



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN JULY 2020

SUNDAY SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30 am

DATE AND TIME: July 5: 10:30 AM

HOMILIST: Rev. Patricia Trudeau

TITLE: From Fear to Engagement in Racial Justice

WA: David Vest

PIANIST Jennifer Mitchell

There is trouble in the world and we don't know what to do to dismantle racism. Many Canadians wonder if current disruptions in the USA are a Canadian problem given our different histories and demographics. Pat will talk about recent events of anti-black racism here and in the USA, and the intersectionality of racism, pandemic, poverty and policing.

Speaker Biography:

Rev. Pat Trudeau was ordained as a Unitarian Universalist minister last year in Toronto following a long career in social work, college counselling and social work education. She proudly serves as the minister at the Unitarian Fellowship of Northwest Toronto. Her passion for racial justice is expressed in her sermons and workshops on becoming allies in anti-oppression. Her work is inspired by her spouse and son, strong black activists in both Canada and the USA.

DATE AND TIME: July 12: 10:30 AM

HOMILIST: Faye Mogensen

TITLE: Fresh Eyes

WA: Samantha Magnus

PIANIST: Jennifer Mitchell

This past winter, I didn't know what to expect when my husband and I set off to volunteer in a small West African town. Max Planck's words, "*when you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change*," are now resonating for me. The stories in today's service are based on my reflections of our time in Taiama, Sierra Leone and some surprising experiences there.

Speaker Biography:

Faye Mogensen is an FUCV member and the former Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning at the church. She has continued to hone her storytelling skills and gathered more stories during her recent travels, as well as here at home.

DATE AND TIME: July 19: 10:30 AM

Mystic's Story

TITLE: Embracing Mystery - Near-Death and Dying; A UU

HOMILIST: Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet

WA: Lynne Bonner

PIANIST: Jennifer Mitchell

Join Westwood Unitarian Congregation's Director of Religious Education, as they relive their close encounters with death. Lifelong kidney disease and a vivid dream life combined bring a unique and personal twist to Ilara's story. May you leave feeling as uplifted as they did while penning their story to share!

Speaker Biography:

Ilara Stefaniuk-Gaudet is a visual artist, poet, and story teller. They are a lifelong UU, even before they knew it! They have spent their years advocating for people with disabilities, Inter-faith

Continued next page

Livestream begins each Sunday by 10:25 am. To view [please click on this link](#). To view past worship services (as of Jan. 27) [click on this link](#).

initiatives, and LGBTQ2S+ humans, and following synchronicity to wherever it guides them. Ilara loves gardening, anything crafty, and being a student of life.

DATE AND TIME: July 26: 10:30 AM

TITLE: Lay Chaplains: A Time of Transition

SPEAKERS: Lay Chaplains led by Liz Graham

WA: Kressa Sisu

PIANIST: Pianist Jennifer Mitchell

The work of our lay chaplains is to help folks with the transitions in their lives, whether it is welcoming a new child, joining lives together in marriage or saying farewell to a loved one. We also co-create rites of passage when asked for many other transitions: new homes, new life stages, letting go of relationships, careers or pets. We will hear about some of these that our team of Lay Chaplains has facilitated.

As well, this service will celebrate a transition in our Lay Chaplain team. We will install a new Lay Chaplain and thank two others for their years of service.

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH? (when it opens again, of course...)

Check "Ridesharing" <https://victoriaunitarian.ca/directions/>

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:

Andy Lee, Chair, Lorna Anthony, Jeri Dause, Bill Glassman, Jan Thomson, Suellen Guenther.

MINISTERIAL SCHEDULE

The ministers will be off from June 29 through August 10. They return to their regular work schedule on Tuesday, August 11th. Four weeks of their time away is study leave, time to read and reflect and prepare for the 2020/2021 program year. Generally, they read up on each of the Soul Matters themes to get a start on sermon writing, and think through some of the most pressing issues facing the congregation. This will be especially important this year with all of the changes and disruptions Covid-19 has brought and will continue to bring to our congregational community. The other two weeks of their time away is for family vacation. Other than a few brief on island excursions, the Lynngoods will be in town. If you experience an emergency during these six weeks of leave for our ministers, please text them or leave a voice message on their cell phones (Rev. Shana 250-891-6331 and Rev. Melora 250-891-6330) and they will call you back as soon as possible. May we all find moments of renewal and rest and reflection this summer.

From Reverend Shana: If you need to reach me urgently, please call or text me 250-891-6331. I use the pronouns she/her/hers. I work on the land of the WSANEC people on whose traditional territory our congregation is located. The WSANEC peoples' relationship with the land continues to this day. I support truth, healing, and reconciliation.

Please note: My work hours are shifting significantly in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis. The usual juggle of parental and professional responsibilities have become even more pronounced with schools closed. I have blocks of work time each day Tuesday through Friday and on Sunday. My weekend is Saturday and Monday. Thanks in advance for your grace and understanding.

IN THIS ISSUE

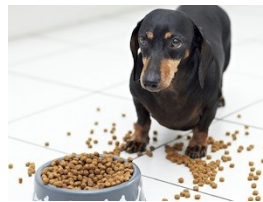
Services.....	1	EAT Survey.....	15
Need a ride, Ministry, Ministry Schedule.....	2	GVAT.....	16
Contents, Messages from Editors.....	3	Social Justice.....	17
Office Goes Virtual, UN Award.....	4	Refugee Update.....	18
SEL.....	5	Intentional Gathering.....	19
Online Auction Results.....	7	Staff, Lay Chaplains, Care & Concern.....	21
President's Report.....	8	Calendar, Birthdays, New Members.....	22
Growing at Home.....	10	Ads.....	23
Green Corner.....	11	Calendar, Birthdays, New Members.....	22
Electric Vehicles and Bikes.....	14	Ads.....	23

**The Newsletter Deadline is the
15th of the Month**

FROM THE EDITORS: GUIDELINES FOR YOUR SUBMISSIONS

*We try to standardize the presentation, to
avoid the dog's breakfast aspect...:*

- 1. Where possible we use Calibri font.**
- 2. One space between sentences and between lines.**
- 3. No pdf files, please, use Word.**
- 4. Send pictures in jpegs.. Don't send text as jpegs.**
- 5. Take the deadline seriously!**



FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA OFFICE GOES VIRTUAL.

