



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

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER 2020

SUNDAY SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30 am

September's Theme

Welcome to the Month of RENEWAL



www.victoriaunitarian.ca

DATE AND TIME September 6: 10:30 AM

TITLE: The Need for Unconditional Love

HOMILIST: Dar Levy

WA: David Vest

Unconditional Love, affection and acceptance without limitation is associated with a mother's nurturing love and with true altruism. In many religions and spiritual beliefs it is celebrated as the ultimate goal, and is considered in our faith as something that all are worthy of. ... And yet for many there doesn't seem to be enough of it to go around.

"In order for me to speak honestly about what I've come to understand about unconditional love and the need for more of it, I must also speak about what it's like to do without, and about my own personal struggle to find it. ...Perhaps together we can find a way to bring more of it into this world."

DATE AND TIME: September 13th: 10:30 AM

TITLE: Renewing our Spirits

HOMILIST: Rev Shana

WA: Lynne Bonner

On this Ingathering Sunday (which is an intergenerational service this year) when we kick off a new program year in the life of our congregation, we will introduce this month's theme of renewal. Throughout the Covid pandemic, many of the ways we would normally "fill our wells" may be cut off. How do we replenish our spirits in these anxious and uncertain times? How can we learn from one another across the lifespan, as we seek tools and practices to stay connected and grounded come what may?

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](#).

Continued from previous page

DATE AND TIME: September 20: 10:30 AM

TITLE: Beloved Conversations

HOMILIST: Rev Melora

WA: See eweekly or calendar

Over the past several years, in our congregation, we’ve been learning new language and new concepts that help us better understand the dynamics of racism and help us get better at being anti-racist -- micro-aggressions, white fragility, white supremacy culture... Where are we in this work as a congregation, and what are our next steps? How do we continue and renew our efforts to do the things we need to do to become the ‘beloved community’ we long to become?

DATE AND TIME: September 27: 10:30 AM

TITLE: Try, Try Again

HOMILIST: Rev Melora

WA: See eweekly or calendar

We are human. We mess up. How good are you at accepting failure, rolling with it when you or others make mistakes? How do we make reparations in relationships and in community when we’ve caused harm?

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.

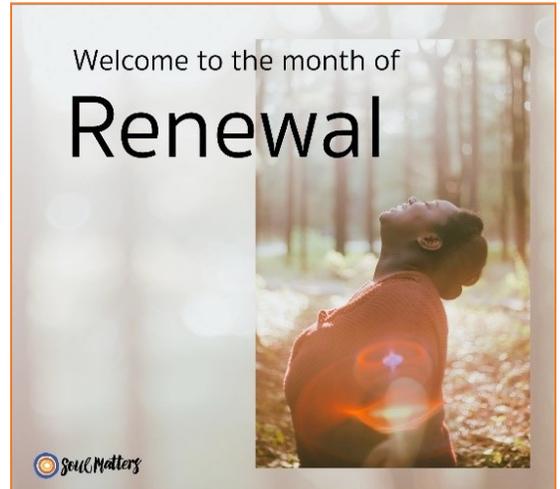
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Theme Questions

Welcome to a new church year! This month we explore what it means to be a people of **Renewal**.

Here are some questions to spark your thinking inspired by the UU Soul Matters Network. Discuss the questions with a fellow congregant, on the phone or zoom with friends or family, and/or journal about them on your own. If the list is overwhelming, scan it, and simply **choose one question** to ponder and revisit over the course of the month. See what insights might come from living with the question over time. Pick the one question that speaks to you most and let it lead you where you need to go. The goal is to figure out which question is “yours”. Which question captures the call of your inner voice? Which one contains “your work”? What is it trying to get you to notice? Where is it trying to lead you?



1. Whose way of being in the world renews your faith in humanity?
2. How is “summer renewal” different from “fall renewal” for you?
3. Are you tired? What part of you is tired? Mind, body, heart, soul? If you were to sit and be with that sense of weariness, hold that part of you in tender care, what longing might come forth?
4. What might help you find the renewal you need? Rest or play? Solitude or connection? Or..?
5. If you were to choose one relationship in your life to reinvigorate with renewed care and attention, which relationship would you choose?
6. Recall famous quotation from Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman, “Don’t ask yourself what the world needs; ask yourself what makes you come alive. And then go and do that. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.” What makes you come alive?
7. Which of your commitments to the greater good do you wish to renew this year?
8. **What’s your question?** Your question may not be listed above. As always, if the above questions don't include what life is asking from you, spend the month listening to your days to hear it.

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This Month's Spiritual Exercises

This suggested spiritual exercise is suggested by the Unitarian Universalist Soul Matters Network this month (If you are in a Soul Matters Small Group at our church, see your packet for more resources).

Option A

Renew & Unlearn: Racism

We are all steeped in the racism and colonialism that permeates our culture. We can't help it. But we can learn to see it, identify it, and then unlearn it, and actively work against it. What if we think of renewal as unlearning?

Choose one of the resources below. Ask a friend to read/watch it with you. Then make a date to discuss. What did you already know? What did you learn? What surprised you? What might you do differently in your life as a result?

- Article on **Treaties** by fellow congregant, Evelyn Peters, on page 12 of this newsletter.
- [Settler Fragility: Why Settler Privilege Is So Hard to Talk About](#) article from our UU Beacon Press (Look at the micro-aggressive statements in the middle of the article; which have you heard people say? Which (if any) have you said?)
- **"The rise of anti-Asian racism during COVID-19,"** an 11 minute video, should appear at the top of this web page: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7091118/coronavirus-racism-chinese-canadians/> Unmute the volume at the bottom left of the video frame, the video will begin after the short advertisement is over. See also: <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/filling-the-gap-in-data-on-anti-asian-racism-in-canada-1.4982059>
- **On anti-black racism in Canada:** Desmond Cole, Canadian activist, freelance journalist, and author of the bestselling book "The Skin We're In: A year of Black Resistance and Power"
 - *7 min interview <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1745093699658>
 - *Blog <https://thatsatruestory.wordpress.com/>
 - *documentary <https://www.cbc.ca/firsthand/episodes/the-skin-were-in>

Or, [Choose](#) your own resource to explore.

