



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

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30 am

Welcome to the month of
Widening the Circle

****With the ever-evolving Covid situation, please check the e-weekly to confirm whether services are in-person or online only.****

We continue to take Covid precautions. Based on BC guidelines and on our congregational survey telling us your comfort level, our current in-person service agreements are to have:

- ages 5 and up vaccinated, with all doses for which you are currently eligible
 - ages 5 and up wear masks covering nose and mouth while indoors
 - maintain 6 feet distance where possible
 - for now, no congregational singing, but we can hum along
- singers and speakers are at least 15 feet away from the first row

Sunday, February 6, *Special time: 10:00am

National Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Online Service:

Celebration and Contemplation: The Path of an 8th Principle

Revs. Victoria Ingram and Meghann Robern, service leaders

Rev. Shana Lynngood, hosting pre and post gathering for our congregation

CUC Online Only Service – see access notes below

Livestream begins each Sunday by 10:25 am.
view [please click on this link](#).

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As part of CUC Month, there will be a national Sunday Service on February 6th as the Sharing Our Faith service. Coordinated by Revs. Victoria Ingram and Meghann Robern, the service is titled “Celebration and Contemplation: The Path of an 8th Principle.” Our First Unitarian community will offer opportunities to connect before and after this special national service. Before the service, join Rev. Shana at 9:30, if you wish, for centering and reflection to prepare for worship. After, we’ll have our own breakout room opportunities to reflect together on the message and meaning of the service. To join the service, follow these directions:

9:30am, Gather with Rev. Shana and other First Victoria UUs, First Unitarian Church of Victoria zoom room (see e-weekly for link).

10:00am, CUC National service

Join live on the CUC’s [Zoom](#) or the CUC’s [YouTube](#) channel; or Call-in toll-free: [1-855 703 8985](#); Meeting ID 847 [1005 5117](#); Passcode: 482463

After the service, Connect with Rev. Shana and other First Victoria UUs, First Unitarian Church of Victoria zoom room (see e-weekly for link).

Sunday, February 13, 10:30am

Body Image: Size, Age, and Selfies

Rev. Melora Lynngood, homilist

Online Only Zoom Service

As we continue to explore this month’s theme of ‘widening the circle’ and radical welcome, this Sunday, we consider all the ways in which our culture teaches us to judge ourselves and others based on body image. To what extent do you care how you look? To what extent do you unconsciously judge others based on body image? We’ll look at various aspects of body image – from body size to ways we age. Is there an older actor left in Hollywood who hasn’t had plastic surgery to erase the natural signs of aging? What is up with that? And what does it do to all of us who view them on the screen?

Sunday, February 20, 10:30am

We Are Family

Anna Isaacs, homilist

In-person and Online Zoom Service

There is so much potential at the edges where family and community meet. How do boundaries, diversity and inclusion shape how we see family?

Sunday, February 27, 10:30am

The Widest Welcome

Rev. Shana Lynngood, homilist

In-person and Online Zoom Service

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Now that our Canadian Unitarian community has adopted the 8th principle, which commits us to “dismantling racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion”, what does that mean? What choices will we make as a result? In order for all to be fully included, we will have to be open to change. How do we include all people who carry marginalized identities? What gets in the way? When you think about welcoming people of every conceivable background and identity, what challenges do you foresee? How open are you to making space?

Indigenous Matters: Upcoming Seminar

An interesting upcoming lecture is “[Shaping the Future on Haida Gwaii: Life Beyond Settler Colonialism.](#)” The lecture is based on five years of research with the Haida First Nation community of Old Massett by Joseph Weiss, assistant professor of anthropology at Wesleyan University at Middletown, Connecticut. It demonstrates that Haida ways of thinking about time, mobility, and political leadership are at the heart of contemporary strategies for addressing the dilemmas that come with life under settler colonialism. The lecture takes place on February 23, 2022, from 3-4:00 PM, Pacific Time. [Register Here.](#) The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #47 asks various levels of government to reform laws, government policies and litigation strategies that rely on assumptions about European superiority over Indigenous peoples and lands. Incorporating Indigenous ways of thinking is one way of addressing this.

Opportunity for Members to Ask Questions at Board Meetings

FUCV members are welcome to attend Board meetings as observers. The Board policy manual, paragraph 1.4.1, states “As specified in Article V Section 3 of the Bylaws, all Board meetings are open to the registered members of the Church. The agenda for all Board meetings shall include an opportunity for Church members to ask questions.” “Questions from FUCV Members” will appear as a standard agenda item at the end of every meeting.