For the safety of the staff and members of the congregation FUCV, the Church Office will no longer be staffed. The office staff will be working remotely.

What does this mean for our congregation? It means that the **physical** office is closed until the government issues a return to work policy based on the end of the Covid-19 virus pandemic. But the office staff is still hard at work from their home offices – “working remotely”.

They still can be reached through their usual emails:

Shannon's emails: Fucv.communications@gmail.com communications@victoriaunitarian.ca

Niki's emails: fucv.churchoffice@gmail.com churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

Voice Messages can be left on the phone which will be retrieved on a daily basis.

Their work hours remain the same:

Shannon's Hours:

Tuesdays thru Thursdays: 10 am to 4 pm

Niki's hours:

Sunday: 9-1

Monday: 9-3

Tuesday: 9-1

Wednesday: 9-1

Thursday: 12-4

If you require any printing done that you cannot do yourself or some office urgent task, that **cannot be postponed until the pandemic is over**, please let us know and we will look after it for you.

There is a lockbox with a key on the front door of the office. If you have authorization (are a board member or committee member and have access to the code) and you do come to the office, please put your name on the sign-in sheet located on a clip board on the table in front of the west facing windows. We are trying to keep track of anyone who comes into the office during its official closure. This relates to security as well as sanitation standards for the office to assist in avoiding any contamination of Covid-19.



UNITED NATIONS BLUE RIBBON AWARD!

First Unitarian received the Blue Ribbon Award for 2019-2020 for our support of the United Nations. The award is based on financial support, inclusive programming and active support.



From their website:

The Blue Ribbon Award is an annual recognition that the Unitarian Universalist Office at the United Nations grants to congregations who demonstrate their commitment to building a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all. These congregations are awarded based on their financial support of and active engagement with the work of the UU@UN. Having a prominent place within the civil society community at the United Nations gives Unitarian Universalists the chance to let our values be heard and respected on a global stage. Unitarian Universalists have had an outsized impact by working with the United Nations and its Member States and agencies to promote Unitarian Universalist understandings of justice and inclusion in their work for human rights, peace, and climate action.

Congratulations and thanks for everyone's support.

Jim Hemstock, UU@UN Envoy

Spiritual Exploration & Learning: Summer

Pacific Northwest Summer Kids Camps (online/home-based)



We don't usually offer summer programming for kids and youth, as many of us are typically busy traveling and enjoying being the beauty of our region... However, this year with all the disruptions to life as usual we are going to try and experiment! We are delighted to collaborate with a number of UU congregations in the Pacific Northwest to offer Summer programming that is a combination of online and home-based activities. The program will be set up with a focus on elementary-aged children, though it will be structured so families can participate together... You can make new friends in our region and to invite your friends who live in other places to join!

Programming will run from **June 29 until August 21**, with a different focus each week – you can sign up for as many or as few weeks as you wish. The topics will include UU identity, spiritual practices, environmental justice, social justice, and food security which will be explored through nature-based, art-based, dance/movement, and cooking/baking activities... and Minecraft. For more information see: <https://victoriaunitarian.ca/children-youth/curriculum/>

FUUsion 2020 – Summer Camp for Youth (online)

This virtual camp will be available to incoming 6th graders through Class of 2020 **July 5 until July 12**. *****Register by noon June 30th*****

Middle School FUUsion (Incoming 6th – 8th grades, ~11-13 yr olds) will include: Worship, Small Group Discussion, Spiritual Practice, Social Activities, Morning Circle and even a full community game some with the high school camp, mostly not.

High School FUUsion (Incoming 9th grade – Class of 2020, ~14-18 yr olds) will include Worship, Small Group Discussion, Spiritual Practice, Social Activities, Morning Circle, and even a full community game; some with the middle school camp, mostly not. Workshops will run as four tracks of activities: **Creative Expression, Justice & Inclusion, Leadership, and Worship & Spirituality**. During registration, you choose how many tracks to take.

For more information see: <https://victoriaunitarian.ca/children-youth/curriculum/>

Monday - Saturday Mornings at 8.15 am (approx 15 mins)



Routine and connection are vital as we all move through the next few weeks. With that in mind, we are offering a daily 'Time For All Ages' where all UU'ers, from newborns to the elderly and everyone in between can light a chalice, breathe, and enjoy a social justice themed picture book.

Note: Our little ones have been missing their church 'grandparents, aunts and uncles', if you are awake at 8.15 am please consider dropping by any day for a wonderful start to the day. PJs and breakfast welcome!



NOTE: New Link and New time!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErdOqvri0jH9a4wAzLQJvkJcdEEGjkEgVA> (password: 215827)



**Our first online auction has
raised an astonishing
\$16339!**

**We appreciate all
the donors and bidders
who made this auction
such a success!**

Your board had no idea that a pandemic would hit the world, including our dear community. We were in the midst of completing a strategic plan and a Long-term Planning Task Force was looking at the long horizon towards sustainability of FUCV. Both of these initiatives were placed on a back burner as we concentrated on the emergency issues of closing down in-person activities such as Sunday services, rentals and much else as a result of COVID 19.