And sign up for Beloved Conversations, the UU Anti-Racism program, see page 8.

Option B

Catch Up On a Couple of Commitments to Yourself

In her riveting poem, [My Commitments to Myself](#), Laura Mancuso lists all the things she does for self-care and self-renewal. To read it is to be reminded of the many avenues available to us for personal rejuvenation. It's also a reminder that refreshing our spirits is not a one-time or singular thing. To feel grounded and full takes constant care through the use of numerous carefully chosen commitments.

So in honor of Mancuso's reminder, make some time this month to meditate on her poem and then pick two from her list that call to you, that capture two commitments to yourself that you want to renew:

My Commitments to Myself

Laura Mancuso

<https://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/my-commitments-myself>

Option C

Lie Down Among the Wild Things...

and Renew Your Senses

In his well-known and beloved poem, [The Peace of Wild Things](#), Wendell Berry speaks of lying down in the midst of nature and letting it renew him. You can read it as instructions for how to tap into nature's restorative power. But for your exercise this month, take it a step further and engage the exercise with all five of your senses. Simply lie down in a natural setting of your choosing and then, with attention and mindfulness, slowly ask yourself these five questions:

1. What do I see?
2. What do I hear?
3. What do I smell?
4. What do I feel against my clothes and skin?
5. What can I taste? (A bit tricky but be creative.)

In each case, follow up each of the five questions with an additional one: "And what is that trying to say to me?" In other words, after you identify what is catching your eye, ask "how is this trying to speak to me?" After noticing what you smell, ask, "What message might this have for my soul?" Remember this is not so much about trying to create a long list and figure out how many things you can notice. Instead it's about trying to sort through the many things you see, smell, hear, touch and taste in order to find the *one thing* that really sticks out to your senses. And then discerning why it was that particular thing that grabbed you and what its deeper restorative message might be.

Option D

Return & Repair

Speaking of our faith's commitment to covenant and the work of renewing our covenants with each other, Rev. Gretchen Haley writes:

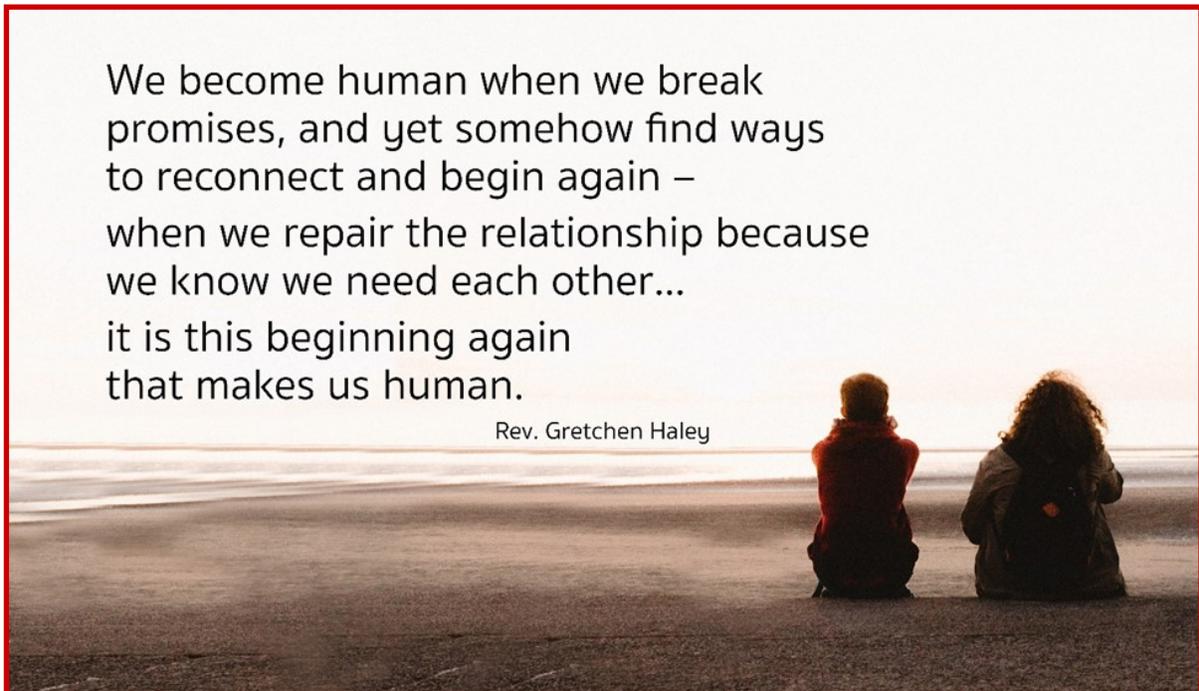
"What our faith asks of us, what our faith imagines for us, is that somehow, right at that moment when our hearts break, we will find our way to see through that heartbreak. We will stay put – not close off, not run away, not hurt back – but keep on being in relationship, doing what we can to repair the world and each other."

With these words in your mind and heart, make some time this month, identify a relationship of heartbreak in your life. Maybe it involves a friend or family member, maybe even someone who is no longer living. Maybe a neighbor. Maybe even an institution, like your church or our government. Whoever or whichever it is, make time this month to return to that broken relationship and work on repair. Simply ask yourself "Where have I withdrawn, been betrayed or broken something myself?" Your heart will know the answer. Listen to what it says. Then open your heart one more time and lean into that relationship once again, doing what you can to repair and renew it.

This exercise asks you to do the work of return and repair.

We become human when we break promises, and yet somehow find ways to reconnect and begin again – when we repair the relationship because we know we need each other... it is this beginning again that makes us human.

Rev. Gretchen Haley



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Option E

A Renewal Box to Remind You

Reminders are essential to renewal. Normal life has a way of crowding out opportunities for rest, rejuvenation and what matters most. Because of this we have to be intentional about reminding ourselves to make room for renewal. And nothing helps us remember better than physical reminders. So this month engage your creativity and create “a renewal box” covered with and containing physical items and visual images that will help you renew and keep you connected to your core commitments as well as the things that nourish you most.