Board meetings are held the morning of the second Thursday of each month. As the Board is currently meeting by Zoom, members are asked to contact the Secretary, Kathleen Zimmerman, to request the Zoom link if they would like to attend the meeting. If members would like to ask a question, it would be helpful to provide the question(s) in advance, one week before the meeting, so that they could be added to the agenda. Please check the Breeze database for Kathleen’s contact information.

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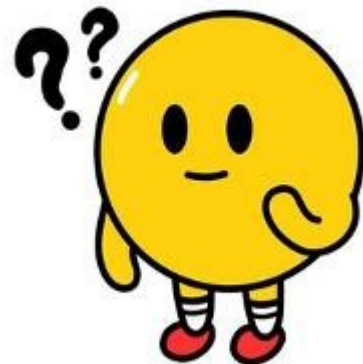
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COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Talk to us. Do you have a concern about our church that you would like the ministers to know? One purpose of the Committee on Ministry (CoM) is centered on developing a strong, healthy relationship between the Minister(s) and the Congregation. Members of the CoM are: Bill Glassman Chair, Lorna Anthony, David Vest, Lynn Hunter, Suellen Guenter and Jan Thomson.

Due to the quickly changing COVID-19 situation, please look to the Eweekly rather than the Newsletter for the latest information on the church and COVID-19.

From your FUCV COVID-19 Team – Nancy Dobbs, Kristina Stevens, John Tiffany, Jim Willis and Rev Melora Lynngood



As a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, I have been aware of conversations within our denomination about all of the isms and the desire to be a diverse and profoundly inclusive community for four decades. How we have the conversation has changed as the understanding of what needs to change has shifted, but the underlying motivation to change and the need to have the conversation has remained. We have called it Jubilee World and anti-racism training, and Building the World We Dream About, and Beloved Conversations. Whatever we call it, and whatever methods we use, what matters most is that we remain on the path. Over the last five years or so, the intensity of the desire to do the work has increased. Way beyond simply feeling it is the right thing to do, we have to realize that intentions and hopes are not enough. If we truly want to welcome all people because we recognize that their inherent worth and dignity is much more than a written aspiration, it is at the core of our beliefs; we will have to open ourselves to change. If our written principles were enough, our congregations would be very diverse places—with people of all classes and races and ethnicities, with lots of neuro-diversity represented, and space would be made for those with different abilities, and those who struggle with mental health issues. In short, there would be nothing that would exclude anyone from our communities. I have no doubt that we all want to be a deeply, profoundly welcoming community that offers not only a greeting to all who enter, but a place of belonging. I know I have more to do in order to be truly open to all people, and I embrace that challenge.

Here are this month's Souls Matters questions for you to ponder. Choose any that particularly speak to you and reflect/journal/discuss throughout the month.

1. When were you "saved" by someone who widened a circle to let you in?
2. Are you a circle maker, a circle joiner or a circle avoider?
3. Who needs you to widen the circle for them?
4. Has an experience of being excluded left a mark on you?
5. Has an experience of failing to confront racism left a mark on you?
6. How has your definition of racism widened or shifted?
7. Has your answer to "Are you racist?" changed over the years?
8. What beloved aspect of "UU worship" might you have to let go of to make UU worship more inclusive?
9. Has travel ever widened your circle of concern?
10. Has your sense of self ever widened so much that you've felt "one with the universe"?
11. What has life taught you about widening circles to include those you thought of as "enemies"?
12. Covid shrank our circles of connection. Is there any way in which that was a blessing to you?
13. **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.

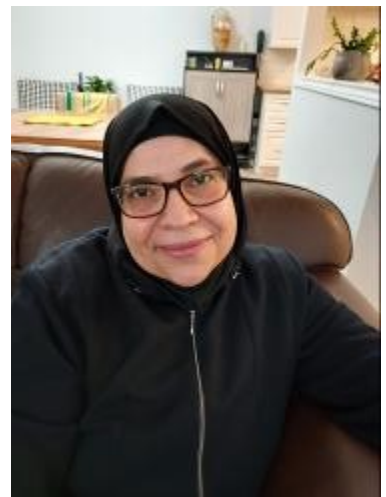
REFUGEE REPORT

Mohammad, Fatemah and their son Abdulrahman, whom FUCV is currently sponsoring, entered 2022 with their new Canadian Permanent Resident cards and Personal Health Numbers which will help them to independently go forward into the new year.