At the board meeting of June 12, Rev. Melora asked whether the strategic priorities we had set still stood or whether there were suggested changes to the planning priorities for the upcoming board. The new board, elected at the June 21st AGM, will decide on priorities along with Ministerial staff. I have followed the strategic plan almost from its inception and guided its implementation, and so I submitted the following Ideas as suggestions for their consideration.

Strategic Planning Initiative: I joined the Board as Vice-President four years ago and as President two years ago. It was over this timeframe that we developed and engaged the FUCV community in the big thinking involved with Strategic Planning. We confirmed the three top FUCV Strategic Initiatives together with their implementation as follows:

Membership: FUCV has attracted a number of new members, particularly new families and has increased the diversity of our congregation. I suggested that **Membership will continue to be important work for FUCV particularly in a virtual context.**

Location: The **Location Task Force** produced an excellent and comprehensive report with a number of recommendations. These were based on many engagement opportunities including a detailed survey distributed widely to the entire FUCV Breeze database giving some clear direction for continuation of initiatives. The report is available at <https://victoriaunitarian.ca/wp-content/uploads/LTF-Final-Report-201219.pdf> .

I suggested that Location services needed to be temporarily suspended because we cannot offer in-person services due to the current COVID 19 pandemic. Unfinished business that will require attention from the new board includes deferring to 2021 an innovation grant to continue offsite services with a goal to attract new members as well as offer services closer to members and friends in Victoria. An Offsite Services Task Force has been put on hold pending further direction related to COVID 19. Current Sunday service innovations are attracting new members to our virtual services and may provide a different kind of solution to those who live a distance from the West Saanich church. This requires further investigation.

Family Ministry continues to be an important ingredient in our church services. Innovative new programming is developing in the virtual world due to COVID 19. This initiative needs to be encouraged under the able guidance and inspiration of Aaron Liddel.

Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples:

An initiative that has been implemented throughout the duration of strategic planning and deserves close attention is Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. Over the last year alone, the following activities were presented to our FUCV and Capital Congregations. We hired a presenter/facilitator from the Indigenous Perspectives Society to deliver a day long Cultural Perspectives Workshop at UVic. This session attracted a full audience of participants. An Indigenous film series was delivered in cooperation with CUC and once again co-sponsored by Capital Unitarian Fellowship. A second session of this program will be offered this fall and is being funded by Capital Unitarian Fellowship. What a great partnership we are developing.

Continued next page

Emanating from these reconciliation sessions, a new FUCV/Capital team is being formed to work on a number of Truth, Healing and Reconciliation and Relationship (THRR) initiatives. Here is a description of this team that is accepting interested members.

“The mandate of this team of Unitarian Universalists in Greater Victoria would be to identify and facilitate opportunities for education and engagement, in the interests of contributing to the spirit of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Greater Victoria. The goal is to prepare ourselves to be informed allies, capable of building constructive relationships. The team would use a reciprocal approach that would involve reaching out to Indigenous communities with the question, “how can we get to know you?” as opposed to “how can we help?” This constitutes a subtle yet very important difference.”

Contact: Evelyn.Joy.Peters@outlook.com

I recommend that the FUCV Board offer encouragement and support to this initiative.

COVID 19 Task Force: FUCV Board has just struck a new Task Force on the FUCV COVID 19 Re-Start. The pandemic is having a serious impact on the church, but it is also sparking innovation and creativity in the work we do. This Re-Start Task Force, co-chaired by Jim Willis and Kristina Stevens, presented two Open Forums to the Congregation on June 16th and 17th and presented a report to the June 21st AGM.

I have very much enjoyed my time as President, intense as it sometimes was. It was challenging, innovative and fulfilling. Working with our two Co-Ministers has been a profound experience for me. Their compassion for staff, members, friends, and the community are inspiring and this motivates us to do our part.

We have wonderful staff such as Aaron Liddel, SELCY Director, who has grown enormously in our church, and is offering an excellent program, particularly in the virtual environment. The music program is thriving with the leadership and imagination of Nick Fairbank as he supports the new direction of virtual services. Office staff have struggled in the new COVID environment to satisfy the varied needs of the church while working from home much of the time. Our new office administrator, Niki Mullin, has been learning her job in difficult circumstances.

The board with which I have worked as President has questioned, listened, worked very hard and contributed a huge amount to the betterment of FUCV. It is not an easy job serving as a board member and it's a tribute to the excellence of our church that we continue to recruit inspiring people to serve.

Serving the FUCV Congregation has been a privilege. I have felt your trust and respect and I accept it with gratitude. If all of society could be like my experience with our beloved FUCV Congregation, we would have reduced anxiety, more love and companionship and a better life. Thank you, all.



GROWING AT HOME – TO FEED THE HEART AND MIND

We have heard lots of words to describe what is going on in our heads these days as we stay at home and keep our distance from each other. Loneliness – crankiness - boredom – frustration - depression. But what is going on the minds and hearts of our children? How can we help them weather this invisible but ever so real pandemic storm?

Church member Gita John-Iyam, who is Family and Youth Services coordinator at the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, had a good idea. And the church has helped it to bring it to life.

“We are just working through our survey from kids and families,” she wrote. “A lot of them have requested mental health support, the need to do something while at home.

We have been talking and have an idea . . . we are making care packages for the families and kids. Of course we will have healthy snacks, art supplies, yoyo etc. But, we would also like to include a few plants that can help give food and flowers and herbs right through summer.

“We have been working with a small urban farm close to our office for years, and I have contacted them. They are more than happy to help put it together.”

With the help of a donation from the church’s Ethel May Fund, things are blooming. Another example of lively and caring church minds at work.

– Don Vipond



COVID-19: A Wake-up Call from Mother Nature?

Part 3 of 3

Part 3: What Can We do to Prevent Future Zoonotic Diseases?