This exercise is imagined and designed by Soul Matters’ new Creativity Consultant, [Elizabeth McKoy](#). She’ll be designing one creativity-based exercise per month to help us explore the monthly theme using our aesthetic, intuitive and imaginative sides. Think of it as making room for your right brain to dance with your left brain.

[Click here](#) to read her detailed instructions and video tutorial for this exercise.

Soul Matters Songs on the Theme



Check out the **Spotify** song collections for each month’s themes:

<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/spotify-lists.html>

With Video! Also available as a **youtube** playlist. :

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL_fSD0_Ps01IGauCVL_mKQ/playlists

Direct link to **Renewal** playlist on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvXOKgOQVYP4NLAp7IC75DrflXzAORBun>

Beloved CONVERSATIONS

Meditations on Race & Ethnicity



UU Anti-Racism Program- Coming this Fall to our congregation! Sign up before Sept 15!

This fall, our congregation will have the opportunity to pilot the new online version of this deep and rich Unitarian Universalist program on race and ethnicity.

“...this is a program for Unitarian Universalists who are seeking to embody racial justice as a spiritual practice. We believe that **we are here to heal the impact of racism on our lives in order to get free together**. Beloved conversations is intended to be a tool in your toolbox, for you as an individual, and [as] a part of a congregation, to eradicate white supremacy, to work to become anti-racist, and to make our faith a welcoming place for everyone.”

– Rev. Kierstin Homblette Allen, co-creator of *Beloved Conversations*

Beloved Conversations: Virtual will be rolling out over the next several church years, beginning in September 2020. This new version of the program will be released in three phases:

- Within (the individual, personal work we each need to do);
- Among (the institutional, systemic change needed in our congregations); and
- Beyond (the work outside our congregations, with our local communities).

The program this fall (phase one -Within) runs **October through mid-December, and includes:**

Individual study of videos and readings, accompanied by reflection prompts and suggested **conversations with “critical friends”** chosen by the participants

Bi-weekly **small group conversations** in a “learning pod”

Larger, monthly, ‘**meaning making sessions,**’ facilitated by Beloved Conversations staff

The “Within” work is different for White folks and for Black, Indigenous and other People of Color and will be done entirely in race-based caucuses.

The program normally costs \$150 per person, but thanks to a generous grant from our Ruth Humphreys Innovation Fund, we have secured **20 spaces for our congregation.**

To register-

Step 1, before Sept 15:

Let Rev. Melora know you want to sign up by adding your name and contact info to this google doc: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1D9UCpE8WaVVKt8bA9I5sYXgaHrLMpV6-5MtXadhg3q8/edit?usp=sharing>
(If you can't do the google doc sign up, you can contact Rev. Melora directly 250-891-6330 rev.melora@gmail.com. Please put “Beloved Conversations” in subject heading.)

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(if you can't do the google doc sign up, you can contact Rev. Melora directly 250-891-6330 rev.melora@gmail.com Please put "Beloved Conversations" in subject heading).

Step 2, before Sept 20:

Use the code Rev. Melora sends you to register as part of our congregation's group with the Continental UU Beloved Conversations Program, through which we will each receive the program materials.

As this is work we need to do as an entire congregation, our ministers, Revs. Shana and Melora Lynngood, and our Director of SEL-CY (Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth), Arran Liddel, will all be engaging in the program as well.

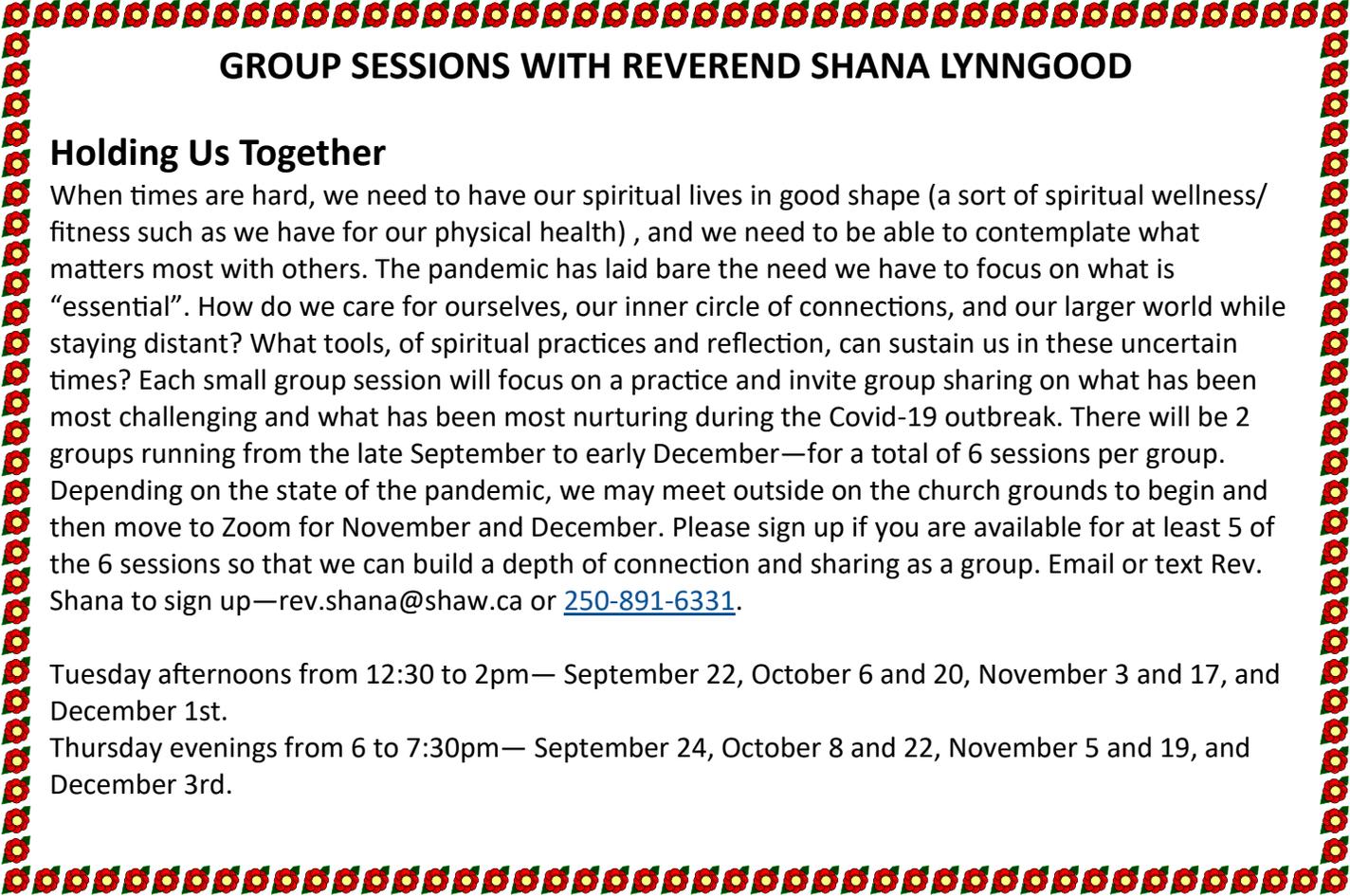
"We are welcoming people into this work no matter where they find themselves in their understanding of race and racism and what their experiences have been in the world."

