four countries: Mongolia, Sierra Leone, Burma/Myanmar and India (Child Haven). For more information, contact Fran Hancock, Christine Johnston, June Fukushima, John Worton, Remi Odense or Jim Hackler.

Two well-known local organizations, both registered Canadian charities, will share the open plate offerings of our faith community in December. They are the **Bridges for Women Society** and the **Dandelion Society**.

Bridges for Women is a gutsy, innovative community agency inspiring women impacted by violence or abuse, to reclaim their lives and build economic stability. It includes self-identified women and members of the LGBTQ community. Bridges draws on its extensive knowledge of the impacts of abuse on employability, to provide education, training and consulting to community agencies, employers and government. Its aim is to see all of the women who come to it enter the workforce as financially independent, self-sufficient members of the labour market, free from the impacts of trauma and abuse that previously held them back.

The Dandelion Society supports the street ministry of Reverend Al Tysick. Known as “Rev Al” by Victoria’s street community, he has been committed to the streets – where his heart and “family” are – for over 40 years. Every morning, “the Rev” hits the streets at 5:30 am, with coffee, muffins, and whatever warm supplies he has. When those who sleep outside are awakened by the sounds of an awakening city, Al is there to make sure everyone has a safe and welcoming start to their day. He spends the rest of his day going from hospitals to jails to residencies, helping those he visits in whatever way they need. Wherever he is, Al reminds people that they matter. He treats marginalized persons with dignity and respect by offering them the best of his compassion, hope and care.

These two organization will share half the open plate offerings through the five Sundays of December and the Christmas Eve service. They do good stuff. When the plate comes your way, please be generous.

Meanwhile, among our Maasai friends in Tanzania . . .

KRESSA SISU

On behalf of “Maasai Friends4Good,” I thank our congregation again for such generous donations. Here is an update you on this project. The foundation for the school dormitory is completed and once the next group of volunteers arrives next spring, they will continue working on the walls. I will keep you informed of progress.



In a November service, Rev. Melora raised very real issues which occur when well-meaning folks go to developing nations, in Africa or elsewhere, to “help.” I, too, have seen this in a village near ours, where an aid organization has built a structure - and it sits empty. I want to assure you that with our work in the Maasai community, we take all our direction from the Elders and make sure we do not place our values on them. We honour their culture and give control and ownership to the community. We also work with the community when actually doing a build and have knowledgeable contractors working with us. Typically, we do the “grunt” work and let the experts do the work that requires the expertise we don't have. I have learned so much from our community and feel so grateful for how openly and lovingly we are received. They have much to teach us.

**Unanswered questions
are far less dangerous
than unquestioned
answers.**

One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn't as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress, and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing."
- Jean Vanier

Our mission is conversation, not conversion.



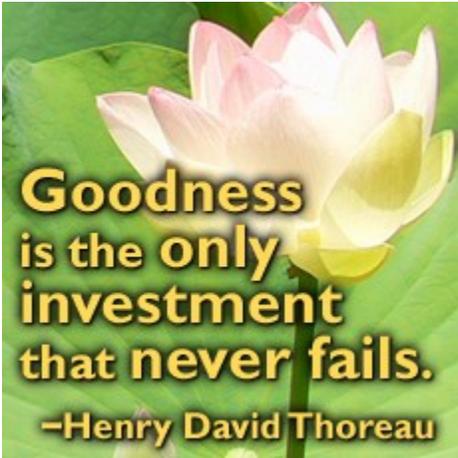
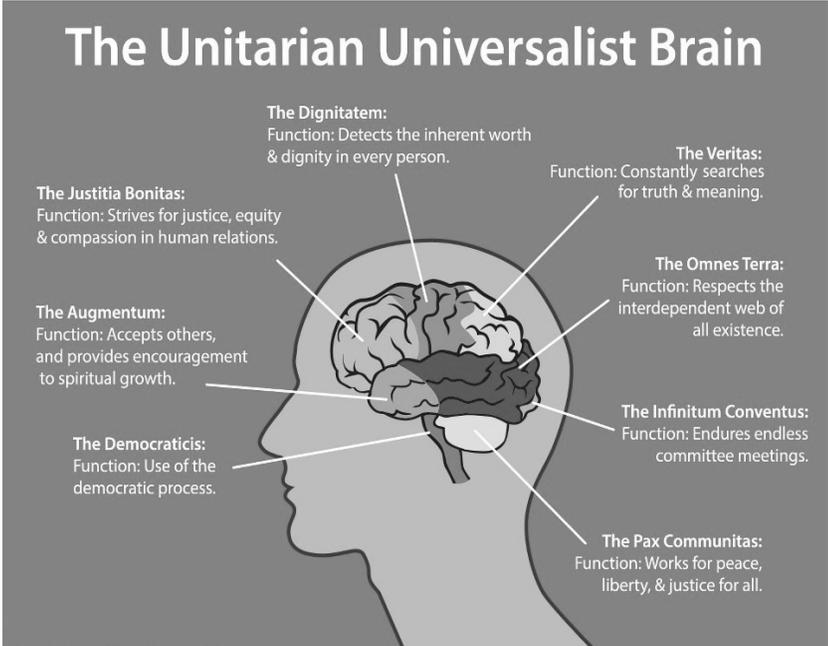
Unitarian Universalists don't believe in coercion, but we know that there are people in the world who would love to know the name we have for the ideas and values that they already live by.