Image: Scientific American 2020

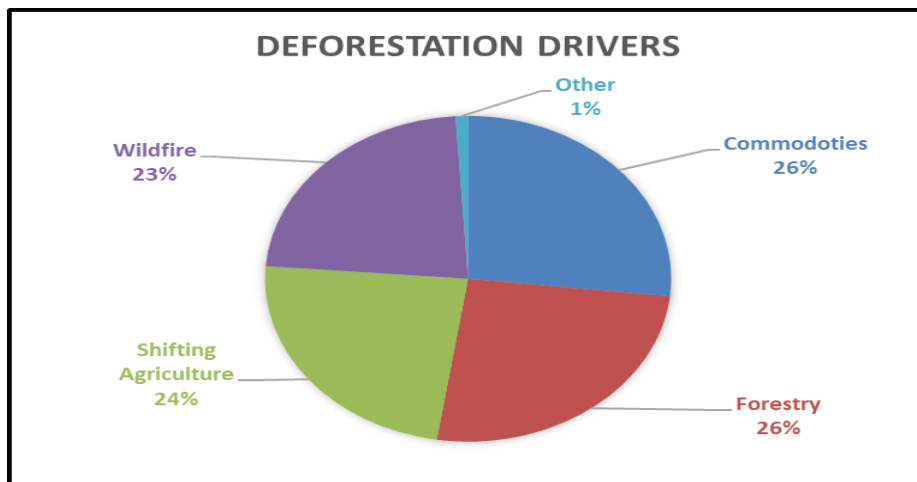
In [June’s Newsletter](#), I wrote about the underlying causes of the rise of diseases from animals, known as **zoonoses**. This month we look at what individuals, societies, and corporations need to do to stem the rise in zoonoses.

THE BERLIN PRINCIPLES ON ONE HEALTH

On October 25, 2019, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the German Federal Foreign Office held a conference that addressed how human development and interference with nature are generating threats to humans, livestock, and wildlife. The timing was remarkable, considering a global pandemic was lurking in the wings. The result of this conference is [The Berlin Principles on One Health 2019](#). Building on the 2004 Manhattan Principles on One World, One Health, the Berlin Principles provide a framework for societies to grapple with the inter-related calamities of infectious disease, climate change, biodiversity loss, and deforestation. The principles are, in effect, a holistic vision for caring for life on earth. While these connected crises are complex, there are some big-ticket items that we all need to prioritize to care for all life on our planet.

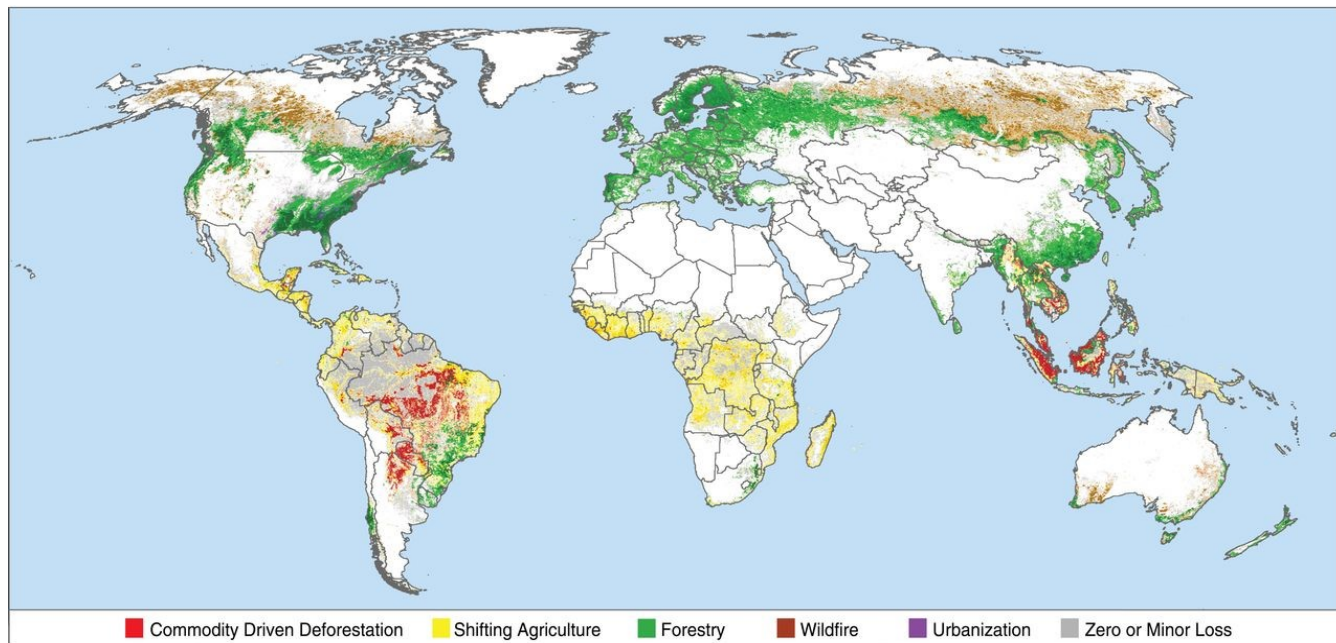
FIGHTING DEFORESTATION

What is driving deforestation? A 2018 [study](#) in *Science* magazine shows the main causes of deforestation globally:



Continued next page

Surprisingly, urbanization accounted for only 0.6% of global deforestation, while the biggest culprit is clearing land for commodities such as: beef, soy for animal feed, palm oil, mining, oil and gas. Commodity-based deforestation is particularly devastating because it results in **permanent** land use change in areas of outstanding biological significance, such as the Amazon rainforest: “In Latin America, row cropping and cattle grazing were found to be the primary drivers of forest loss, while palm oil cultivation is the main cause in Malaysia and Indonesia.”