The Refugee Committee has provided Abdulrahman with a new computer and MS Office to start his Camosun College ESL courses in January and, being an 18 year-old techie, he gladly did the set up and installation himself. Each one of his parents is delighted to have received a pair of prescription reading and long distance glasses - the short wait for them over the holiday period was definitely worth it. In the apartment, the family is also enjoying new throw-rugs to use over their floors and these have been provided by a generous FUCV donor.

As Mohammad works towards a driving license, Abdulrahman likes to bike and helps his brother, Khaled, in his new small business called 'Aseel Home Renos'. Everyone is busy.



Social Responsibility Council - Food Banks and Share the Plate Fund

Christine Johnston: We wish to thank the members and friends of First Church for the many generous contributions in December to the Food Banks Fund and Share the Plate Fund. Received was the following:

Bridges for Women \$1240

Dandelion Street Outreach (Our Place) \$1240

Food Banks (4 different ones in greater Victoria) \$2290.33

CHILD HAVEN INTERNATIONAL is the Share the Plate Charity for February

(or rather Jan 30 and the following 3 weeks, as the Canadian Unitarian Council is the recipient one Sunday)

Child Haven (started by a Unitarian minister and his wife in 1985) has been a favourite of First Unitarian) since 1999. About ten members have volunteered for several months at one of their homes in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Tibet, and spoken warmly about this unique experience. Our church decided about 18 years ago to give it special status in our hearts and here is a glimpse of why.



Nine Children's Residential Homes, four Woman's Training Centres, and various projects helping orphan seniors and local families all try to practice Gandhian principles of loving and living, sharing and working together. The first thing that impresses visitors is that how happy they are. Even in Covid time they are coping with little illness and even helping the neighbours. Thank you to all who are donating to help this happen. Last year we even had a zoom fund-raiser where we had some of the children appear live, dancing and singing in

Kaliyampoondi (south India) and Chittagong (Bangladesh).

Some of us give directly and some through the church. Your donations are carefully spent and we think none is wasted. There is a team of us here from First and the executive planners are:

Mariko Matsumoto, Hanny Pannekoek, Jim Jordan, Christine Johnston and Fran Pardee.



The unpredictability of the intensity, timing and frequency of the waves of this pandemic have made it increasingly challenging to write a monthly column even two weeks before others will read it. It brings to mind an unintentional series of comedy sketches that my spouse was recently watching. In this 7th installment, the creator's January 2022 self explains the current situation to her summer 2021 self. Check out the whole "Explaining the Pandemic to My Past Self" series by Canadian Julie Nolke at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnnEGJCa5G181q9CDnaFeP-eUTUUCtvDq>

In the first sketch released in April 2020, she tries to explain the pandemic to her pre-pandemic self from the start of 2020. As the series progresses, she touches on such things as George Floyd, forest fires, Trump's covid, the death of Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Capitol Riots, skin hunger, initial arrival of vaccines, Delta variant, vaccine hesitancy, Simone Biles, global vaccine inequity, Omicron, the death of Betty White, and how we initially thought the pandemic would all be over within a few weeks. I had a similar experience recently of my past pandemic selves while browsing through video of our congregation's pandemic and pre-pandemic intergen worship.

From my vantage point in the middle of January it appears that we won't be gathering together in person for worship in February, but we do hope to run a kids' spring break day camp at the end of March with the aim of a week or weekend summer offering for families to follow that. We have also let go of the hope of OWL sessions this spring and hope to reschedule in fall 2022. Only time will tell.

What I can tell you is that we are collectively experiencing a whole new level of weariness. It reminds me of the often repeated wisdom of those working for social justice that stresses that we need to take care of ourselves on the journey to a better world, continually healing and growing even as we struggle, because we need to be able and willing to continue on when justice takes longer than we planned. If there are no breaks, we have to be willing to move both as fast as we can and as slow as we must to keep going, and we must infuse every single thing that we do with healing and grace to sustain us.

I've noticed I'm picking up the phone more recently. As our weary brains get saturated to the point of not being able to open even one more email, and we get Zoomed out, sometimes there is still room for the sound of another human voice to reach through. While the reason is often church business, the meaning of calling has shifted to connecting with other human beings in a nourishing way. Yes, we are tired, and our minds are foggy and our feelings are both numb and fragile. Yes, we are finding it harder to trust that things will get better, and commit and plan for a future, and yet in every moment when we open up and are real with each other, there is a little glint of healing.

