

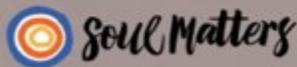


*The Victoria Unitarian*  
FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA  
*Growing in Spirit, Living with Compassion, Inspired to Serve*

SERVICES IN JANUARY

A People of

Possibility



**DATE: January 6, 2019**

TITLE: What we've Done, Where we're Going

HOMILIST: Sonya Ignatieff, Susan Layng, and Philip Symons

CHOIR: No choir

WA: Samantha Magnus

As a member organization of GVAT (Greater Victoria Acting Together), this service will review our accomplishments over the past year – training new leaders, conducting listening campaigns and holding our Discernment Day as 22 diverse organizations came together to set our platform for 2019. We will explore where we are headed as we harness the incredible power to make a difference in our communities. The possibilities are endless!

**DATE: January 13, 2019**

TITLE: Open and Willing

HOMILIST: Rev. Shana Lynngood

CHOIR: Chalice Choir

WA: Doug McGinnis

Part of exploring possibility has to do with how much we think the possible is possible. Are we set in our ways? Do we think things are as they will always be? Or, are we open to what may yet be? What are you open to and what feels set or forgone in your life?

**DATE: January 13, 2019**

TITLE: Love and Heartache (Jazz Vespers)

HOMILIST: Washington & Cook Band

Maureen Washington & Daniel Cook play a variety of classic standards to well crafted original music. The music is jazz, blues, west-coast country and Latin. Their vocal harmonies meld beautifully and capture the essence of every song they perform together.

**For details see page 10.**

*Services continued next page*

**DATE: January 20, 2019**

**TITLE: Possibilities for U (and U)**

**HOMILIST: Rev. Melora Lynngood**

**CHOIR: No choir**

**WA: Oliver Belisle**

It's been true for a while now. Many mainstream progressive protestant religions are losing members. Unitarian Universalism (UUism) isn't declining quite as drastically as the others – in many congregations, we are holding steady— but we're not growing either. Also, we have fewer Gen X 'ers and Millennials in our ranks than other ages. Why? We are a vibrant intergenerational community of progressive people that care for one another and the world we share. We support one another –and learn from one another—as we walk our various and varied spiritual paths. How can we offer this gift in a way that makes it accessible for a wider range of people? What new ways of doing things might we try?

**This service begins with a Child Dedication Ceremony for baby Bowen Winter Sterling.**

**DATE: January 27, 2019**

**TITLE: Gandhi & "Desireless Action": Non-Attachment for Non-Buddhists**

**HOMILIST: Pat Wictor, Dick & Cathy Jackson**

**CHOIR: Chalice Choir**

**WA: Madelaine Clarke**

Being ready to accept all the possible outcomes of our actions, including those we neither wanted nor anticipated, can be a more empowered and creative way to live.

**Pat Wictor is a New York-based singer-songwriter who has been involved with UU ministry in the US for many years. As part of the trio Brother Sun, he performed at Island MusicFest in 2015.**

**This service is a pulpit swap with our sibling congregation in Victoria, Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Rev. Shana will be preaching at Capital on January 20.**

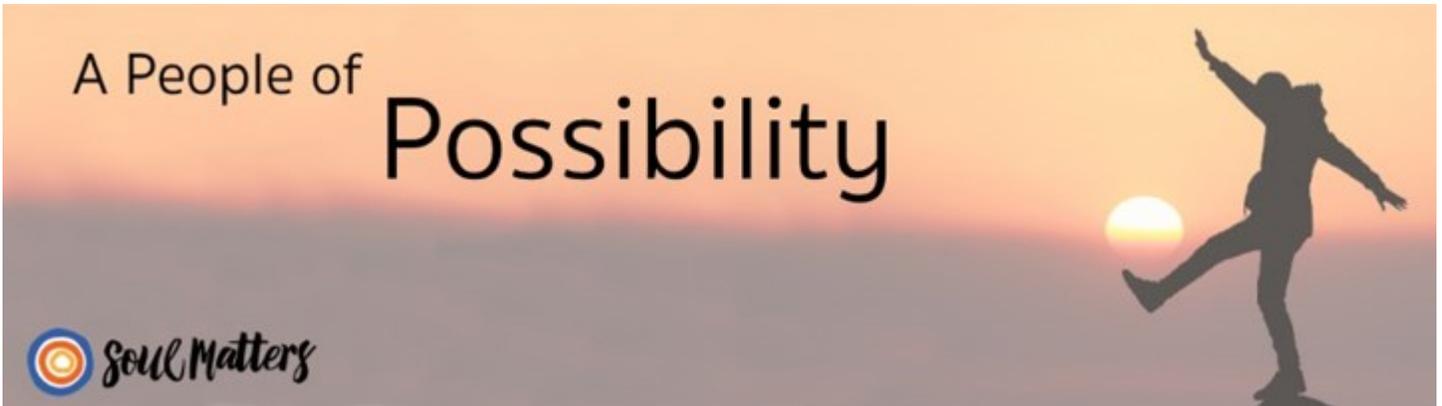
## ***Deadline for the February Issue is January 15!***

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## 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.



### Spiritual Exercise for the Theme of “Possibility”

The Possibilities in a Word:

An Alternative New Year’s Practice

*In his early days, Abba Euprepius went to see an old man and said to him, “Abba, give me a word so that I may be saved.”*

— from the “*Apophthegmata Patrum, The Sayings of the Fathers*”

[Catholics](#) talk of a time in the third and fourth centuries when people would go to the desert and seek out monk-like hermits for guidance and wisdom. This tradition is referred to as “seeking a word.” These wise “[desert mothers and fathers](#)” would offer people a word or a phrase to ponder for weeks, years and even a lifetime.

The idea behind this practice was that a simple word - when reflected upon with discipline - has the power to create possibilities in us and in the world. These words weren’t instructions as much as invitations to open oneself in new ways. As one [writer](#) puts it, they are about deepening and unfolding, rather than fixing and improving.

So this New Year’s lets lean into that work of unfolding, rather than fixing. Forget about making a list of resolutions to improve yourself. Instead try out this ancient practice of picking a word that will help keep you open to new possibilities throughout the year.

There are tons of words to choose from. Online you can find many examples of potent words that people have selected: embrace, listen, home, wholeheartedness, patience, presence, blossom, soar, overcome, treasure, nourish, expect, release, finish, delight, follow, lead. It’s not hard to imagine how holding any one of these in front of you on a daily basis can open possibilities and expand the way you walk in the world.

*Continued next page*

But how do you find yours? Well, it's more of a matter of it finding you. For many, it will be easy. It may simply come up immediately. If not, take some time to make a list and then read it over until one pops out to you in neon lights. It often helps to ask yourself questions like: What do I need? What do I want? What do I need to focus on? What is in the way?