PRIMARY DRIVERS OF FOREST COVER LOSS FOR THE PERIOD 2001-2015. [[Source](#)]

CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS AS THE PLANET WARMS

Recent [research](#) from the journal *Nature* indicates that global warming could cause sudden ecosystem collapse in as few as 10 years. The results suggest that, “losses are likely to involve multiple species near simultaneously rather than happening gradually, one species at a time.” The authors compare ecosystem collapse to the COVID-19 pandemic: “The findings show that some climate impacts could be as sudden and widespread as the pandemic, challenging our adaptive management systems.”

REDUCING OR ELIMINATING HUMAN CONTACT WITH WILD ANIMALS

A new [study](#) in *Science Advances* advises that, “Reducing or eliminating direct human contact with wild animals is critical to preventing new coronavirus zoonosis in the future.” Also, the Editors of *Scientific American* state that, “Governments should prohibit the sale of live wild animals in so-called wet markets, where pathogens have repeatedly crossed over to humans. The markets may be culturally important, but the risk is too great.”

ENDING THE WILDLIFE TRADE

Concern is growing about the links between coronavirus and wild animals. [The Guardian](#) reports that, “Eighteen conservation groups have joined together in the Campaign to End Wildlife Trading, which is urging Boris Johnson to call for a global wildlife trade ban when the G20 leaders meet this November. The ban is needed to end the exploitation of wildlife for traditional medicine, exotic pets, tourism and other purposes.” Wildlife trading is the third largest illegal trafficking in the world, after humans and drugs, and is worth \$7-\$23 billion per year.

Continued next page

LIFTING THE GLOBAL SOUTH OUT OF POVERTY

Although wet markets and wildlife trading may be extremely hazardous to human health – not to mention animal rights and welfare – they are also a vital source of income for people in parts of Asia and Africa. [Jane Goodall](#) calls for people in the Global South, “to be lifted out of poverty, pointing to its strong impact on the natural world, as people with no alternatives and who are desperate to feed their families will cut down forests to survive, and in urban areas will choose the cheapest food whatever the harm caused by its production, because they have little other choice.”

ADDRESSING THE PROBLEMS IN OUR FOOD SYSTEM

Jane Goodall also believes that, “humanity will be ‘finished’ if we fail to drastically change our food systems.” She thinks we have brought this pandemic on ourselves because of our disrespect for wild and farmed animals. She emphasizes that, “people must move away from factory farming and stop destroying natural habitats as a matter of urgency...because of the threat of diseases and of climate breakdown. Factory farming is linked to the rise of antibiotic resistant superbugs, which threaten human health.”

Factory farming’s links to disease outbreaks were examined by the FAIRR Initiative, a global investor network in a new [report](#), which found that, “more than 70% of the biggest meat, fish and dairy producers were in danger of fostering future zoonotic pandemics owing to lax safety standards, closely confined animals and the overuse of antibiotics.” Jeremy Coller, Founder of FAIRR, said, “Factory farming is both vulnerable to pandemics and guilty of creating them. It’s a self-sabotaging cycle that destroys value and risks lives. To avoid causing the next pandemic, the meat industry must tackle lax safety standards for food and workers alike, closely confined animals, and overused antibiotics. COVID could be the straw that breaks the meat industry’s back.”

SUPPORTING AND FUNDING PUBLIC HEALTH AT ALL LEVELS

[The Berlin Principles](#) emphasize the importance of investing in public health; they recognize a need for strong institutions, proper funding, and international cooperation. The authors of the aforementioned *Science Advances* [article](#) state that, “evidence has revealed that additional otherwise undetected spillovers have occurred in people in China living in proximity to wild bat populations. Continuous surveillance of coronaviruses in their natural hosts and in humans will be key to rapid control of new coronavirus outbreaks.”

WHAT CAN WE DO?

In “[Stopping Deforestation Can Prevent Pandemics](#),” the Editors of Scientific American suggest actions that societies can take to prevent future pandemics:

- Eat less meat, which will ease demand for animal feed crops and pastures;
- Eat fewer processed foods, which will reduce demand for palm oil [see [products that contain palm oil](#) and [alternative names for palm oil](#)];
- Produce more food per hectare;
- Use agroforestry techniques such as planting trees among farm fields;
- Reduce food waste;
- Find new outbreaks earlier; epidemiologists should test mammals known to carry coronaviruses, track how the germs are moving, then test nearby humans;
- Infectious disease surveillance must be widespread and well-funded;
- Prohibit the sale of wild animals;
- Examine factory farms that pack thousands of animals together.

The Editors conclude that, “The COVID-19 pandemic is a catastrophe, but it can rivet our attention on the enormous payoffs that humanity can achieve by not overexploiting the natural world. Pandemic solutions are sustainability solutions.”

Part 1: The Rise of Diseases from Animals? ([May Newsletter](#))

Part 2: Are the Bats to Blame for COVID-19? ([July Newsletter](#))

Curious about Electric Vehicles (EVs) or Electric Bicycles (E-bikes)?



Your Environmental Action Team is here to help!