– Rev. Kierstin Homblette Allen, co-creator of *Beloved Conversations*

More information about the program can be found here:

<https://www.meadville.edu/fahs-collaborative/fahs-curriculum-catalogue/beloved-conversations/>

Feel free to ask Rev. Melora if you have any questions.



GROUP SESSIONS WITH REVEREND SHANA LYNGOOD

Holding Us Together

When times are hard, we need to have our spiritual lives in good shape (a sort of spiritual wellness/fitness such as we have for our physical health), and we need to be able to contemplate what matters most with others. The pandemic has laid bare the need we have to focus on what is "essential". How do we care for ourselves, our inner circle of connections, and our larger world while staying distant? What tools, of spiritual practices and reflection, can sustain us in these uncertain times? Each small group session will focus on a practice and invite group sharing on what has been most challenging and what has been most nurturing during the Covid-19 outbreak. There will be 2 groups running from the late September to early December—for a total of 6 sessions per group. Depending on the state of the pandemic, we may meet outside on the church grounds to begin and then move to Zoom for November and December. Please sign up if you are available for at least 5 of the 6 sessions so that we can build a depth of connection and sharing as a group. Email or text Rev. Shana to sign up—rev.shana@shaw.ca or [250-891-6331](tel:250-891-6331).

Tuesday afternoons from 12:30 to 2pm— September 22, October 6 and 20, November 3 and 17, and December 1st.

Thursday evenings from 6 to 7:30pm— September 24, October 8 and 22, November 5 and 19, and December 3rd.

Co-Minister Portfolio Split

First Unitarian Church of Victoria, 2020-2021

Rev. Melora and Rev. Shana both do:	
Preaching and Worship	
Teaching	
Pastoral Care and Counselling	
Rites of Passage	
<i>We both meet with:</i> Committee on Ministry, Staff, Board	
Rev. Melora is primarily responsible for ministry in these areas:	Rev. Shana is primarily responsible for ministry in these areas:
Worship & Worship Associates Program	Music and Choirs
Congregational Life: recognition & awards	Congregational Life: membership, care and concern, depression & anxiety support group, neighbourhood groups, fun and fellowship, pub night, zoom sing, etc.
Co-vid Response Team	(Off-site services team, when resumes)
Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children & Youth (SEL-CY) oversight Family Ministry Team	Occasional intergenerational services
Outreach: SRC (social responsibility coalition), GVAT, EAT, denominational affairs	Outreach: lay chaplaincy, serving as chaplain at UVic, jazz vespers, writing articles for Times Colonist
Beloved Conversations (on race and ethnicity) Truth, Healing, & Reconciliation Team Soul Matters Program, (theme-based ministry: worship & small groups (groups likely to begin in January 2021))	Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Adults (SELA) oversight: including chalice circles, AHA, spirituality, library, etc. Leading 'What Holds Us Together' Program, fall 2020
Property Management Council	Finance (includes Annual Budget Campaign (ABC), auction, lease team, etc.)
Administration: HR Team Lead (staff meetings, HR system, staff compensation, etc.)	Administration: All Admin except HR; includes: church office, computers, communications

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Denominational: attend UUMA, UUA GA, UUMOC, CUC meetings and conferences	Denominational: mentor one UU minister, attend UUMA, UUA GA, UUMOC, CUC meetings and conferences
Supervises:	Supervises:
Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth (who, in turn, supervises SELCY assistant(s) and Sunday child-minders)	Church Administrator (who, in turn, supervises office staff, custodians, and maintenance technician) Director of Music (who in turn, supervises Accompanist)

Note: This portfolio split above is largely the same as last year. We expect to make significant changes after our May/June sabbatical 2021, as such periodic changes (applying new perspectives, ideas, skills to a given area) are healthy for our congregational system as well as our ministries.

In particular, we are thinking of switching Worship and Care & Concern/ Neighbourhood groups in 2021-22; as well as perhaps switching up supervision and thus Admin & SELCY the following year 2022-23.

Contacting Your Co-Ministers

We, Rev. Melora and Rev. Shana, share one, full-time position. We split the areas of church work between us (see portfolio split above). We also split the minister's work week.

When are Rev. Melora and Rev. Shana available to see me?

The simpler answer:

We are available for meetings Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Friday is our sermon writing day, which we try to reserve for service preparation. Monday is our day off (a Sabbath from church business, but we are still on call for emergencies. Call our cell phones).

The more detailed answer:

This schedule subject to change pending Covid-impacted school schedules.