If we are already living through impossible times, can we make everyday miracles by finding ever more room in our battered and weary hearts for compassion?

FIREWOOD FOR SALE



The church Gardens and Grounds Committee is again taking orders for firewood. If you can accept wet wood that needs to be seasoned before burning we will deliver a 1/2 Ton pickup load to you this spring for \$100. If you need seasoned wood for \$125 per load we will try to fill your order this fall. All proceeds help maintain the church's beautiful property.

Contact Andy Lee: andrew.lee@firley.ca



Almost There!

Installation

With continued hard work by volunteers and contractors a lot of progress was made in the past month and installation is almost complete. As equipment and installation continues Jamie and the AV crew are developing the software and programming that will allow us to begin the transition to hybrid services.

The following remains outstanding:

- Delivery and installation of some of the equipment for the av control room including connectors for the high-resolution cameras
- Delivery and installation of the fabric to cover the upper acoustic panels
- Mounting of the choir monitors (coming soon!)
- Delivery and installation of the new projector now expected in February

In short, we have made a lot of progress but are still waiting for components that will give us a much-improved hybrid experience.

Capital Campaign

As at December 31, 2021, we had total pledges to the capital campaign for \$178,791 and \$118,674 of that had already been contributed. Most of the remainder is pledged for 2022 with the balance expected by mid-2023.

If you have questions about AMPLIFY-UU please contact Marion Pape at marionpape@shaw.ca or John Hopewell at hopewell@telus.net



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

13 January 2022

The Right Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,
Office of the Prime Minister,
80 Wellington Street,
Ottawa, ON,
K1A 0A2

Dear Sir

If bold incisive action is not taken immediately by the Canadian government to address the climate crisis, our country and many of its citizens will likely suffer hunger, homelessness and even death as a consequence. Already last summer the climate emergency caused forest fires in British Columbia large enough to rain ash on Ottawa, 3,500 km away. A “heat dome” in British Columbia caused the death of over 600 people in the summer of 2021. A more severe drought in late summer in B.C. caused low water levels in rivers that hindered Pacific salmon’s access to spawning grounds. An “atmospheric river” in winter caused the death of many farm animals in one of B.C.’s food producing areas, the Fraser Valley around the city of Abbotsford. That same flooding tore down bridges and caused highway collapses in many parts of B.C.

The government of Canada needs to act quickly to help mitigate these disasters.

We live on Vancouver Island, where more than 90% of our food, all of our fossil fuel, and most of our manufactured goods come from the mainland. A “cyclone bomb” in the fall caused cancellation of many ferry sailings that hampered transport of people and goods to and from the island, causing gaps on grocery store shelves, and a voluntary rationing of gasoline. These disruptions will get worse.

The government needs to act and needs to start planning for a climate crisis that soon will require “war measures” type actions. In the next few decades sea levels will be rising, flooding river-delta farmland, and causing migration of millions of “climate refugees”. California’s ground-water supplies will run low or run out causing food shortages not only there, but here as well.

Unfortunately, the climate crisis is not the only problem facing our future. The COVID pandemic is the second of two in recent years (SARS was the first), and more will arrive soon, at an increasing rate. Our health-care systems have already been stretched, many businesses have failed, the wealthy have become richer. The combination of all these factors will likely bring down our economy—unless the government takes strong, decisive action immediately.

Government ministries and policies need to be re-vamped in the way the Conservative government did during the Second World War. The measures taken are described in Seth Klein’s book, *A Good War—mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency*.

We wish you the bravery, leadership and success needed to prevent our society from collapse.

Yours truly

Jim Willis
President

Upcoming CUC Inclusivity Forums:

Alternative relationships, Dis/abilities, Class

(CUC = Canadian Unitarian Council, our national organization of Unitarian Universalists)

We started this congregational year in Fall 2021 focused on dismantling racism within Unitarian Universalism and were thrilled to have over a hundred people attend each of the four CUC forums! The New Year 2022 will see three additional Forums which we anticipate will be attended with much enthusiasm as congregations work to dismantle barriers to full inclusion for all. Please register early so we can properly prepare for these important events.

All members and friends of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria are invited to attend these national forums for Canadian Unitarian Universalists.

Materials for each forum will be shared in advance. At each forum, we'll discuss how UU communities can become more inclusive. The CUC's Responsibility Covenant will be used to promote safety for all in attendance.