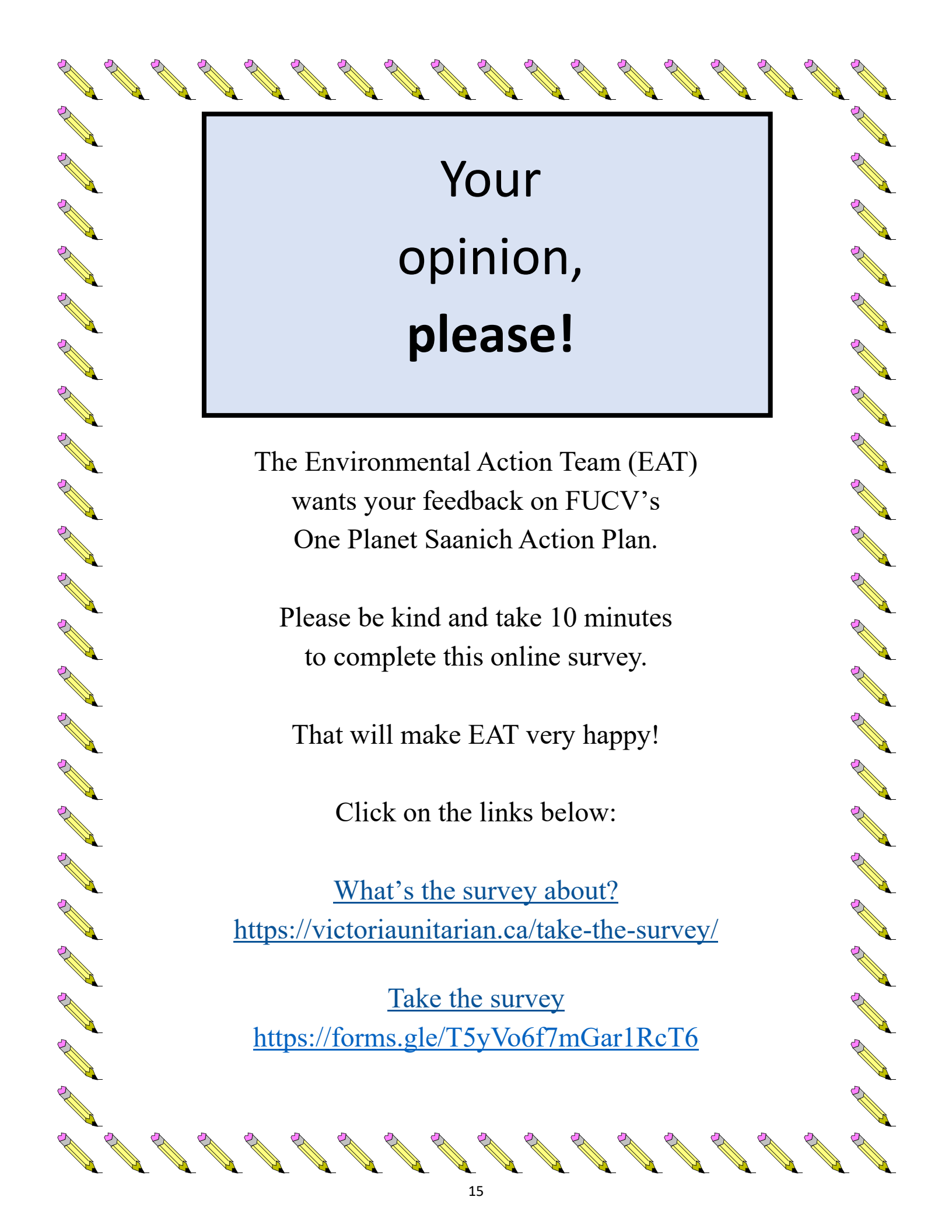
Bernhard Spalteholz and Judy Gaylord have offered one-on-one introductions for anyone in the congregation interested.

All you have to do is email Bernhard (for EVs) or Judy (E-bikes) and they will coordinate with you on how to meet them and their vehicle safely, with all COVID-19 precautions taken.

For more information, contact:

Bernhard: bspalteholz@gmail.com

Judy: jgaylord@shaw.ca



Your opinion, please!

The Environmental Action Team (EAT)
wants your feedback on FUCV's
One Planet Saanich Action Plan.

Please be kind and take 10 minutes
to complete this online survey.

That will make EAT very happy!

Click on the links below:

[What's the survey about?](#)

<https://victoriaunitarian.ca/take-the-survey/>

[Take the survey](#)

<https://forms.gle/T5yVo6f7mGar1RcT6>



Governments Request GVAT's Input to COVID-19 Recovery Program

“What we do today will help us or haunt us,” says the report of the Climate Justice Action Research Team (ART) of Greater Victoria Acting Together for the common good.

Federal and provincial governments are preparing economic stimulus packages for recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. GVAT has been invited to contribute, and its three ARTs have prepared draft recommendations. Here are some highlights.

Climate Justice:

- Uphold Canada's Paris Climate commitment to avoid disasters if/when global temperature rise more than 1.5 C.
- Shift funding from use of cars to, e.g., an electrified highway bus and passenger rail network across the whole country, especially indigenous communities.
- Fund conversion of oil and gas heating of schools and public buildings to electric heat pumps.

Housing:

- Affordable and diverse housing for all by 2030. One type of housing does not fit all!
- Emergency housing for those fleeing violence, and for youths who often experience homelessness when foster care ends.
- Additional funding for urban indigenous households and youths.
- Protection for renters—no more “renovictions”!

Mental Health and Addiction:

- Free mental health services for those needing them in communities and public schools.
- Mobile crisis response teams with qualified social and medical services and no police presence unless needed.
- Education and early intervention—priority for counselling of children in primary classes.

This will be one of GVAT's initial definitive actions to promote changes for the common go

GVAT news flash: Delegates' Assembly

GVAT held a full Delegates Assembly on Thursday, June 11th to discuss draft proposals [see elsewhere in this newsletter] for a “just and green” recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in British Columbia and Canada.

Delegates from member organizations held vigorous discussions and made amendments into the night. This resulted in a robust package of proposals addressing affordable housing, climate change and climate justice, and access to mental health and addictions care.

We also strongly urged governments to act promptly on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report. Once the final revisions have been made, the Assembly's document will be available on the GVAT website.

-from Chet Phillips, Lead Organizer



CANADIAN UNITARIANS FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND JUSTNEWS

The Covid-19 pandemic has opened an opportunity to change our world for the better and many social justice and environmental organizations are taking advantage of it.