Usually, our work week looks something like this:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9:30am–2:30pm	Day Off; available for emergencies	Rev. Melora & Rev. Shana	Rev. Melora & Rev. Shana	Rev. Melora & Rev. Shana	Worship Prep	Sometimes work special events – workshops, rites of passage, etc.	Rev. Melora & Rev. Shana
2:30pm–9:00pm		Rev. Melora	Preacher works until 5pm	Rev. Shana	Preacher continues worship prep. 5pm zoom rehearsal		Off except for Jazz Vespers

The bottom line: We care about you. We want to be available and accessible to you! Please feel free to call our cell phones, text, or email or set up a time to meet (on zoom/ in person pending Covid context).

Rev. Melora (250) 891-6330 , rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca Rev. Shana (250) 891-6331 rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca

EXPANDING OUR KNOWLEDGE OF INDIGENOUS MATTERS

By Evelyn Peters

In a meeting to discuss the winter Indigenous CUC film series we ran at our church early this year, the facilitators noted that there were many questions about different aspects of public policy for Indigenous people in Canada. We thought it might be useful to have a series of short pieces that explained different topics. I volunteered to write a short piece every other month on some topic or other related to this.

This month's submission addresses treaties. Like virtually every other topic, there are many more issues that could have been covered, but I'm trying to make it short and digestible. There are references if anyone wants to find more information.

I believe the piece next time (November) will focus on the *Indian Act*. It may need two sections, with one covering the gender implications.

Please feel free to ask any questions about the series. You can reach me by phone: 778-265-5279, or e-mail: Evelyn.Joy.Peters@Outlook.com.

Treaties

Treaties in Canada are constitutionally recognized agreements between the Crown and First Nations peoples.ⁱ Most describe exchanges where First Nations people agree to share some of their interests in their ancestral lands in return for various payments and promises. For the Crown, the principles underlying Treaty making were found in the Royal Proclamation of 1763. These were, that: First Nations land could be ceded only to the Crown; negotiations needed to be between First Nations and Crown representatives (not Individuals); and negotiations could only take place at a public meeting called especially for the purpose.ⁱⁱ

The history of Treaties in Canada includes those made before the Conquest, those signed between 1763 and Confederation, and those made between 1867 and 1921. The latter, including the numbered Treaties, covered large territories of Ontario, the Prairie provinces, the northwest Peace River area in BC and part of the Northwest Territories.ⁱⁱⁱ In most of British Columbia, the Yukon, much of the Northwest Territories, Québec and the Maritimes, non-Indigenous settlement, for the most part, proceeded without Treaty negotiations.^{iv} You may find it interesting to read some treaty texts, including the BC Vancouver Island Douglas Treaties.^v

The 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) pointed out that, while both Europeans and First Nations had a history of Treaty-making to manage relationships with other peoples, they drew on very different political philosophies.^{vi} In his book on American Indian treaties, Williams outlines some of these differences, and these would apply to the Canadian situation.^{vii} First Nations recognized the difficulty of negotiating successful cross-cultural agreements, and, as a result, negotiations were often accompanied by ceremonies that sought divine assistance. However, Prairie Treaty Commissioner Alexander Morris's description of these ceremonies demonstrated his failure to recognize their significance. Instead, he was impatient to complete the signing and leave.^{viii} First Nations saw Treaties as living documents, to be renegotiated if they did not meet their purpose, while Europeans viewed them as contracts.^{ix} First Nations assumed that they were signing documents to share the land. The concept of "surrendering" land was incomprehensible with First Nations' cultural understandings and their relationship to land. There is evidence that the commissioners knew this, but still many Treaties contain explicit language concerning the surrender ("cede, release, surrender and yield up") of First Nations right in land. Oral traditions associated with many Treaties indicate that not all of the promises made in oral negotiations were contained in treaties. There are other issues with the negotiation and text of treaties.

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Canada did not establish laws or reliable procedures to implement Treaty promises and this remains an issue to the present. As a result, there have been many breaches. For example, reserve lands have often been surrendered illegally with the result that the size of many First Nations' reserves have been substantially reduced.^{xiii} Instead of assisting First Nations in developing agriculture in place of subsistence lifestyles, as promised in some treaties, the Department of Indian Affairs actively destroyed First Nations agriculture on the Prairies in the early 1900s.^{xiv} While Prairie Treaties promised First Nations that they could choose the location of reserve lands, in Saskatchewan the Department of Indian Affairs refused rations to starving southern First Nations resulting in deaths, so that they would agree to move out of their territory and settle in the north.^{xv}

While there are many problems with Treaty negotiations and implementation, many First Nations continue to value the Treaties as evidence of nation-to-nation relationships and as texts that document their contribution to non-Indigenous peoples' wellbeing. The sentence: "We are all Treaty people" recognizes that non-Indigenous people have benefitted from the access to land and resources created by First Nations' signing of treaties.

ⁱMétis and Inuit peoples' Indigenous rights to land were approached differently and this will be covered in a later paper.

ⁱⁱAnthony J. Hall, Gretchen Albers, Andrew McIntosh, *The Royal Proclamation of 1763*, The Canadian Encyclopedia. <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/royal-proclamation-of-1763>

ⁱⁱⁱHasty negotiation of the 1921 Treaty 11 (western Northwest Territories) led to considerable disagreements between the parties and as a result, many signatories have also been involved in the modern land claims process.

^{iv}Peace and Friendship Treaties were signed in some of the Maritime provinces, but they contained no land transfer provisions. Sometimes latter modern land claims negotiations are referred to as modern treaties, but here I will focus on these earlier negotiations.

^vTexts of Treaties, <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1370373165583/1581292088522>

^{vi}Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), 1996, Vol. 1: *Looking Forward, Looking Back*. Ottawa: The Commission, 1996, pp. 114-164.

^{vii}Robert A. Williams, Jr., 1999. *Linking Arms Together: American Indian Treaty Visions of Law and Peace, 1600-1800*, New York: Routledge.

^{viii}Morris, The Hon. A., 1880. *The Treaties of Canada with the Indians*. Ottawa:Belfords, Clarke & Co., Reprinted by Fifth House Publishers, Saskatoon.

^{ix}RCAP, pp. 121-2.

^xRCAP, pp. 134.

^{xi}RCAP, p. 160.