Welcoming Those in Alternative Relationships and Families

Wednesday Feb 2, 4-6pm PST

This forum will focus on the experiences of UU's in alternative relationships and family structures within UU groups/congregations. This includes, but is not limited to, ethnically non-monogamous relationships, poly-amorous families/relationships, families where parents are no longer romantic partners but continue to co-parent and have family together, platonic families, and those who 'do' relationships and family outside of society's norms. A caucus group will be available for those in alternative relationships/families should they prefer to discuss together.

NO REGISTRATION FEE. Please Register Early: <https://bit.ly/RCFGSession1>



Welcoming People of all Dis/abilities

Wednesday Mar 2, 4-6pm PST

This forum will focus on the experiences of UU's with various dis/abilities within UU groups/congregations. This includes, but is not limited to various physical, mental, and emotional dis/abilities. A caucus group will be available for those with different dis/abilities, should they prefer to discuss together.

NO REGISTRATION FEE. Please Register Early: <https://bit.ly/RCFGSession2>



Welcoming People from all Socio-Economic Classes

Wednesday April 6, 4-6pm PST

This forum will focus on people's experiences of classism in UU groups/congregations and how our organizational cultures can shift to be more aware of how we privilege those in upper classes over those in lower classes. A caucus group will be available for those who feel they experience classism should they prefer to discuss together.

NO REGISTRATION FEE. Please Register Early: <https://bit.ly/RCFGSession3>



For each of these forums we are working with people with lived experience to inform what happens. We invite you to [reach out to us](#) to share ideas, review what is being planned and/or share your ideas about how UU communities can become more inclusive. You can reach us at: erin@cuc.ca and amber@cuc.ca

Widening the Circle of Concern

Rev. Shana is part of a team of lay and ministerial leaders that will be offering a program this Spring designed to help us look at how to ensure that our ways of doing things (our systems and habits/customs) are intentionally inclusive. The 8th principle process reminded us that being truly and profoundly welcoming takes effort, it doesn't just happen. We'll need to look at how we make decisions and welcome new people and gather for worship. In short, all of how we live in community impacts how welcome people who carry marginalized identities feel within the congregation. The better we become at welcoming those on the margins, the better we become at welcoming all of us, and welcoming each of us to bring our whole selves.

The 2022 Widening the Circle of Concern: Canadian Edition invites leaders and changemakers in the spring of 2022 to participate in a Canadian UU learning and exploration experience on deepening and living out our values of social justice and equity. The sessions are based on the Unitarian Universalist Association's "Widening the Circle of Concern" Study Guide, which we have adapted to our Canadian context.

If you are interested in being a part of First Unitarian team of aspiring change-makers – and feel committed to dismantling racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in our congregation, I hope you will consider signing up for these sessions. The program aims to equip participants with the tools to be facilitators of change.

There will be four dates, with two 90-minute sessions on each date, please plan to attend all dates and sessions: March 12, March 26, April 9, and April 20, 2022.

Session I: 9:30am to 11am

Session II: 11:45am to 1:15pm

If you have questions, please contact Rev. Shana. The CUC requests a registration fee for the course on a sliding scale of \$130- \$160- \$190- \$220. As is always the case, you are asked to pay what you are able, and the suggested fee should never be viewed as a barrier to participation. All are welcome. Details on the CUC website: <https://cuc.ca/events/widening-circle/>

an easy way to contribute to Child Haven International.

Church member Terry Cxyz has set up an ongoing account at the Bottle Depot in the name of Child Haven International. We can all contribute to this:

Take your empty beverage containers to A Return It Bottle Depot close to you. You do not even have to sort them, just deliver them in a bag and mention that the money is to go to the Child Haven International account.

Once a month The Bottle Depot will send a cheque to Terry, who will pass it on to the office of Child Haven. A good deal all around: You will get rid of your empties in a very easy and environmentally responsible way, for the benefit of Child Haven.

Three locations: 4261 Glanford Ave - 655 Queens Ave - 3961 Quadra Street
all locations are open daily 9 am till 5 pm. Plenty of parking.

Thank you for your support,
hanny

FUCV joins WE-CAN

In October, First Unitarian Church of Victoria applied for and was accepted to membership in the West Coast Climate Action Network (WE-CAN).

WE-CAN is a network of climate action organizations throughout BC working together to end the climate emergency by sharing information, promoting each other's work, supporting each other, and taking actions as needed to help end the global climate emergency.

Originally the brainchild of Guy Dauncey¹, WE-CAN was officially launched earlier this year and has been actively recruiting members from among the 350+ organizations in BC doing climate action work. So far 208 organizations have joined, and more sign up every week.