We Unitarians have our own national social justice/environmentalist organization: Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice (CUSJ, www.cusj.org).

CUSJ was founded during the Mike Harris era in Ontario, but from 1999 until 2005, CUSJ's Executive was based here at First Unitarian Church of Victoria. Then, for 19 years, from 1999 until 2018, CUSJ's newsletter, JUSTnews, was published mostly by members of our congregation (<https://cusj.org/about/history/>). Our Church was a powerhouse for social justice!

A new issue of JUSTnews was published in late May, 2020, from the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. The theme is "Water is Life" (<https://cusj.org/wp-content/uploads/JustNews-Vol.-2-No.-2-Spring-2020-Web-Final-with-compressed-pics.pdf>). The issue contains reports from Unitarian churches and fellowships across our country updating us on what other Unitarians are doing for the environment, reconciliation and struggle for survival.

Membership in CUSJ is by donation: <https://cusj.org/about/join-the-cusj/membership-form/>. Join now, and help Unitarians change Canada for the better!

-Philip Symons



REFUGEE COMMITTEE UPDATE ON OUR NEW FAMILY

The Refugee Committee would like to provide UU members and friends with the current update on our new refugee family - Mohammad Abo Qayass, Fatemah his wife, and their son Abdulrahman.

More than \$28,000 in funds have been donated in support of the family's refugee application by West Saanich and Capital UU members, starting with the 2019 summer barbeque kick-off. The Refugee Fund will stand at \$38,400 when all commitments are complete. This is a fine UU accomplishment and we send many thanks to the donors for helping us reach our goal. If additional support is required, we hope to be able to organize additional fund raising events when the family arrives.

We learned in February 2020 that Immigration Canada had approved their application pending medical exams and security and criminal background checks. We are currently awaiting the government's restart of Canada's refugee resettlement program (paused under Covid-19 regulations) and an update on the family's position.

Khaled, Raweah, Mohammad and Wasan are extremely grateful for donor generosity and report that their relatives are managing well in Jordan with Abdulrahman being able to generate some income during this period. With the closure of schools and businesses and a curfew imposed in early March, Jordan reported a limited number of COVID-19 cases. Khaled clarified that as his brother is now 17, he will be of age to enter Camosun College to continue his education. As you can imagine, the family is looking forward to moving to Canada.

We're also very happy to pass on the latest news of Khaled, Raweah, Mohammad and Wassan from Kristina Stevens and Clair Ebendinger who recently visited with them. Khaled is employed at a sheet metal company where his cousin, Jawad, works and is doing restaurant deliveries in the evenings. He says he earns enough to support the family although they have been grateful for the monthly help with their rent this year from a generous UU donor. He said he has also enjoyed the great Canadian pursuit of recreational fishing.

Raweah is taking English classes with the Inter-Cultural Association of Victoria on Zoom and Kristina and Claire noted that her comprehension has significantly improved along with Mohammad's vocabulary and Wassan's enthusiasm for learning the language. The parents enjoyed a walk to Summit Park with Claire recently with the kids having fun on their bikes.



-Carol Smith

Photo by Kristina Stevens

INTENTIONAL GATHERINGS



A group of about 10 people will meet to discuss the films with 5 meetings in total. As long as/if physical distancing guidelines are still in place we will meet via Zoom. Intentional Gatherings are Tuesday afternoons, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at First Unitarian (or online), **September 22, October 6 & 20, and November 3 & 17**. The facilitators are Karen Christie, Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation (CUUC), and Evelyn Peters (FUCV). (See brief bios below).

Preference will be given to those who can attend all 5 sessions.

To **register please email** Evelyn Peters at Evelyn.Joy.Peters@outlook.ca or call her at 788.265.5279.

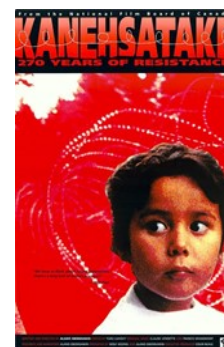
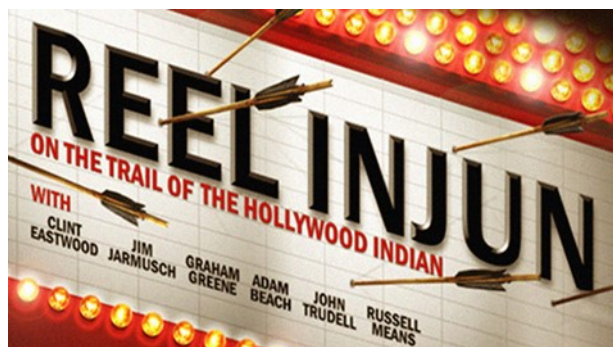
Bios

Evelyn Peters attends the FUCV. Recently retired, she was a professor at Queen's Carleton and Christchurch (NZ) Universities, and the Universities of Saskatchewan and Winnipeg. A Canada Research Chair for seventeen years, her areas of research focused on urban Indigenous issues and Aboriginal people and public policy in Canada. She worked with numerous local, provincial and national Indigenous organizations in Canada, as well as with a variety of government departments and NGOs. She is deeply committed to education as an essential step toward decolonization.

Karen Christie is a Board member of the Capital Unitarian Universalist Congregation. She also chairs the Membership Committee there, and organizes pub nights for thirsty souls! Her deep knowledge of challenges and rewards of developing cross-cultural relationships are rooted in her work in international development with NGO's in Ottawa, a multi-national security organization in former Yugoslavia, and eventually Global Affairs Canada in Africa, Afghanistan and Haiti. She has lived and worked on six continents, and is especially committed to the first principle of Unitarianism, the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Continued next page

Continued from previous page...