^{xii}James Miller 2009, *Compact, Contract, Covenant: Aboriginal Treaty-making in Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

^{xiii}See for example: Stewart Raby, 1973. Indian Land Surrenders in Southern Saskatchewan. *Canadian Geographer*, 17, 1:36-52, and also Papschase, Wikipedia entry, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papaschase>

^{xiv}Carter, S. (1991) Two Acres and a Cow: 'Peasant' Farming for the Indians of the Northwest, 1889-1897. In *Sweet Promises: A Reader on Indian-White Relations in Canada*, ed J.R. Miller, 353-377. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.

^{xv}Tobias, J.L. (1991) Canada's Subjugation of the Plains Cree, 1879-1885. In *Sweet Promises: A Reader on Indian-White Relations in Canada*, ed J.R. Miller, 212-240. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press. Some other examples include: the lack of clarity of jurisdiction over sub-surface rights; the failure to uphold First Nations' rights to subsistence hunting and fishing until the 1980s; and the failure to allocate the amount of land specified in the Treaties.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Wednesday, September 30



September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day annually, in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and wellbeing, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters.

From orangeshirtday.org :

The Story Behind Orange Shirt Day

"I went to the Mission for one year. I had just turned 6 years old. We never had very much money, and there was no welfare, but somehow my granny managed to buy me a new outfit to go to the Mission School in. I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had eyelets and lace, and I felt so pretty in that shirt and excited to be going to school! Of course, when I got to the Mission, they stripped me, and took away my clothes, including the orange shirt. I never saw it again, except on other kids. I didn't understand why they wouldn't give it back to me, it was mine! Since then the colour orange has always reminded me of that and how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and how I felt like I was worth nothing. I finally get it, that the feeling of worthlessness and insignificance, ingrained in me from my first day at the mission, affected the way I lived my life for many years...I want my orange shirt back!" -- Phyllis (Jack) Webstad, Dog Creek, BC

This orange shirt taken from one child, is a symbol of the many losses experienced by thousands of students, and their families and communities, over several generations including: loss of family, language, culture, freedom, parenting, self-esteem and worth and painful experiences of abuse and neglect. Wearing orange shirts are a symbol of defiance against those things that undermine children's self-esteem, and of our commitment to anti-racism and anti-bullying in general.

http://www.orangeshirtday.org/uploads/7/9/8/7/79871818/orangeshirtday_14.pdf

"The annual Orange Shirt Day on September 30th opens the door to global conversation on all aspects of Residential Schools. It is an opportunity to create meaningful discussion about the effects of Residential Schools and the legacy they have left behind: a discussion all Canadians can tune into and create bridges with each other for reconciliation. Orange Shirt Day is a day for survivors to be reaffirmed that they matter, and so do those that have been affected. Every Child Matters, even if they are an adult, from now on!"

"The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. It is an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come."
From Orange Shirt Day Facebook Page, www.facebook.com/orangeshirtdayeverychildmatters

To purchase shirt & support our local Victoria Orange Shirt day: <https://victoriaorangeshirtday.com/>

SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION & LEARNING: RENEWAL**Welcome back everyone!**

Our theme for this month is Renewal! I hope you are coming back to church with a sense of rest over the summer months...or at least with some memories of outdoor fun in the beautiful weather we have been having.

The theme of renewal is interesting for this time - not only are we coming back for a new church year - renewing our commitment to living our values in community - but also, we are 'renewing' what it means to do 'church'. As we face this church year with the expectation that our kids and youth programs will likely not be meeting in person for some time...possibly even the whole church year. We are heading into a year of experimenting about what works to hold us together, to support us to live our values, and to connect to what is sacred to us as everything fluctuates and changes around us.

We have the dubious honor of being in a significant moment in history. A time where many people in almost every country are affected by the COVID virus. We will remember this moment in time... though what we remember it for is still to be decided. We have a unique opportunity to reshape our culture in ways that serve us better, that centres what is important to us. This year is no doubt going to be difficult. We will not be able to hug people we love, we will not be able to travel to places we really want to see... Even going places that we'd go without a moment's reflection this time last year will cause us to pause and reflect. Who might be impacted by our simple daily decisions?

This year will not be business as usual. We will be looking for ways to support you and your children to navigate this year in whatever ways we can. And for this we will need your input! We will try some different things and would love to know what is working, or not, for you... and when. And we know that things may change significantly as we 'ride the waves' of the changing number of cases both locally and beyond... schools and workplaces may need to adjust and change and so will we. Let us know if it would be more helpful for your family to connect online or to have activities to do together at home/in your neighbourhood. Do you need a place to vent? To reconnect with adults? To develop your spiritual practices? Do your kids need a place to talk about their loss and grief? A group to do homework with online? To learn how to connect with the wonder and awe of this beautiful planet while being stuck at home/in the backyard? Whatever it is, please let me know. In the meantime please visit our website to see what is currently on offer!

Also, please do let me know if your kids or family are doing something interesting online that we could share in our community - musicals, science projects, theatre, sports, ways to take care of each other and our world, or anything else. I know groups are finding creative ways of engaging and we'd love to support their efforts!

Warmly, Arran Liddel

Director of Spiritual Exploration and Learning for Children and Youth



SANCTUARY

*Here you are,
great empty space,
polished floor, stacked chairs,
bars of sunlight, whiff of dust,
silent as a tomb,
offering emptiness, loneliness.*

*Not exactly haunted
but in a thoughtful moment
triggering my memories
of bustle, vigorous sounds,
people life, music, laughter.*

*Not haunted now,
just waiting . . .*

waiting . . .

waiting . . .

When will life return?

Who knows? Maybe wrong question.

Will life return?

Oh, yes.

*The time dictated by a particle
too small to see.*

*Meanwhile
a stinging lesson in patience
flavoured with humility.*

-Don Vipond

THERE'S A CHEST IN OUR CHURCH ATTIC

What chest? For that matter, what attic?



Ah, there is mystery here. Draw close and we'll whisper you a story. It's a tale of people past, present and people to come. Interesting people. You may be one of them.