You will also want to find a way to hold on to your word. Some people put their word on their computer's screen saver or cellphone's home screen. Others have drawn their word on [rock](#) or made/bought [jewelry](#) with the word on it. Creative folks and families have done [vision boards](#) or paintings that hung on a wall in their house all year. Some small groups have written their word on a piece of paper and then given it to the group facilitator who kept them in envelopes for a few months and then returned them to the group members as reminders. Whatever your method of choice, this holding on part is key to making the exercise work.

This exercise is from the UU Soul Matters Network of which our congregation is a part. If you'd like to dig into our themes more deeply – and connect with other congregants who are doing the same, sign up now with Rev. Melora for a **Soul Matters Small Group** (see next page)—6 monthly sessions, January-June, Tuesday afternoon or evening. Then you can go to your group ready to share the word you chose (or that chose you) and why, as well as the method you've selected to hold on to it. And maybe even give some thought to how you as a group can help each other hold on to it.

Enjoy the possibilities that this alternative new year's practice unfolds for you!

## Make Meaningful Connections, Talking About Things That Matter!

### "Soul Matters" Theme Groups Sign Up Now!



Rev. Melora will be facilitating two new "Soul Matters" theme groups, starting this month. Each group of 8 to 10 people will meet once a month to listen to one another's experiences and ponderings related to each month's theme. Group members will be given thought provoking resources to explore and intriguing practices to try out in advance of each monthly gathering. Both groups will run for 6 sessions, January – June, 2019.

These are not 'drop in' groups – a full commitment to all 6 sessions is required to make the experience as rich as possible for everyone in the group. People who have attended all of their group gatherings and who have engaged deeply with the at home material have found the program deeply enriching – they report it makes a difference in their daily lives, while also helping them grow in their understanding of big-picture ethical, spiritual, and personal issues.

Both Groups will meet on a **Tuesday** near the end of the month in the **Farmhouse Common Room** at church. Choose: afternoon **1:00pm -3:00pm** or evening **6:00pm – 8:00pm**

- January 29
- February 26
- March 26
- April 23
- May 28
- June 25

*Continued next page*

**Reserve a spot** in the group of your choice-- and get the intriguing January packet of prep material (Ted talks, music, quotations, videos and more!) -- by contacting Rev. Melora at [rev.melora@gmail.com](mailto:rev.melora@gmail.com) or **text or phone** (250)891-6330. (If groups fill up, we may consider adding a Wednesday morning option – let me know if that would work for you.)

Here is a preview of our upcoming themes.

Themes for 2019 What Does It Mean To Be a People of...	
January	<b>Possibility</b>
February	<b>Trust</b>
March	<b>Journey</b>
April	<b>Wholeness</b>
May	<b>Curiosity</b>
June	<b>Beauty</b>

And here are two **videos** from January’s packet on ‘What does it mean to be a people of possibility?’

**Holding on to the Possibilities After a Diagnosis**

What I've Learned from ALS

*Eric Brown*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=421iX2-P-c>

**Turning Rejection into Possibility**

What I learned from 100 days of rejection - TED

Talk

*Jia Jiang*

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



# DIALOGUE ON FAMILY MINISTRY

## FOR CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

Saturday, January 26

12:30-4:30pm



“Family ministry” is one of our congregation’s three strategic priorities. All congregational leaders (that’s anyone who has been or is in a volunteer role) are invited to attend this interactive, fun-filled, meaningful, and thought-provoking “Dialogue on Family Ministry” on Saturday, January 26, 2019, in the Farmhouse Common Room from 12:30 to 4:30pm. Anyone who considers themselves a congregational leader, past or present, or wishes to become a congregational leader of any sort in the future is welcome to attend. We want all segments of church life represented – from Coffee Crew, to Gardens & Grounds, to Social Justice – everyone has a role in co-creating inter-generational community. In this interactive program, we will consider:

- What do we mean by “family ministry”?
- How might we strengthen intergenerational connections within our congregation?
- How can we make our congregation more intentionally family-friendly?
- What challenges might arise?
- How might we meet those challenges?

Please RSVP yes or no by clicking this link <https://victoriaunitarian.ca/dialogue-on-family-ministry/>

Or, if internet access is difficult, rsvp to Steve Sharlow [sharlowsteve@yahoo.ca](mailto:sharlowsteve@yahoo.ca) 250-519-0400

### ***Optional – help us brainstorm tricky situations!***

*On your rsvp registration, you will have the option to respond to this:*

We are going to do a case study in which we consider various tricky situations that can arise in family ministry. For example, “An adult scolds a child (not their own child) at coffee hour for taking more than one cookie. You are a church leader nearby. What (if anything) do you do?”

Do you have any suggestions of other tricky situations around family ministry we could consider including in the case study part of our program?

Sponsored by the Family Ministry Team: Rev. Melora Lynngood, Arran Liddel (Director of Spiritual Exploration for Children and Youth), Rebecca Mellet (Council Chair for Spiritual Development), and Steve Sharlow (Vice President)

# FUCV STRATEGIC PRIORITY: FAMILY MINISTRY

Family ministry is one of the areas identified by the congregation as important, and one of the three strategic priorities our board has taken on for this year... and yet many people are not quite sure what Family Ministry is and what it could look like in our church.

We will be exploring these questions together over the coming year(s) and will be experimenting with different ways of engaging children, youth, parents and families to find out what works best for us... To get us started, you will find a brief description of Family Ministry below.

## What is Family Ministry?

Family Ministry is an approach to faith development which recognizes that:

- Faith development happens throughout our lives, at all ages and wherever we are
- Parents, grandparents and caregivers are the primary religious educators for their children, and
- Ours is an intentional community of **all ages**.

Family Ministry seeks to meet people where they are and include families of all kinds – as families – in the life of the congregation.

Family ministry is not just about families with children, but the family ministry model recognizes that families with children need significant attention.

Family Ministry may look quite different from one congregation to another, but congregations moving in this direction typically place greater emphasis on:

- Whole-congregation worship
- Social action and social justice for all ages
- Parent support and education
- At-home resources
- Whole-congregation social and educational events
- Worship and education at times other than Sunday mornings

Moving towards Family Ministry involves changes to faith development that will **expand beyond the children and youth programs**. These changes will be experienced throughout the congregation, including in the worship service.

If you are interested in learning more about what Family Ministry could be in our church, please Join our Dialogue on Family Ministry, for more information see our ad on page XX, or:

<https://victoriaunitarian.ca/dialogue-on-family-ministry/>





## OWL PROGRAMS 2019

In 2018-2019, we will offer Our Whole Lives (OWL) Sexuality Education for children and youth in grades 4 to 12.

Unlike many other sexuality curricula currently available, this program is comprehensive and progressive. In an inclusive and developmentally appropriate manner, it addresses sensitive topics that are typically excluded. Although the curriculum was developed by the Unitarian Universalist Association and the United Church of Christ, this volume is completely secular and free of specific religious doctrine or reference. However, the underlying values of the program reflect the justice-oriented traditions of both denominations.