WE-CAN fills a gap that many of us working in the environmental movement have been lamenting about for many years: when many organizations are working simultaneously and independently on the same or similar issues, it can result in duplication of effort and time lost. By connecting all the organizations in BC who are working on the climate crisis, WE-CAN hopes to generate solidarity and synergy, to build a stronger voice, to learn from each other.

WE-CAN is committed to incorporating a variety of perspectives, including youth, Indigenous people, workers, businesses, researchers, racial minorities, politicians, people living in rural and remote areas, people with disabilities, and people living in fossil-fuel-dependent communities.

How can you get involved? Well, in fact, you already are, because FUCV is a part of WE-CAN. At the moment, membership is open to organizations involved in climate change initiatives, and FUCV qualified in part because of the work we have been doing to reduce our own carbon footprint by installing solar panels and seeking other ways of living more lightly on our land.

WE-CAN publishes an invaluable weekly climate news summary, emailed out every Friday. It's a veritable cornucopia of climate news, including upcoming live and on-line events, actions you can take now, climate job opportunities, grants, and more! [Sign up here to receive the newsletter](#). If you'd like to see a sample first, email me at katherine@kmaas.com — I'd be glad to forward you a copy so you can check it out. (WE-CAN won't share your information and you can unsubscribe at any time.)

For more information, [check out the WE-CAN website](#).

¹Author of *Journey to the Future* and *The Climate Challenge: 101 Solutions to Global Warming*, plus 8 other books. Founder of the BC Sustainable Energy Association; co-founder of Prevent Cancer Now, co-founder of the Victoria Car Share Coop, an Honorary Member of the Planning Institute of British Columbia.

Honoured Volunteer: SUSAN LAYNG

The Recognition and Awards Committee asks the Councils of the Board, and the President, to nominate volunteers who have made significant contributions to the life of the church. This month the Chair of the Outreach Council, Jim Willis, has nominated Susan Layng.

Susan Says

I was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba and raised in the Anglican tradition. I have lived in British Columbia for approximately 50 years except for a brief interval residing in Ottawa in the early 70's. Upon the dissolution of my marriage in 1990, I accepted a position at Sorrento Centre, an Anglican Conference & Retreat Centre in the Shuswap area of the province. Here, with my children, I lived for four years in an intentional committed Christian community with approximately 8 other individuals. It was during this time from 1990 to 1994, that I had a unique opportunity to hear amazing lectures from speakers who spoke on many topics within the Christian context. In the course of that time, my "faith walk" began to be challenged and tested. I ceased to believe like I once did and questioned many aspects of the Christian doctrine. It was during my time in Sorrento, that I met and fell in love with my current husband, Peter. Relocating back to the Island in 1996, I worked briefly for a computer and business skills training company. In 2001, I accepted a position with the Correctional Services of Canada and spent the next 14 years at William Head Institution until my retirement in 2015. During this time, I became extremely interested in the prison system and the reintegration of released parolees. I gave a homily at First Unitarian in December 2015 outlining my experiences and again some months later at Capital congregation.



Searching for a new spiritual home, I found I missed being part of a community and eventually discovered First Unitarian in 2003 through dear friends, Don, and Clare Vipond. Here, I found a wonderful group of passionate, thoughtful committed people. My association with the UU Church has been one of enlightenment and revelation. I respect the diversity and inclusion that exemplifies a Unitarian congregation. A "friend" for several years, I finally made the decision to become a member in 2010 and since then have contributed to the life of the church in several ways. I first became a Service Leader and then a Worship Associate for a period of three years. I appreciated the fact that lay people could take an active role in the life of the church. I sat on the Board of Directors as Outreach Chair for two terms which brought me in contact with incredible dedicated individuals. I participated in various courses, training seminars and since the pandemic, several webinars including lay chaplaincy training, Beloved Conversations, and Indigenous Perspectives training. In the past, I have been involved in the Refugee Steering Committee helping to bring a young single woman and the Abu Qayas family to Victoria; assisted in organizing the Pride Parade and Festival with an amazing group of volunteers and was instrumental in coordinating the H.O.W. project in 2016 to raise funds for the Bill Mudge Halfway House a community residential facility and representing First Unitarian as a spiritual care volunteer with family members at Our Place.

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I have been actively involved in GVAT for the past 5 years, participating in several training seminars, listening campaigns, serving as the Lead for the Core Group of FUCV, participating in the Mental Health/Addictions Action Research Team and recently accepted a position on the GVAT Board of Directors.