What are you talking about? Speak plainly please; I'm Unitarian.

Well, to clarify, the chest is electronic and so is the attic. You can't climb up there and brush the dust off the chest, poke about inside. But both are real just the same. On our church computer. Tucked away in a folder. Waiting for you to get inspired and come visit.

What's in the chest?

Stories, and pieces of stories, of people who are living and dead, people who have been a part of our church community. Fascinating people, dear people; you may know a bunch of them. Notes, comments. Bits and pieces. A mess of stuff but full of potential.

Potential?

Yes, great potential. The idea is to build (over the coming years) a folder on the church website (we're calling it "Tracks") where we gather mini-bios of our people, past and present. It will make great reading, for you and for people who are considering joining our community, looking for stories about who we are and what we've been up to.

Do you love History? This is our history in the making.

Consider: is there someone in our church community who you really respect, admire? Someone you would like to see properly acknowledged somewhere in our church records? Who is ever going to do that? How about you? For that matter, how about writing your own mini-bio for Tracks? No one can do that better than you.

The stuff in this chest is just waiting for people like you dig in - gathering what you want and then assembling a short people story, under "Tracks" on our church website, for all of us to read, to savour where we came from, to be reminded what it took to get this far.

Sounds like a project. Why aren't we doing it?

Fair question. Fact is, we're tired. Old and out of gas. We have done a lot of work to get Tracks this far. We've piled what we've gathered in this chest. It's waiting for the next team.

Ask around the church office. They'll know where the attic is, how to get to the chest. Take these stories to the next level.

– Betty Sherwood and Don Vipond

“GETTING ON BOARD WITH BREEZE”

What are the benefits of Breeze? It is so much more than just an online directory.

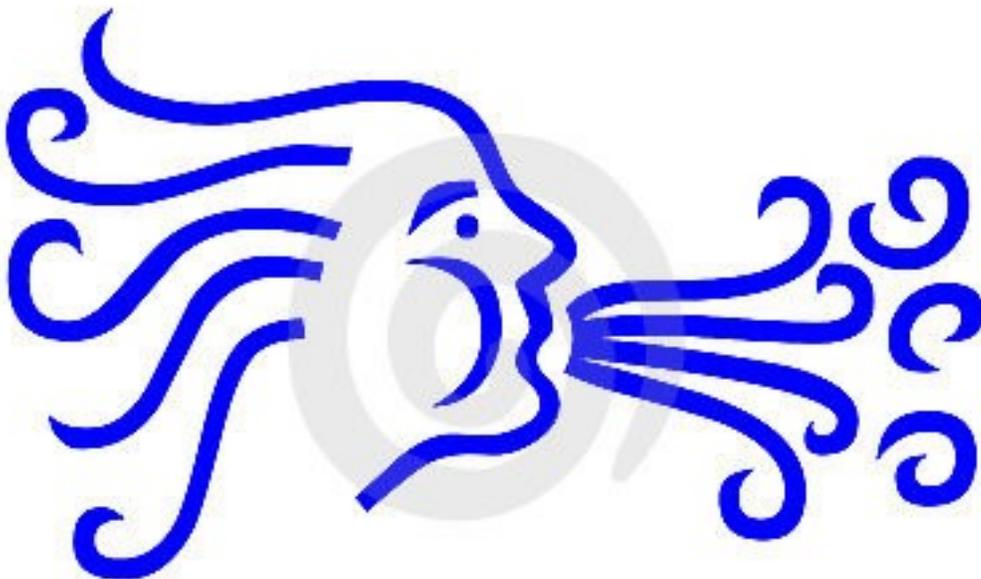
This database is an incredibly valuable tool for our church members and friends.

Did you know that you can look up the key contacts of the church on Breeze? This info is conveniently located right on your own profile page, under “**Our Church Community**”. You can also search for other members and friends contact info, explore the online calendar as well as delve into your Giving History; look for the **Giving Button** which is located on the far left side of your profile page, in a list under “Details”. It’s a great way to look up your record of contributions. Once into your Giving information, you can search your pledge history as well as see your current giving info. The ABC Team is planning on using Breeze during this years’ campaign and it would be very beneficial to the team if you have your profile all set up and ready to go.

If you have forgotten your login credentials click on the link below and then click on “**forgot password**”, which is located below the Sign In Button and follow the prompts. <https://fucv.breezechms.com>

Or if you **haven’t activated your account**, you can expect an email with another invitation to Activate in the next week or so.

So let’s get activated, people!





GVAT Core Group in a Quandary

As a member of Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT), our church is sometimes asked to support controversial policies for the common good.

Some actions, such as assisting foster kids ageing out of foster care, are no-brainers. Others, like payment of sick-leave to all employees, get tricky.

For instance, employees who are not paid while ill have an incentive to work and possibly spread a disease such as COVID 19 among fellow workers, customers, or the public. But if such employees *are* paid when sick, what's to stop them claiming illness when they have only a minor non-transmissible ailment. GVAT studies such issues carefully before developing policy recommendations and asking member organizations to support them.

GVAT's requests are brought to member organizations through members' "core teams". Core teams are sometimes asked to respond on short notice. This, however, puts our core team in a quandary: does it have the right to speak for you, the congregation, when you know little about how a policy was developed?

All of our church's social justice work is guided by our seven Unitarian principles. Provided any committee abides by our principles, plus government rules and regulations regarding financial transactions, there's usually no problem. But church committees' terms of reference still require that the committee speak for itself and not for the church unless with the express permission of the board.

When there is no time for the church's core team to consult the board, should it be able to speak for the church? If it cannot, our church's membership in GVAT could become meaningless. GVAT acts for the common good, and has the power of many voters to support its actions. Few if any other organization have this power. We want to be part of that!

Our church is not the only member of GVAT facing this quandary, though few other members are as democratic as we are. Your core team is reviewing the terms of reference with a view to resolving the conundrum, and would welcome any suggestions from congregation members!

Core team members are Susan Layng, lead person, Lynn Beak, Kym Hines, Hanny Pannekoek, Marion Pape, Philip Symons and Rev. Melora Lynngood ex officio.