Our experienced OWL leaders look forward to helping your children and youth explore questions about sexuality, relationships and boundaries in this interactive program. It is built on four core values:

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

### **Grade 4 – 6: Starts February 3**

The class will run from 10.45 am to noon, 2 or 3 Sundays per month from February 3 - June 9

### **Grade 7 – 9: Starts January 20**

Class from 10.30 am to noon, 2 or 3 Sundays per month from January 20 until early June plus two weekend intensives - the first weekend will be **January 26- 27**.

### **Grade 10 – 12: Starts March 1**

Classes run on Friday evening till Sunday afternoon over two weekends:  
March 1 - 3 & May 24 - 26

All three programs have a mandatory parent orientation session. Find out more:

<https://victoriaunitarian.ca/children-youth/owls/>

## **ODD JOBS . . .**

Perhaps you are a new member of our church and you are wondering how you might contribute in a way which fits your schedule. Odd jobs is a bulletin board intended to tell you about opportunities.

The church's Memorial Garden Committee needs a new member. This committee meets just twice a year and is charged with developing and maintaining a Memorial Garden, including a Memorial Wall, as a special place for memorials, for reflection and quiet contemplation. The work is important but simple and easy. The committee would particularly appreciate someone willing to serve as secretary. Contact Chair Caroline Startin (250-383-0636) [chezdillistone@shaw.ca](mailto:chezdillistone@shaw.ca) to express your interest or have any questions answered

There is a second job opportunity associated with this committee. It needs an outdoors person who can tidy the Memorial Garden every couple of weeks, a task that would take about an hour. This is an opportunity to be in the fresh air, keep your own schedule and perhaps engage in contemplative meditation as you work. Mike Fibiger-Crossman (250-658-2239) [mfrogbog@icloud.com](mailto:mfrogbog@icloud.com) can show you what's involved.

## NEW VOLUNTEER ROLES!

### Lion's

The Lion's Lounge Host will set up the Lion Hall to make it welcoming to families with young children. There is a play rug that is put down and some toys and activities that the children can play with while their parents can chat and watch the service on the TV in an informal atmosphere.

The host will welcome the adults and kids, offering them tea/coffee/snacks (provided) and perhaps provide a friendly ear if the parent is having a hard day or they can play with a child so the adult can focus on the service. Children will not be there unaccompanied so there is no direct supervision requirement/responsibility. Near the end of the service, you will put away the rug, toys etc. (often with help from adults and kids). Each person would host approximately once a month.

### Lounge

### Host



\* \* \* \* \*

### A.U.U.N.T.I.E.S. (All-gender UU Nurturing Team offering Infants Extra Support) Program

This team will offer extra support to infants and younger kids (mostly 4 years old and under) who have a hard time being in the sanctuary or Wee Care so the parent/guardian(s) can participate in the service.



You could either:

***Work with one specific kid, who you will build a relationship with over time.***

In this role, you would work with a child who needs time to get comfortable with adults or who needs regular support. You may work with them on a specific goal, developed with their parent/guardian, such as becoming comfortable in Wee Care and being able to be there without additional support. Typically the Nurturing Team member would be with the little on a minimum of once a month.

***Be 'on-call' - ready to offer support to any kid that needs extra help that day.***

The on-call Nurturing Team member would be comfortable soothing a kid who may cry and/or may not be able to commit to a regular schedule.

In both roles, you would be with the child either in the Lion Lounge, Wee Care or the playground.

If you are interested in either of these roles or have any questions, please email Arran:

arran@victoriaunitarian.ca

## SPIRITED JAZZ

Winter Unitarian Jazz Vespers

Enjoy jazz with a splash of spiritual inspiration.

January 13<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, 7-8 PM

First Unitarian Church Victoria

*By donation and greatly appreciated*

**Theme: Love and  
Heartache**



Daniel Cook - guitar & vocals      Maureen Washington Vocals

Damian Graham - Drums

Ryan Tandy - Bass

### Washington and Cook Band

Those who have been appreciating the short trip on a country road to a beautiful setting with top jazz musicians, completed with the musings of Reverend Shana, will be sure not to miss this vespers. Winter Vespers of 2019 starts with the Washington and Cook Band.

**Maureen Washington and Daniel Cook**, a musical collaboration best described as '*Funkified Urban Jazz*', play a unique blend of blues, funk, jazz, Latin and roots music. Their vocal harmonies meld beautifully and capture the essence of every song they perform together. Classic standards mixed with well-crafted original songs are performed with Ryan Tandy and Damian Graham.

With now nine albums to her credit, Maureen Washington began her musical career in her home town of Prince George. Maureen slips easily from sassy to sexy within a single line of lyrics, at times echoing the haunting tones of Etta James and Carmen McRae, then faster than the mind and ear can make the transition, Maureen Washington exudes the impish irreverence of Jann Arden and the vocal agility of Holly Cole. And yet, with all splendor attached to such comparisons, Maureen's musical style remains distinctly her own. Among her many nominations and awards is the 2014 Black Canadian Award for Best Jazz and Soul Artist.

Daniel Cook is a singer songwriter who fuses contagious melodies with timeless stories creating a fresh brand of Original West Coast Roots Music, and a guitarist who blends melody and minimalism into a sweet mix of jazz and country guitar traditions.

Enjoy jazz with a splash of spiritual inspiration in venues with exquisite sound and setting. These hour-long evening services are a unique blend of jazz and spirituality. Each service brings together live music from popular local jazz musicians, a brief meaningful message, and a little of the history of the music performed.



**First Unitarian Church of Victoria**  
**5575 West Saanich Road (250) 744-2665**  
**Program of First Unitarian Church Victoria**  
**[www.victoriaunitarian.ca](http://www.victoriaunitarian.ca)**



## SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION & LEARNING: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PEOPLE OF POSSIBILITY?

Of all our topics this year, possibility is arguably most central to our faith. It has distinguished Unitarian Universalists from the start. Historically, when others saw depravity and sin at the core of human identity, we saw potential--sometimes with hardly any boundaries. When many were preaching that this world was fallen, and we should look instead to the hope of an afterlife, we found ourselves falling in love with the possibility of heaven on earth. Theologically, you might say that we were the people that believed that God hadn't given up on any of us and so we shouldn't give up on each other or this world. Psychologically, it's led to us being a people of "why not?" Why not give people another chance? Why not fight what seems a losing battle? Why not risk a little failure? After all, to us the possible has always seemed more likely than not!

So that's our religion. But what about us personally? How open have you been recently to "Why not?" How's your faith in possibility doing? As we honor our religion's trust in what's possible, we need to allow space for the reality that trusting possibility isn't so easy for many of us.

We tell ourselves so many small things about who we and others are. And we know that's not really because we're pessimistic. More often than not, it's about protecting ourselves. There's comfort in convincing yourself that the work is hopeless; that way you don't have to try and risk failure, hurt or disappointment yet again.