Outside of church activities, I sit on the Board of the Laren Society, a non-profit organization that operates the Bill Mudge Halfway House, as well as volunteering once a week at a local food bank run by an inner-city church. My personal home life is very fulfilling, and I have been living in a committed and loving relationship with my husband for almost 30 years. I have three adult children from my first marriage and in my spare time, I enjoy aquafit, journaling and reading nonfiction.

Lynn Beak says:

Susan demonstrated a commitment to the ideals of Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT) – advocating for the common good - from the beginning. Her commitment to GVAT is humbling, she has been a passionate advocate for social action and inspired many including myself to become active in GVAT. She is an inaugural member of the First Unitarian core team and a board member for GVAT. She has traveled to Seattle to attend community organizing training and shared her knowledge and insight. Susan has also organized the January GVAT Services for First Unitarian, including the January 2022 one. She personifies UU values to make the world a better place for all.

Marion Pape and Philip Symons say:

We're privileged and delighted that Susan Layng has been selected for recognition as an Honorary Volunteer for her Outreach work. Over 4 years ago Susan was drawn to the potential of Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT) for the common good in our city, and, as she often says, it changed her life.

GVAT is an extraordinary alliance of over 30 member organizations from labour unions, community and faith organizations, education and environmental groups, and more. Our church became a member, and Susan became the leader of our church's GVAT Core Team. Susan has said it is the GVAT Core Team that gave her the courage to practice new skills and have the confidence to take leadership action in all aspects of her life. Her leadership has been quiet, encouraging and wise. Furthermore, she leads by example as she rolls up her sleeves to volunteer at the St. John's Food Bank.

Anyone who works with Susan is inspired by her dedication and hard work. She has a profound sense of justice and works tirelessly with those who face visible poverty and hunger. She is resolute in her determination to see that all people have a decent lifestyle with basics such as a warm bed, a hot meal with a solid roof over their head. She also advocates for people on the margins to help them have a sense of dignity and self-respect.

Susan knows how to communicate this message from her multiple positions on the GVAT Board, The StratHub (Strategy Hub), and Action Research Teams. Rooted in Unitarian values, Susan represents FUCV admirably and has raised the profile of our church in the wider community.

In Memoriam
Rev. Don W. Vaughn-Foerster
(1929 - 2021)

We were recently informed by Rev. Fran Dearman, who learned it through the UU Retired Ministers and Partners Association, that Rev. Don W. Vaughn-Foerster died on June 7, 2021, at the age of 91.

Rev. Don Vaughn-Foerster served as Interim Minister of our congregation in 2009-2010. Church Member, Suellen Guenther, who was president of our congregation at that time, says he is remembered with great respect and affection. "He helped us re-configure our Board and he prepared our congregation well to be ready to welcome Revs. Shana and Melora. He was 80 when he came to us, still full of energy and good ideas."

Don is survived by his wife, Margaret Vaughn-Foerster, and his five children: Stephen, Marghi, David, Nancy, and Neall.

A memorial service is being planned. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the charity of one's own choosing.



Zoom Sing – Everyone Welcome

Fridays from 3:30- 4:30 Jan. 28, Feb. 11, 25

Jewel Spooner, Nancy Dobbs with our tech support, Bernhard Spalteholz

Informal, relaxed, campfire vibe with words provided. Jewel and Nancy will do living room singing/harmonizing together when possible.

Practice harmony in the privacy of your home.

Please email Nancy Dobbs nandobbs@telus.net for a Zoom link.



Housing construction in Victoria must happen faster!

The Caledonia housing project in the Victoria High School area of Fernwood was begun in 2016. It was finally approved at a public hearing in October 2021. In the meantime, building costs had soared by millions of dollars and needed housing had remained in limbo while families sat in lengthy waiting lists. Most of the housing being built in our communities is too expensive for the average family. Availability of lower-cost rentals is decreasing and becoming increasingly unaffordable, while the need for housing has grown exponentially.

Why does building housing take so long?

In 2016, the Capital Regional District Housing (CRDH) identified unremediated vacant industrial land next to Vic. High as suitable for housing. There were 22 older units of social housing there. Through a partnership between CRDH, City of Victoria and the school board, the plan was to redevelop this site. Community consultations and planning resulted in an application for re-zoning to Victoria in 2019.