Our goal is to welcome them into a community that nurtures their best self.

Words

We are not isolated beings, but connected, in mystery and miracle, to the universe and to each other.

— Anonymous
VISIT: UUA.ORG/WORSHIP



**Goodness
is the only
investment
that never fails.**

-Henry David Thoreau

Calendar Highlights

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 10:30 Depression & Anxiety Support 12:45 Buddhist Meditation
2 10:30 Sunday Service* 10:30 Youth Art Salon 11:30 Coffee & Tea Time 12:00 AHA Meeting 12:00 OWL Parent Info Session	3 10:00 Farmhouse Ringers Rehearsal	4 11:00 Committee on Ministry Meeting 5:00 Board Meeting	5	6 1:30 Refugee Committee Meeting 6:30 Men's Choir 7:30 Chalice Choir	7	8 12:45 Buddhist Meditation 7:00 Winter Choir Concert
9 10:30 Sunday Service* 10:30 Soul Matters for Parents 11:30 Coffee & Tea Time 12:00 Newcomer Orientation 12:15 Share the Plate Meeting	10 10:00 Farmhouse Ringers Rehearsal	11 11:00 Sandy Merriman Cooking 12:30 Staff Lunch 2:30 SRC Meeting 6:00 Worship Associates Meeting	12 1:00 Care & Concern Meeting	13 7:30 Chalice Choir	14 6:00 Community Dinner	15 10:30 Depression & Anxiety Support 12:45 Buddhist Meditation
16 10:30 Sunday Service* 11:30 Coffee & Tea Time	17	18	19	20 7:30 Chalice Choir	21 4:30 Intergenerational Winter Quiet Spiral Ritual	22 Church Office Closed 12:45 Buddhist Meditation
23 Church Office Closed 10:30 Sunday Service* 11:30 Coffee & Tea Time	24 Church Office Closed 4:30 Multigenerational Christmas Eve Service	25 Church Office Closed Christmas Day	26 Church Office Closed	27 Church Office Closed	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed 12:45 Buddhist Meditation
30 Church Office Closed 10:30 Sunday Service* 11:30 Coffee & Tea Time	31 Church Office Closed	Church Office Closed New Year's Day				

*Children and youth programs run concurrently with the service.

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



December Birthdays

- 1 Mike Greenly
- 4 Daphne Horne, Victoria Barr
- 5 Dawn Fizzard
- 6 Michael Eckford, Edie Taylor,
Jim Willis
- 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 Banaee,
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 Sutmoller
- 23 Ruth Welburn



Members and Friends Changes

New Member: Jenny Heston

Dale Rasmussen is now a friend (no longer a member) of the Church.