All of which is to say that maybe being a people of possibility has more to do with being a people of vulnerability and courage than we've thought. The work isn't just about *believing* in possibility. It's about being willing to endure a few wounds along the way. It can hurt to be hopeful. Especially with all that is going on in our world and society right now, we need to make room for that.

So maybe the question this month, as we continue on our path towards Family Ministry, isn't "Are you ready to lean into possibility?" but "Who's beside you and who are you bringing along?" "Who have you gathered to patch and pick you up when the path gets bumpy?" After all, no one makes it down the road of possibility alone.

And perhaps that's the real secret: remembering that "Why not?" is something we all have to say together.

### COMMUNITY BUDDHIST PRACTICE DAY

Lama Tara will lead a day of meditation and Buddhist practice in and about the Church Sanctuary on February 9, 2019. The session will begin at 9:30 am with two guided meditation sessions followed by a potluck vegetarian lunch. After lunch, there will be a Question and Answer Session followed by a final meditation ending at 3:30 pm.

This day of Buddhist Practice will be ideal for those wishing to explore Buddhist practices and meditation.

All texts will be provided.

If you have any questions, please call Earle Anthony (250 592 4831).



# SHARE THE PLATE



Next month our Share the Plate recipient will be Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT). Last January, our congregation voted unanimously to join GVAT, and in that year, GVAT has grown substantially and there are now 22 member organizations. These member organizations are made up of pro-active, everyday people dedicated to working together to tackle some of the toughest issues in Greater Victoria.

We are now entering a phase where all organizations will need to step up to help fund the activities we value. One of the most crucial items is paying our organizer a living wage. We will also be able to finance learning events and pay our affiliation fees. In the past, dues and grants have been instrumental but designed to help as “start-up” costs. We are now facing the need for our members to pay dues which more closely align with the actual costs of supporting our members and growing our power.

GVAT has spent the last three years building a solid foundation and now 2019 will see GVAT begin actively campaigning on Housing and Mental Health/Addiction - those issues which garnered the highest priority from the votes cast on Discernment Day in mid November. The work to promote change is beginning with the Action Research Teams. Now is the time to get involved. Your passion and energy are essential to create this wave of transformation.

Please consider giving generously as your donations gratefully received during the month will provide you with an opportunity to support this amazing organization and the work of GVAT as they move forward to create change for a better community!

*-Susan Layng*

## SHARE THE PLATE THIS PAST YEAR

We thank everyone for their contributions this past year to Share The Plate. This is our half, the part we donate to the larger community:

January : GVAT \$961

February: Doctors without Borders (3 Sundays only) \$700

March : HOW

April: Seachange: \$1270

May : Dee’s Kitties (stray cats rescue) \$427

June: BC211 (assistance directory) \$615

July: HOW

August: Big Brothers \$587

September: Literacy Connection \$1097

October: Island Deaf Centre \$951

November Raven 1091 (doubled by a private Raven donner) = \$2182

*-Christine Johnstone*

## BOARD REPORT DECEMBER 2018



### ... Board Report December 2018

#### 2019 Annual Budget Campaign (ABC) and 2019 Budget

One of the most important programs at FUCV is the ABC Pledge Drive. The ABC was run professionally with a big splash of humour graced by skits and ABC Moments. The ABC Team had a large number of volunteers who made phone calls and met with people to encourage pledges. Many thanks for your work.

While we did not yet meet the Budget target, the Finance Committee worked hard to reduce expenses, find additional revenues and be a fair employer given our funding restrictions. A new initiative this year was deliberating on the budget at two board meetings in November and December. It was a marvel to behold Council Chairs identify both revenue and savings while strongly advocating for their Committees as the deficit loomed towards \$20,000.

The Finance Committee continued to search for savings and revenue and happily Finance and the Board was able to reduce the deficit to \$7,611. Thanks to everyone for an impressive effort.

Congregational members will receive your budget package two weeks before the January 27 Congregational meeting following service at 12 pm to approve the 2019 budget. Please mark your calendar to attend.

#### Long Range Planning Committee

FUCV Board is convening a Long Range Planning Committee to advise the board on its revenue and expense planning over the longer term, identifying trends in giving and discussing ways to diversify revenue and identify strategic spending. Bruce Nicol and Earle Anthony will develop this group and are seeking interested people to serve on this 'big picture' team.

#### Thanks and a Joyful Holiday

The Board would like to extend their gratitude for the extraordinary support from the FUCV Congregation for your efforts and commitment. I was unable to attend the Christmas Concert but heard rave reviews like "It was the best I have ever attended." Our generosity of spirit is also being extended with the Christmas Dinner on December 25<sup>th</sup>. I wish I could be there.

I would like to wish you a joyous season of welcoming the returning light with all the associated festivals in *which you may be participating at this time of year.*

*-Marion Pape, Board Chair*

## ABOUT THE BOARD MEMBERS!

### Bruce Nicol Co-Chair, Administration Council (Finance)

I was raised in Vancouver and went to UBC graduating with a degree in Commerce. Articling with Price Waterhouse I obtained my Chartered Accountant designation. Not really enjoying public practise I worked for a number of public companies and a provincial crown corporation. I worked in the airline industry (CP Air and Canadian Airlines) and the mining industry (Placer Dome Inc. and



*Continued next page*

various junior mining companies) before completing my paid working career with the Pension Corporation of BC here in Victoria.

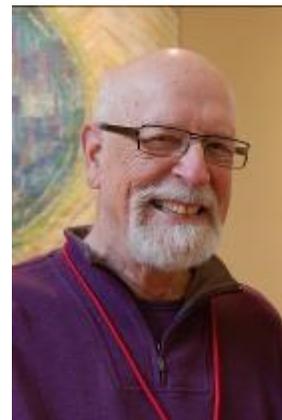
I started attending the FUCV in Victoria after moving here in 2009. My mother had attended the Vancouver church and I had always admired the work they did and the values they shared. Mary-Ellen and I have three adult children, two living in greater Vancouver and one living here in Victoria. I enjoy nature and am an avid kayaker and photographer. I also enjoy performing stand up comedy.

### **Mike Graham, Co-Chair, Administration Council (Communications and Human Resources)**

Back on the board, as of this fall, as the result of a sudden vacancy. Retired journalist, this ink-stained wretch well remembers the time of hot type and cold coffee. Made a start as a small-town weekly editor, then moved to Toronto and graduated from Ryerson University's journalism program before the days of the digital world. Worked on newspapers in Toronto, Hamilton, Halifax, Victoria and Vancouver. Saw the light and Liz and I retired to Victoria.

A number of years ago I thought that being on the Board wasn't a bad deal. You get to tell everyone else what to do, sit back, put your feet up, and bask in the glory of his or her good work. Then I was elected to the board as a trustee, later vice-president and president. OK, I've learned. Feet on the floor. No basking. And everyone's doing great work without being told. Spread the glory.