Further community consultations resulted in the proposed development being reduced in size, with more green space and community access. The rezoning application continued, legal agreements between the three partners were signed. Finally the project went to a public hearing in October 2021 and that's where the project was finally approved by a majority of City Council.

Could this not have been done faster?

Victoria City Council is considering letting non-profit housing projects bypass the formal public hearing process if their plans are consistent with the Official Community Plan. This could save up to a year in getting the housing completed at significantly reduced costs.

Have you heard about the 15 minute community? This is where people can live, work, and recreate within 15 minutes by foot, bike or public transit, reducing the need for cars and, more importantly, reducing our impact on the planet.

GVAT is considering supporting these ways of increasing our housing stock. We could use publicly owned lands for housing, reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, support increased social housing for families and the elderly, and ensure that housing takes the needs of local residents into account. Before this can be done, GVAT will seek mandates from our member organizations and then reach out to governments. GVAT does not surprise government with our demands but seeks to reach concurrence with city councilors and others who have the power to bring these measures into effect. When agreement has been reached, those with power will be asked to take action to improve affordable housing initiatives before hundreds of people, including you, who belong to member organizations of GVAT.

CALENDAR:

[CLICK HERE](#)

New Members

Deaths

Nan Fairchild passed away on Jan. 14, 2022

FROM THE EDITORS: GUIDELINES FOR YOUR SUBMISSIONS

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

- Where possible we use Calibri font.
- One space between sentences and between lines.
- No pdf files, please, use Word.
- Send pictures in jpegs... Don't send text as jpegs.
- TAKE THE DEADLINE SERIOUSLY!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

First Name	Last Name	Birthdate Month/Day
Suzanne	Dearman	February 01
Jean	Mihell	February 01
Kobe	ter Neuzen	February 01
Nanw	Cariad	February 04
Anne	Swannell	February 04
Ed	Taylor	February 06
Marcella	Calberry	February 08
Jerrelyn	Dause	February 08
Margaret	Nixon	February 09
John	Stewart	February 09
Forest	Sterling	February 10
Phyllis	Gardiner	February 12
Anna	Isaacs	February 12
Daniel	Klimke	February 12
Robin	Sacker-van Gessel	February 16
Jonathan	Taylor	February 16
Heather	Zeh	February 19
Ryan-James	Adam	February 21
Leslie	Gillett	February 21
Mary-Ellen	Nicol	February 21
Sheila	Drew	February 22
Ruth	Ralston	February 22
John	Tibbles	February 23
Sandra	Haywood	February 26
Jean	Wallace	February 28



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

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

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Minister Emerita

Reverend Jane Bramadat

(250) 419-4148

LAY CHAPLAINS

laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

Jenny Heston 250-509-1240

Barbara Boyle 250-381-0264

Oceanna Hall 250-886-1077

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

Acting Director : Anna Isaacs 778-557-3492 (text)

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

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Sunday Coffee Coordinators:
Christine Peterson, Fiona Cook

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Peter Hancock
hancockp@telus.net

Spiritual Development: Soul Matters, Empathy Buddies

Wally du Temple
wallydutemple@telus.net

Human Resources, Communications

Audrey Taylor

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

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



Accepting Enrollment
Book Now for a Tour!

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

- 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



Astrid Firley-Eaton
Design

interior design
colour consultation

250-384-3405
afedesign@firley.ca

Long-Term Housing Needed

Pam Hood Szivek, FUCV member since 2017, has experienced repeated flooding of her rental basement apartment and is urgently seeking a dry home for long term rental. In-suite laundry and parking preferred, 1 or 2 bedrooms, townhouse, house or other suite. Move-in date and rent negotiable. Professional with excellent references, fully vaccinated and low risk. Home-owner most her life. Please contact if you know of any vacant property that could welcome a paying and conscientious UU as a tenant. Any help gratefully appreciated.

pam@canadianchildrenstherapy.ca

or (250) 818-2034

Seeking Studio Office



Registered Clinical Counsellor seeking to rent private nature-based studio space for deep one-on-one counselling work with people facing end-of-life diagnoses. Can also arrange to build my own small studio in the right place. Open to different arrangements!

Please call Elinor @ 250-508-2819 with any leads. Thank you!

KEYS: REMINDER FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

In order to be available for others requiring access, please replace any lockbox keys being used, immediately. (Sanctuary and Farmhouse)

These keys are not to be held on your person while in meetings or for the duration of your visit.

Thank you for understanding!

Niki Mullin



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For those without email, copy may be left at the church
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