Another Chance for Participation:

A Guided Film Discussion Series to Deepen our Commitment to Truth, Healing, Relationship & Reconciliation

5 sessions, September - November

A team from the Capital and First Unitarian congregations will again facilitate a *Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation Film Discussion Series* based on five Indigenous lead films. The series is guided by material developed by the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC). The aim is to help us reach a deeper understanding of the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada and our shared history and its impacts.

Registered participants will watch the following films online (a link will be provided).

People of the Feather: Joel Heath

Reel Injun: Neil Diamond

We Were Children: Tim Wolochatiuk

Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance: Alanis Obomsawin

KONELĪNE: our land beautiful: Nettie Wild

CBC 8th Fire: episodes 1-4

The CUC has provided reflection materials that will be distributed to participants, who will gather for a facilitated discussion of issues raised by each film.



Tsartlip Art—Courtesy Bing

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

5575 West Saanich Road • Victoria BC • V9E 2G1 • 250-744-2665

churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca • www.victoriaunitarian.ca

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

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

Niki Mullin

Communications Assistant

Shannon Oatway
communications@victoriaunitarian.ca

Officers

President	Marion Pape
Vice President	Steve Sharlow
Treasurer	Kathleen Zimmerman
Secretary	Audrey Taylor

Board Members

Trustee	Bruce Nicol
Trustee	Nancy Dobbs
Trustee	Susan Layng
Trustee	John Tiffany
Trustee	Jim Willis

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

or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

CALENDAR:

[CLICK HERE](#)



BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

First Name	Last Name	Birthdate Month/Day
Lisa	Greenly	July 01
Hanny	Pannekoek	July 01
Zackary	Steele	July 03
Lori	Waters	July 05
Patricia	Hofstrand	July 06
Nola	Sterling	July 07
Nathaniel	Harris	July 08
Mollie	Twidale	July 09
Mary	Cramer	July 10
Nan	Fairchild	July 10
John	Worton	July 10
Brenda	Greenwood	July 11
Myra	Rippon	July 12
Judy	Gaylord	July 13
Farrell	Boyce	July 15
Suellen	Guenther	July 15
Shannon	Roberts	July 15
James	Black	July 16
Christine	Selder	July 16
Al	Hoffman	July 17
Katherine	Maas	July 17
Thomas	Ovanin	July 17
Marg	Rose	July 18
Penelope	Pattison	July 19
Caroline-Tashish	Rentz	July 20
Rex	Thomson	July 22
Sheri	Tromp	July 22
Natnael	Mellett	July 23
Ray	Travers	July 25
Henry	Amick	July 26
Don	Vipond	July 26
Cherry Lynn	Brown	July 29
Kisha	Bramadat	July 30
Janice	Hlady	July 30
Laurel	Westing-house	July 30
Katherine	DeMille	July 31

NEW MEMBERS

David Jordan and Carol Riseing

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

Handyman Available



- ◆ \$25 an hour, efficient, timely service, church references available on request.
- ◆ Will do small painting jobs, light hedge pruning, household repairs, junk removal...

Darren Matsumiya

email Darren.mat@shaw.ca, phone 250-598-1884



**island
montessori**

A local non-profit for all children (Since 1973)

Accepting Enrollment
Book Now for a Tour!

- preschool to grade 2
- before and after school care
- small class sizes
- supportive and caring staff
- excellent academic foundation
- Kodaly music program
- lovely rural location connecting children to nature

5575 West Saanich Rd (across from Red Barn Market)
250 592 4411 info@telus.net
www.islandmontessori.com

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Unitarian from Kingston seeking like-minded folks to rent a room from Nov 1-Dec 15 in Victoria.

My daughter is having her first baby Nov 15, but she and her partner have a tiny 1 bedroom near Finlayson and Maplewood. Happy to pay. Wifi required because working part-time. Would love to chat if any questions...Susan

Young: susanhyoung65@gmail.com or 613-650-7906.

Lance Young
Electrician
#18138
For all your electrical needs



No job too small Free estimates Honest Advice

Call: 250-893-3214
Email: hellolanceyoung@gmail.com
or talk to me at church

RENOVATIONS WANTED

We are Unitarians from Kelowna who are intending on moving to the Highlands area. We are wondering if there may be someone amongst the congregants who knows of a good, honest reliable contractor that could do renovations or/ and additions onto a home.

Jan Dawson,

www.northstardogtraining.ca

ACCOMMODATION WANTED

UU Seeking Rental in July for 3 months in Victoria area.

Option: a housing exchange possible - in tropical China in future years.

West Coast Unitarian is seeking a room to rent, with access to cooking, ideally with a Unitarian, for 3 months starting July 1 or 15, in the Victoria area. Purpose is to spend time with son, daughter-in-law and their new baby daughter. He could housesit if that is needed. Ed Taylor is known to Christine Johnston, has been a UU for 50 years and is associated with 3 churches Vancouver, Kelowna, and Calgary. Many years ago he was on PNWD Board representing small congregations in BC when Rod Stewart was Administrator.

Ed owns a property on the tropical island of Hainan in south China and offers (if wanted) accommodation there within the next 2-3 years. Phone is 778 999 6770 and e-mail: Ed.Taylor@telus.net

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

Phone: 250-744-2665

E-mail: churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

www.victoriaunitarian.ca

Postage paid at Victoria, BC
5575 West Saanich Road
Canadian Publications Mail
Sales Product Agreement No. 40010260

THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

is the monthly publication of the
First Unitarian Church of Victoria.

The **deadline** for submissions to
the **August** issue is **July 15**.
Copy should be sent to
newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca.



For those without email, copy may be left at the church
office. All copy is subject to editing.

Staff: Barbara Nyland and Jen Young (editors); Shannon
Oatway (production, distribution and paid advertisements).