Started with Unitarianism 25 years ago with the Vancouver community. Thursday night religious education programs drew me in. I became a regular Sunday attendee, then an usher, sat on the worship committee and the church planning council. When Liz and I were new to each other and making weekend plans I mentioned I went to church on Sunday. Oh dear, she thought, it was going so well. But she came along and we've been together ever since. Both Mike and Liz insist they have no interest in line-dancing but are considering pole dancing.



### **POVERTY: KYM'S VOICE**

On Sunday, December 2, a lay-led service had three speakers offering their personal perspectives on poverty. The third speaker was Kym Hynes who delivered a deeply personal account of growing up poor.



*"It's taken a lifetime for me to understand what it means to be born into poverty. Details differ from territory to territory and family to family but the reasons for poverty remain the same. Poverty is legislated. I had no idea that when people looked at me, their gaze was based on poor-bashing. It took me many years to realize it is my unwanted birthright. I thought it was I, something I must be doing wrong. Life often hurts, physically, emotionally, mentally, spiritually. However, poverty is unnecessary pain and suffering and it affects us all."*

-Kym

A number of people in the congregation commented that they could not hear him well and did he have a text they could read? Kym has prepared a text and if you would like a copy, please email [donandclare@shaw.ca](mailto:donandclare@shaw.ca) and you will be sent one.

-Don Vipond

## MINISTERS GATHERING WITH NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS

In the recent ministerial survey, a common theme was that people wanted a more personal connection to our ministers. In a congregation of our size, it is difficult for our ministers to spend time with each of us, so they have tried various ways to make a more personal connection. One year they called us on our birthdays. Then they tried visiting each neighbourhood group. Then they tried “Coffee with the Ministers” after church, where the ministers responded to our questions, which meant they did most of the talking. Our ministers would like to get to know us better by listening to **our** stories, so a new initiative begins in January. Each Neighbourhood Group will meet with one of the ministers after church on Sunday for an hour, sharing personal stories around a topic chosen by the neighbourhood group. For example, “Tell us something about yourself no one would ever know.” Or, “If you were given the gift of a special day, how would you spend it?” There are 12 NGs, so there will be time for six groups to spend time with a minister this year and the other six will have their turn next church year.

### Here is the proposed schedule:

#### Sundays, 12:15-1:15 pm

January 13: Gordon Head – Rev. Melora

January 20: Esquimalt – Rev. Melora

February 3: Fairfield – minister t.b.a.

March 3: Far Out -- Rev. Shana

March 17: Cadboro Bay – Rev. Melora

April 7: Grand Central – Rev. Shana



## HEALING OUR WORLD -2019

Where will we be going? What will we be doing?

A new year, new opportunities to make a difference in the lives of people somewhere, near or far, who need some help, the kind of help we can provide.

Over the past 13 years, the annual HOW projects of our faith community have touched for the better the lives of people around the world, at locations in India, in some of the nations in Africa, in Jamaica, and in our neighborhoods.

But nothing will be done by HOW until you come forward with an idea. This is a project which always arises from caring hearts in the congregation. Some of you have heard of people in need in places near and far. Let's talk about that, see if there's a fit. Please call us (250-652-5491) or write [donandclare@shaw.ca](mailto:donandclare@shaw.ca)



**We need get at this now. Deadline is next month. In anticipation, Don and Clare Vipond**

## LOCATION TASK FORCE

### Save the date!

After the service on Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> the Location Task Force will be holding an information session to provide an update on our progress, launch a congregational survey, and provide an opportunity for you to offer feedback.

Questions or concerns? Contact our Co-Chairs, Liz Graham ([hello.liz.graham@gmail.com](mailto:hello.liz.graham@gmail.com)) and John Hopewell ([hopewell@telus.net](mailto:hopewell@telus.net)) or any team member, Steve Sharlow, Shirley Travis, assisted by Rebecca Mellett and Marion Pape.

### ***Why the Unitarian Church of Victoria relocated to West Saanich Road***

In the early 1990s the 300 member Unitarian Church of Victoria was located in a historic brick building with a small garden and no on-site parking, at 106 Superior Street near Fisherman's Wharf. There was a sanctuary with seating capacity of 100, a large lounge area, a kitchen, and upstairs a boardroom and office space. The basement had a large open area and a couple of classrooms where children's religious education classes were held. There was little daylight and some dampness and the building was believed to be seismically unsafe. For adults, there were two services each Sunday which led to complaints that some members went weeks without seeing each other.

Various solutions were explored. Adjoining property was on the market from time to time which might allow expansion. Structural change such as removal of a bearing wall to combine the lounge and sanctuary was looked at. These options were ruled out because the building was non-conforming and structural changes or expansion to adjoining lots would also require the church to conform with zoning and parking requirements which was likely not feasible.

A property search committee was established in January 1990 to find an affordable suitable building or development site. The committee was initially chaired by Faye Sturrock who had connections with some developers. The initial plan was a phased approach with Phase 1 the purchase of land (about 1.5 - 2 acres to meet zoning requirements) estimated at about \$300,000 and Phase 2, construction of a building (\$550,000 – \$750,000). Meetings were held with social housing organizations to consider joint proposals, but a consultant advised such a project would be very complex because of the need for multi-level government approvals.

In July 1993 City of Victoria advised that disposal of city property would be priced around \$1 million per acre. Options considered over the years included:

- ◆ Old Baptist church just north of Quadra and Pandora (now condos)
- ◆ 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist at Pandora and Vancouver
- ◆ Former St. Mark's Anglican on Boleskine
- ◆ A large residential site at Pat Bay Highway and Sayward Rd.
- ◆ A proposal to share space in a new development with Montessori school in Selkirk
- ◆ A condo development with ground floor community space similar to Fairfield New Horizons
- ◆ Christmas Hill

None of these proposals was viable for various reasons.

In September 1993 a 6 acre residential property was found at 355 Atkins Road, Colwood. A conditional full price offer of \$480,000 was made and accepted. Future construction costs were estimated to be about \$1 million.

In November 1993, 5575 West Saanich Road, with existing usable structures, was identified and a conditional offer of \$800,000 was accepted. At a congregational meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup> 1993 the congregation rejected the offer on 355 Atkins Road and agreed to the offer on 5575 West Saanich Road.

*-John Hopewell*

## REFUGEE REPORT

### **The end of 2018 has been a busy time for the Abu Qayas family.**

In November, Khaled, Raweah and Wasan accompanied a group of 20 Unitarians - members of the Refugee Committee and volunteers - to the Masjid Al-Iman mosque on Quadra Street. The Imam, Sheikh Ismail Mohamed Nur, had kindly accepted our request to meet him and learn more about the cultural aspects of Islam and some of the basics of the faith.

Imam Ismail explained that one of the mosque's important aims in Victoria is to help new Muslim arrivals to the city become familiar with the Canadian way of life. And it was very rewarding for us, as visitors, to learn some details of the Muslim lifestyle from the Imam's discussion of the halal diet, daily prayer times, dress, and principal Islamic religious events. The Imam advised that the mosque reaches out to strengthen ties with the wider community in Victoria and he extended a very warm welcome to our group plus an invitation to other Unitarians to visit Masjid Al-Iman.