Contact Info Changes

Karen Furnes has a new email address:

karfurma@gmail.com

Nancy Dobbs has a new email address:

nandobbs@telus.net

Board Members on Duty

Dec. 2 – Nancy Dobbs

Dec. 9 – Lynn Hunter

Dec. 16 – Susan Layng

Dec. 23 – Steve Sharlow

Dec. 30 – Bruce Nicol

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

5575 West Saanich Road • Victoria BC • V9E 2G1 • 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.

Minister Emerita

Reverend Jane Bramadat

250-652-1272

Lay Chaplains

laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

Oceanna Hall 250-886-1077

Kjerstin Mackie 250-598-5975

Anne Vaasjo 250-385-1603

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth

Arran Liddel 250-744-2695
arran@victoriaunitarian.ca

Arran is in the office Tue, Wed, Thu and Sun

Director of Music

Nick Fairbank
music@victoriaunitarian.ca

Church Administrator

Nadia Kozak
churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

Communications Assistant

Natalie Brake
communications@victoriaunitarian.ca

Officers

President	Marion Pape
Past President	Lorna Anthony
Vice President	Steve Sharlow
Treasurer	Earle Anthony
Secretary	Kathleen Zimmerman

Board Members

Trustee	Bruce Nicol
Trustee	Nancy Dobbs
Trustee	Lynn Hunter
Trustee	Rebecca Mellett
Trustee	Susan Layng
Trustee	John Tiffany
Trustee	Mike Graham

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!

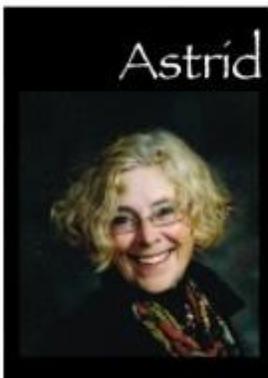
Care and Concern Committee

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

Barbara Boyle at 250-381-0264

Val Roberts at 250-477-7192

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



Astrid Firley-Eaton
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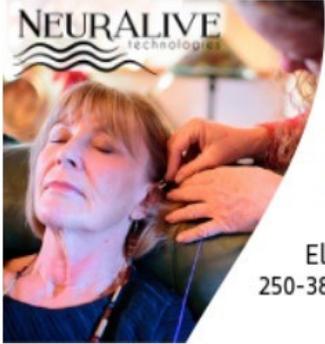
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SONG CIRCLE – EVERYONE WELCOME
 Nancy Dobbs and Jewel Spooner



*In the Sanctuary:
 2:30pm-4pm Friday, November 30.*

Join us for songs of peace and joy... familiar, new, folk, world songs, light hearted, chants. Jewel will also lead a (participation optional) sacred dance.

The Law of the Land: Learning with Indigenous Law
 Wednesday December 5, 6:30 -9:00 pm
 Legacy Gallery, 630 Yates St., Victoria
 Doors open at 5:30 pm



The RELAW Project
 REVITALIZING INDIGENOUS LAW
 FOR LAND, AIR & WATER

What is Indigenous law? How is it different from Aboriginal law, or Canadian law? This interactive workshop will answer these questions and introduce some important current initiatives in the revitalization of indigenous laws. Together we will explore ways we can support the promotion and enforcement of Indigenous laws to protect what we love - our waters, forests, salmon, and the air we breathe.

Maxine Hayman Matilpi (JD, LL.M) is a member of the Kwakiutl Nation and also of Ma'antigila/ Scottish/English descent. She is Project Lead for RELAW (Revitalizing Indigenous Law for Land, Air and Water) at West Coast Environmental Law.

Lindsay Borrows (Chippewas of Nawash First Nation) is a lawyer and researcher at the Indigenous Law Research Unit at the University of Victoria. She was previously a staff lawyer at West Coast Environmental Law, and is the author of *Otter's Journey through Indigenous Language and Law* (UBC Press, 2018)

Hannah Askew (J.D., M.A.) is the Executive Director of Sierra Club BC. Previously she worked as staff lawyer at West Coast Environmental Law. Over the past ten years of her career, Hannah has also been deeply involved in learning from Indigenous communities about their systems of law and governance.

This workshop is being held at the Legacy Art Gallery in conjunction with *Testify*, a celebration of Indigenous Law through Art. (testifyindigenous.ca). Participants are invited to come early to view and interact with the art. Light refreshments will be provided.

Cost: \$10-20 sliding scale

Pre-registration Required by November 30th : Please register at dnadeau@look.ca. This is the second workshop in a three part series. Sponsors are First Metropolitan United Church, Kairos, Indigenous Solidarity Group and the Sierra Club.

The First Unitarian Church of Victoria
5575 West Saanich Road
Victoria, BC V9E 2G1

Phone: 250-744-2665

E-mail: churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

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

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