ACTIVITIES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS: UPDATE

We are in the midst of change on various fronts, and that includes the neighbourhood groups. Neighbourhood groups (NG) are as diverse as their members ... so not surprisingly there's a range of involvement. With the need for Souper Sunday and coffee hour contributions gone for now, other activities are taking place. Keeping in touch with each other has moved up. Conveners and Care and Concern contacts in each NG are responsive ... the needs of their members don't go away and may be amplified during this time. If someone is feeling isolated or needs help or advice of any kind, a NG can be a first point of outreach. This outreach can take many forms: phone, meet ups, Zoom. Depending on availability and level of interest some NGs have met in parks, backyards, gardens ... with social distancing always paramount. Some members are keen to meet up in person, while others want to keep their bubble small.

And social distancing can also mean not having contact. Some NGs have chosen to stay in-active ... "it's summer, the need to collaborate isn't there, let's take a break!"

At the same time, conveners confirm the importance of the NG structure ... a way for members to be proactive if they choose, and reach out if they need to.

The NG is also a platform for technical assistance ... like it or not, Zoom may be a part of our future. And there are people available who can help with set-up for a meeting, how to use the link, and show how to access on computer or iPhone.

There's some interest in the conveners getting together ... as one convener said: "NGs are a really important part of FUCV." And, "we are challenged to find creative ways to stay connected."

Conveners might meet up (in person!) as able later this summer.

Please let me know any thoughts, ideas you might have ... or just to chat.

The NG conveners are:

- § Oak Bay: John "Tiff" Tiffany 778-432-0881
- § James Bay: Convener Lynn Hunter 250-220-2240
- § Gordon Head: Convener Mary Cramer 250-477-1615
- § Western: Convener Susan Lean 250 478-5261
- § Nearby: Convener Nancy Dobbs 250-652-5438
- § Cadboro Bay: Convener Val Roberts 250-477-7192
- § Royal Oak West: Convener Martha McDougall 250-477-1541
- § Royal Oak East: Convener Hanny Pannekoek & Hugo Sutmoller 385-2299
- § Grand Central: Convener Jane Wilson 250-598-4348
- § Fairfield: Convener Lynn Beak 250-598-3584
- § Far Out (Sidney/North Saanich): Convener Phyllis Aherne 250-655-7149
- § Esquimalt: Convener Maureen Sherlock 250-384-6492



If you don't know which group you are in, please contact Kathy.

krvinton@shaw.ca

250- 882-8650

!!!USED BIKES NEEDED!!!

I am looking for used bikes for some of the children and youth I work with. A kind person has agreed to fix them up before they are given to the youth. Please contact me if you have a bike you no longer use and would like to give it new life.

250- 893- 3821 or gjohn-iyam@icavictoria.org

Thanks, Gita John-Iyam



FIREWOOD FOR SALE AGAIN THIS YEAR

Due to limited supply one truck load per order, please.

\$115 delivered.

Call 250 658-2239 or email Mike at mfrogbog@gmail.com



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

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

NATIONAL UU FALL GATHERING AND SUNDAY SERVICE- ONLINE!

Our national Unitarian Universalist organization, the CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council), in conjunction with our various regions, is planning an online regional and national fall gathering the weekend of November 13- 15 and we want you to attend!

On **Friday, November 13**, regions will gather together for Zoom events and conversations specific to each region.

On **Saturday, November 14**, we will come together nationally for workshops and programming focusing on topics identified as priorities in our recent congregational survey. Following the workshops, the CUC Board will host a conversation. Multigenerational events are also being planned.

And on **Sunday, November 15**, (10am Pacific) we will have a national Sunday Service with participation from congregations across the country. Our theme will be **Sailing Ahead** and we will imagine together the promise and the possibility of Unitarian Universalism in Canada.

More information about the weekend will be available soon; a youth con is being considered for a different date. Please watch for details in future editions of the eNews and on our Facebook page.

To sign up for CUC eNews:

<https://cuc.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=14cdbcb20d193a5636bf18bdd&id=9434666947>

CUC facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CanadianUnitarianCouncil/>

CUC website:

<https://cuc.ca/>

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

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250-652-1272

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laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

Jenny Heston 250-509-1240

Kjerstin Mackie 250-598-5975

Anne Vaasjo 250-385-1603

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!

DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION AND LEARNING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Arran Liddel 250-744-2695

arran@victoriaunitarian.ca

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

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CARE AND CONCERN COMMITTEE

We Care!
for hospital and home visits,
or just to talk...

Barbara Boyle
250-381-0264

or your Neighbourhood
Group Care and
Concern person



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.

Our Mission

We are a welcoming community, energized by the diversity of beliefs, identity, and experience, that each person brings.

We encourage our children's curiosity and nurture their open and loving nature.

We gather to explore sacred mysteries, to sing of our longings and our blessings, to be still and listen.

Strengthened in spiritual growth, supported in diverse community, we strive to transform ourselves and heal our world through compassionate action.



CALENDAR:

[CLICK HERE](#)

NEW MEMBERS

Casey Thorne-Stainsby

NEW CONTACT INFO

Margot Lods,
421-4680 Elk Lake Drive,
Victoria, BC. V8Z 0B4
Tel. 250-419-4223

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Date

- 2 Stephen Lentz
- 3 Pamela Hood Sziv
- 4 Loraine Lundquist
- 7 Louise Cole, Sarah Verstegen
- 8 John Waters, Andrea Pite
- 10 Christine Petronis, Bruce Stirling
- 12 Eileen Lavigne
- 13 Anne Vaasjo
- 17 Suzanne Garmsen
- 18 Peter Hancock
- 20 June Fukushima
- 22 Elinor Bazar, Jenny Heston, Emily Tietz
- 23 Edwin Daniel (Friend)
- 24 Bert MacBain
- 25 Clare Vipond
- 26 Renate Herberger
- 30 Sandra Jaques (Friend)



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.



**The Newsletter Deadline is
the
15th of the Month
EVERY MONTH!**

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



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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.

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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

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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).