Some of the highlights of the Fall/Winter season for Khaled, Raweah, Mohammed and Wasan have been a trip to Goldstream Park to see the salmon run and an after-dark trip to Butchart Gardens with Lynne and Barb. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the lights and displays and the children were particularly excited by the carousel - faces lit with big grins the whole night.

On December 8, the family joined us all for the Winter Choir concert in the sanctuary and had a chance to meet more of the community.

Volunteers are helping Khaled and Raweah with ESL classes at home. If you would like to join in and assist, please contact Claire at [claire.ebendinger@gmail.com](mailto:claire.ebendinger@gmail.com).



- Carol Smith

## COMMUNITY DINNER JANUARY 11, 2019

Friday January 11 is a *Rabbie Burns Themed Community Dinner* in the Sanctuary at **6:00pm**. We will be serving a *Scottish themed menu* with beef stew and turnips and other delicious dishes! There will also be a vegetarian option. Community Dinner is a multi-generational event and an opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun delicious meal. Following the meal there will be a short program including bagpipes, poetry and other exciting offerings.

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

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



## THANK YOU

To Liz Graham, Pat Kinrade, Shirley Marcuse, Jan Thomson, Marion Irish, Chris Cook.

Thank you for giving your time, energy and artistry, resulting in 10 attractive wreaths for the Sanctuary walls. It definitely added to the atmosphere of the Winter Concert, and gave pleasure to many for the month of December. It was a joyful event!



## SONG CIRCLE – EVERYONE WELCOME

Nancy Dobbs and Jewel Spooner

In the Sanctuary: 2:30pm-4pm. Fridays, January 11, February 22 and March 22.

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

## HONOURED VOLUNTEER: PHYLLIS AHERNE

The President and Councils of the Board are asked to nominate volunteers who have made significant contributions to the life of the church and Unitarian community. Phyllis Aherne has been nominated by Nancy Dobbs, Chair of the Congregational Life Council. She will be honoured after the Service on January 13th.



***Phyllis said:***

I am originally from North Dakota. In 1972 I moved to Edmonton, via Ireland where my Irish husband and I lived for three years. In 2001 we retired and came to Victoria. My husband died in 2005 and I decided to stay here and try to keep the garden in order that my husband enjoyed so much. I was a teacher most of my life at junior high, high school but mostly at the preschool level working with three to four year olds.

It's the sense of community that I like most about the church. It suits my needs as I am a community sort of person.

Over the years I have done many types of volunteer jobs but I am now at the stage and age of my life where I only say yes to hands-on-type of work rather than committee-meeting-type-of-work. Since joining the Unitarians seven years ago I have volunteered as usher, Sunday coffee maker, cooking, serving and cleaning up for the Community Dinner, being responsible for the church flower arrangements on the fifth Sundays of the year. I "ring" in the bell choir and convene the Far-Out Neighbourhood group. I have also led a small discussion group on Great Religions of the World. My favourite volunteer work, however, is singing and booking the sing-outs for the JAMMERS. It's a very good feeling to go into care facilities once a month and entertain the residents with the "old" favourites they love to hear and to have them sing along with us. The group is truly a "Joyful Association of Music Makers".

***Suellen Guenther said:***

Phyllis has been a dedicated and caring convener of the Far Out Neighbourhood Group for several years now. She is sensitive to the needs of some of the older members of the group, encourages ride sharing on Sundays, and has made a point of welcoming newcomers who move into the Neighbourhood. She keeps the group together by regular gatherings and has initiated an idea where members meet at a local coffee shop on the first Friday of the month, calling themselves the UFOs –Unitarian Far Outers. Phyllis also organizes her group to host Souper Sunday once a year, and ensures her group takes its turn providing goodies for coffee time on Sundays. I have deeply appreciated Phyllis's effectiveness as a convener, helping to create a sense of community in her Neighbourhood.

***Suzanne Beauchamp said:***

Phyllis has been instrumental in keeping the outreach choir of our church "The Jammers" operational for several years, upholding the Unitarian value of caring for others. She tirelessly contacts care homes all over the Greater Victoria Region to set up concert venues where we perform. Phyllis also provides the music for our pianists and lyrics for choir members. She also emcees the concerts providing song histories, and encourages audience participation with her wit and humour. Her work is invaluable and enables the Jammers to provide much needed stimulation and entertainment to a vulnerable population. Phyllis also provides Sunday flowers for the sanctuary, helps out at bake sales and community dinners, as well as performing in the bell choir. Phyllis is a reliable, dedicated volunteer worthy of recognition.

***Martha McDougall said:***

Phyllis has been assisting with the 'Community Dinners' and the 'Breakfast Before Church' events for many years now. She always brings a smile and a 'get to it' approach to the work that needs to be done in the kitchen. Things get done quickly, efficiently and with a good story when Phyllis is in the kitchen! Recently we have started to incorporate themes and community building activities to the dinners and Phyllis is the mastermind behind these ideas. She organized the November sing-a-long and is organizing the January Rabbin Burns themed Community Dinner. She always takes home laundry to do at the end of the dinner as well. She helps out with every aspect of the dinner!

She has a special touch that helps new people feel welcome at the dinners. When Phyllis is at the dinner you know people feel welcome and that no one will be sitting alone. I also really appreciate the beautiful flower displays, complete with scarecrows that Phyllis brings to the sanctuary for Thanksgiving.

The Environmental Action Team supports the One Planet Living Project, a project that brings together municipalities, businesses, schools and communities in Canada (Saanich), Denmark (Elsinore), South Africa (Durban), Tarusa (Russia) and the UK (Oxfordshire) to make our cities better places to live! Faith groups are invited to join.

The project points out the obvious - that we only have one Planet Earth, but as a global society we're living as if we have several planets and consuming in ways which cannot be sustained. That means that a lot of things must change. But we also know that if we work together we can enjoy just as much comfort, more security and better health, while living lives that are enriching, fulfilling and sustainable. One Planet Living sets out to make this transition.

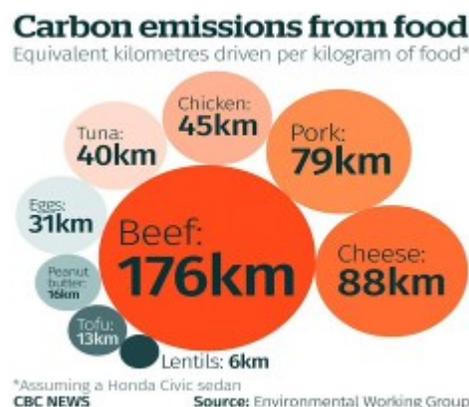
Reports of imminent crisis and global environmental peril at best should evoke anger and resolve to act. One Planet Living considers notions of guilt and helplessness as threatening the path of recovery. Leaders and trusted messengers should be persuasive. They should activate empathy, and appeal to values. They should be positive and determined with a will to succeed that builds optimism.

People can choose to think globally and act locally as many of us are doing. We are recycling better than ever but more can be done by getting rid of plastic containers and wrappings. Our home kitchens can become One Planet Change Centres.

A recent CBC News story by Emily Chung tells us that the choice of the food we cook and eat has a direct effect on carbon emissions. Reducing the amount of meat we eat can be beneficial. A graph shows the carbon emissions from food with the equivalent kilometres driven per kilogram of food.

It is in our power to prevent food waste, to buy locally to prevent CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, to buy organics to avoid pesticides and chemicals, to not buy products from massive single crop plantations, to not buy farmed salmon, to cook more vegetarian meals, or simply eat less meat. I used to eat meat daily, but now once a week, and then I gorge on a big steak. I make it a reward. My vegetarian wife is not impressed.

We can choose carbohydrates with a low 'Glycemic Index' of 55 or less. This type of food is more slowly digested, absorbed, and metabolized. Reports claim that we will eat less. So we can eat well and help the planet too! We have the power to read labels, insist on labelling, and to avoid eating species at risk, plant our own gardens, preserve our own beets.



The Environmental Action Team (EAT) is excited to announce a new initiative that they are presenting to the SRC and Board for approval: that FUCV join One Planet Saanich.

Last spring the District of Saanich became one of five cities in the world to be chosen to participate in the One Planet Cities Project, the brainchild of British registered charity, Bioregional. Saanich has invited local businesses, schools, and resident groups to join the initiative at no cost.

The goal for a One Planet City is to plan a pathway to a happy, healthy future within the natural limits of the planet. This chart lists the principles of the One Planet Living Framework. Participating organizations use these principles to develop their sustainability action plans, with support and guidance from a trained integrator.

EAT concurs that our congregation already excels in many of the One Planet Living principles, but sees an opportunity for us to use One Planet Saanich to become a climate leader among faith communities. It would also help our church do its part in mitigating and adapting to climate change, which emerged as an issue of high concern among the congregation in the GVAT listening campaign.

The other cities participating in this project are: Oxfordshire County Council (UK), Durban (South Africa), Elsinore (Denmark), and Tarusa (Russia). FUCV would be the first faith group to join as a member of a One Planet Cities project.

As a kick-off of the One Planet Saanich initiative, the January 13 Souper Sunday will be “Mostly Meatless” to raise awareness of the environmental impact of our dietary choices. More information to come!

One Planet Saanich: <https://www.oneplanetsaanich.org>

One Planet Cities: <https://bioregional.com/one-planet-cities/>

Bioregional: <https://bioregional.com>

One Planet Living Framework: <https://bioregional.com/oneplanetliving/>





## AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

**All members, friends and newcomers to the church are invited to be part of the Neighbourhood Group where they live. Groups meet with different frequency. If you don't know which group you are in, please phone the church office.**

**Oak Bay:** Convener Mary Burcher 778-977-5394 ~~ A seasonal themed pot-luck afternoon tea was held at Mike and Liz's to kick off December. Lots of delicious finger food, conversation—and a high energy exchange (and stealing) of recycled gifts. The next pot luck will be early in the New Year at Jany's and Tiff's.

**James Bay:** Convener Lynn Hunter 250-220-2240 ~~ James Bay has been meeting monthly with Capital UU Congregation members at the Ross Bay Pub. A number of the JB group also attends the monthly pub nights at the Canoe Club.

**Gordon Head:** Convener Mary Cramer 250-477-1615 ~~ Gordon Head provided coffee goodies for November. A pot-luck is being planned for prior to the end of the year. The first after-church NG meeting with Rev. Melora will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Western:** Convener Susan Lean 250 478-5261 ~~ a quiet month.

**Nearby:** Convener Nancy Dobbs 250-652-5438 ~~ Laura and Nellie hosted a pot-luck to celebrate American Thanksgiving. The 17 guests shared what they are grateful for. Two new families were welcomed. A walking group has started and plans to meet every two weeks. Nearby will provide coffee goodies in January.

**Cadboro Bay:** Convener Val Roberts 250-477-7192 ~~ All quiet as John and Val holiday in Mexico. Cadboro Bay NG was sad to learn of the passing of Howard Petch. He and his wife, Linda, have hosted many social gatherings at their waterfront home.

**Royal Oak West:** Convener Martha McDougall 250-477-1541 ~~ Shirley and Chris hosted a pot-luck on December 14<sup>th</sup>. There were a number of new folks and some who had moved from other areas in Victoria. ROW will be working with Grand Central to host the first Souper Sunday of 2019 on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Royal Oak East:** Convener Hanny Pannekoek & Hugo Suttmoller 385-2299 ~~ About 14 guests gathered at the home of Shirley, who together with Giselle hosted an appetizer and dessert afternoon. With Hanny and Hugo in the Netherlands, Allan D. facilitated the event. Mariko gave an update regarding the sponsored refugee family. ROE will continue to meet four times/year with the next gathering on March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Grand Central:** Convener Jane Wilson 250-598-4348 ~~ G.C. is preparing to organize Souper Sunday on January 13<sup>th</sup> with Royal Oak West.

**Fairfield:** Convener Lynn Beak 250-598-3584 ~~ Fairfield's after-church gathering with Rev. Melora or Rev. Shana will be held on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Far Out:** Convener Phyllis Aherne 250-655-7149 ~~ Penny F. hosted a coffee morning at her condo on a lovely November day. New and former members had a lively discussion about their most and least favourite volunteer jobs. Many are involved in worthwhile causes besides church. A wine & cheese party is planned for January or February to celebrate the new year. Phyllis wishes a great New Year to everyone.

**Esquimalt:** Convener Maureen Sherlock 250-384-6492 ~~ This busy group prepared goodies for December after-service coffee. A coffee get-together was held in November at John and Anne's home. Fran P. hosted a shower for Forrest's new baby, Bow. A holiday potluck was held on December 7<sup>th</sup>. New members Julie, Jennifer, Tammy and Cat were welcomed. Esquimalt's after-church gathering with Rev. Melora will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup>.

As a group, the conveners will be meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup> to organize the schedule for each of the Neighbourhood Groups to meet after church with one of our Ministers. The Committee on Ministry asked that we plan 6 per year as a response to the recent Ministerial survey where some members/friends expressed concerns about strengthening connections. The scheduled dates are:

- ✦ January 13 – Gordon Head    January 20 – Esquimalt    February 3 – Fairfield    March 3 – Far Out
- ✦ March 17 – Cadboro Bay    April 7 – Grand Central

The conveners will be contacting their groups with more information.

With gratitude to the hosts and organizers of the above events,

Lorna Anthony, Neighbourhood Group Coordinator.

## ARTIST OF THE MONTH : ERIK THORN

Although born in Toronto, early childhood delight in natural splendours where I grew up around Victoria in western Canada led me early to want to draw and paint it. I was encouraged in this by my parents.

The War years of my teens returned me to Toronto, with urban opportunities to develop creativity and awareness. I enjoyed a comprehensive art course in Northern Vocational Technical School, with interests in art history, life drawing, sculpture, exhibition design as well as painting. I won a Canada-wide competition for my mural which I then executed at the Canadian National Exhibition. I worked several years in advertising art and then in museum exhibition.

Later I moved to London where illustration and design courses were taken at Regent Street Polytechnik and Central School of Art. I did book illustrations for Bodley Head, Nelson Publishing, English Universities Press, Encyclopedia Britannica and Max Reinhardt. I worked at the Natural History Museum in exhibitions.

In 1955/6 I spent six months in Paris, studied painting with Henri Goetz at Academie de la Grand Chaumière where I became a friend of Seundja Rhée .

My wife, New Zealand artist and art teacher Miriam (Fyson) and I moved to Canada two years after our marriage in London and raised two sons. We have painted our part of Canada extensively and enjoyed painting holidays in various African countries as well as France, England, Spain, Italy and Scandinavia.

My work reflects my love of colour and natural pattern with fascination for details of natural history. Some of my paintings are owned in Canada, USA, England, New Zealand, France and Sweden.

Recent exhibitions were in Castillon (Alpes, Maritimes, France) by invitation with Miriam Thorn and Seundja Rhée and at Artspring Gallery (Saltspring Island, BC) with my wife Miriam in 2006 and annually since then with Oak Bay Community Artists in Victoria.



## Church Photo Directory



In our newsletter last March, it was announced that a team had been assembled to facilitate the creation of a secure on-line photo directory. Creating the directory has been delayed in anticipation of an upgrade to our current server. Once an alternative to our current server is decided (hopefully early in 2019), it will be determined how we can use it to host and update our photo directory. In the meantime, Mary Cramer will continue to photograph members and friends so that the photo directory can be implemented ASAP in the new data base.

The directory is an on-going project. Mary Cramer and her team of photographers will stay on the case until everyone who wishes is photographed. If you have not been photographed, have questions, or your photo needs to be redone, please see Mary Cramer after a Sunday service, starting January 20th. Please watch for e-weekly and newsletter updates.

Here is a reminder of the rationale and plans for the directory:

Our most current church directory is dated 2012. A great deal has changed since then. Members, friends and staff have come and gone, children have grown up and a few of us look quite different. A current photo directory is a tremendous help for those new to our church, trying to remember the many faces. This directory can be updated for the benefit of all, whenever we have new friends and members; changes in staff, elders and board members.

The photo placement (alphabetical) and composition (singles and families) will follow the format of our church directory. The photos are intended to be clearly focused for identification purposes...not professional quality portraits.

Thank you to all Members and Friends who have been photographed.

*-from Nancy Dobbs*

## REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR WOMEN'S RETREAT

### UU Women's Retreat at Bethlehem Centre in Nanaimo February 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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

Spaces are limited and registrations must be received by **January 17<sup>th</sup>**. To receive the registration packet, contact Jane ([janefoxincomox@gmail.com](mailto:janefoxincomox@gmail.com))

NOTE: There are 4 accessible rooms available

# January 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5
6 10:30   Sunday Service*	7	8	9	10	11 6:00   Community Dinner	12
13 10:30   Sunday Service* 11:30   Souper	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 10:30   Sunday Service*	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:30   Sunday Service* 12:15   Congregational Meeting	28	29	30	31		

\*Children and youth programs run concurrently with the service.  
For a comprehensive listing of First Unitarian Church of Victoria events, meetings & locations, please visit [www.victoriaunitarian.ca/members/events](http://www.victoriaunitarian.ca/members/events).

## January Birthdays

- 1 Sonya Ignatieff, Jackie Bennett, Jan Li
- 2 Patricia Disbrow
- 3 Betty Sherwood
- 4 Elaine Hanson, Phyllis Aherne
- 5 Cecil Bannister, Emil Mogensen
- 7 Alastair Mont, Dennis Jaques,  
Dale Rasmussen
- 8 Christine Johnston
- 9 Philip Symons
- 12 Margot Garmsen
- 13 Heather Sutherland,  
Sebastian Sterling
- 14 Kiana Belisle
- 16 Jane Wilson, Gaia Bazar
- 17 Ellen Carey
- 18 Fran Pardee
- 19 Tim Hall
- 20 Lynn Beak, Lynn Hunter
- 21 Nellie Van Leeuwen, Amy Anderson,  
Bruce Nicol
- 23 Ruth Miller, Shelagh McCormick
- 24 Gerry Brimacombe, Lillie Lentz,  
Elliot Ziegler, Sylvia Krogh
- 25 Cavina Thokme
- 26 Remi Odense, David Person
- 27 Steve Sharlow
- 28 Becky Denlinger, Alex Adam
- 29 Mike Graham

## Members and Friends Changes

- Catherine Cardinal - went from Member to Friend  
Sharon Flaherty - resigned  
Claire Ebendinger - New Member  
Sylvia Krogh - New Friend  
Alan Boyle - New Friend



## Board Members on Duty

- January 6 Lorna Anthony  
January 13 Kathleen Zimmerman  
January 20 John Tiffany  
January 27 Mike Graham

## 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

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Marion Pape
<b>Past President</b>	Lorna Anthony
<b>Vice President</b>	Steve Sharlow
<b>Treasurer</b>	Earle Anthony
<b>Secretary</b>	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](mailto: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**  
Design

interior design  
colour consultation

250-384-3405  
[afe.design@firley.ca](mailto:afe.design@firley.ca)



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**Yana Petronis Counselling**

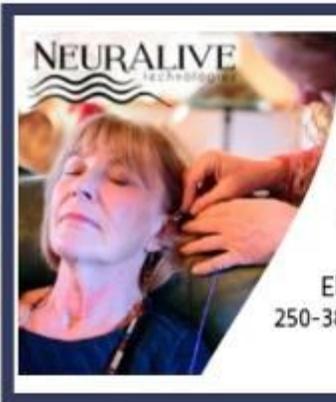


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**NEED HOUSE SITTERS?**

Edmonton Unitarians Pauline and David Hagel would like to house/pet sit or rent a place in February and/or March. Only prerequisite is that there not be a lot of stairs. You can phone them in Edmonton at 780-484-8400.

Highly recommended by their friends Sylvia Krogh and Alan Boyle whom you can contact locally at 778-350-6216.

**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 Matlpi** (JD, LL.M) is a member of the Kwakiutl Nation and also of Ma'amtigila/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 30<sup>th</sup>: Please register at [dnadeau@look.ca](mailto: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.

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the **February** issue is **January 15**.  
Copy should be sent to  
[newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca](mailto:newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca).



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 (production, distribution and paid  
advertisements).

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