



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

SERVICES IN APRIL 2022

SUNDAY SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30 am

Welcome to the month of
Awakening



Sunday, April 3, 10:30am

Michelle Brown, homilist

Waking the Morning After

Emily Tietz, worship associate

Our decisions, especially decisions we make as activists, can cause us anxiety. Courage, one might say, is a spiritual practice. This homily looks at that.

Michelle Poirier Brown is an internationally-published poet, performer, and photographer. She is nêhiyaw-iskwêw and a citizen of the Métis Nation. Her first book, *You Might Be Sorry You Read This*, has just been published by the University of Alberta Press. A feminist activist, now retired from careers as a speech writer, conflict analyst, and federal treaty negotiator, she writes full-time and has taken up bird-watching. She lives on unceded syilx territory in Vernon, BC. This is Michelle's fifth visit to our pulpit.



Sunday, April 10, 10:30am

Rev. Shana Lynngood, homilist

Asleep No More

Rosemary Harrison, worship associate

Our theme this month of awakening seems to imply that we are often (or at least more often than we would admit) not fully awake to our lives. What encourages us to sleep? What might awaken us so that we can appreciate and savour life as long as we have it?

Sunday, April 17, 10:30am

Rev. Shana Lynngood, homilist

The Heaviest Stones

Casey Stainsby, worship associate

One of the many powerful images of the Easter story is the stone rolled away from the entrance to Jesus' tomb. We have gone through a heavy time with many boulders and obstacles in the way. How can we, how do we, emerge from the tombs, the desolate or dormant times, into a renewed sense of life? What does the Easter story have to teach us in this regard?

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

Continued next page...

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Sunday, April 24, 10:30am

Nature as 'Kin'

Rev. Melora Lynngood, homilist

Victoria Barr, worship associate

In a recent service on 'names,' many of you were taken with Robin Wall Kimmerer's idea that 'nature needs a new pronoun.' Not 'it' but 'kin.' Today, in honour of Earth day, we look at how we might counteract the anthropocentric forces in our society, and more fully 'awaken' to our 7-principle understanding of our inter-being in this interdependent web of life.

Submit photos in advance of a **part of nature you love**, a part of nature with which you feel kinship – could be a favourite spot by the ocean, a field, a brook, a songbird, or a single tree. Show us a picture of a part of nature with which you like to commune, a part of this web of life you cherish. (You can even do a 5 second video clip if that appeals to you!) Email **by April 17** to rev.melora@gmail.com

All Ages Nature Walk after the service at **Todd inlet** details to follow in e-weekly.

Beth Dickman

Long time member of our church, Beth Dickman died peacefully at home on Feb 22. Avid vegetarians, she and her husband John (deceased) grew their own food on their acreage in Metchosin. Their attached greenhouse is bigger than their house. There is a nearby pond which in winter is a wonderful place for skating.

Beth will be fondly remembered for her dedication to social causes. The Dickmans were supportive to draft dodgers from the US and provided simple accommodation for those who needed a place to stay.

In the seventies the church organized extended families for people who chose to join a mixed group that replicated a typical family. Our extended family, called the Eow family, with the Dickman's continued for many years and often met on the Dickman family farm for food and fellowship.

A service will be held later.



IN THIS ISSUE

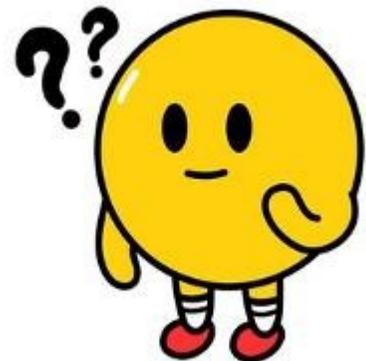
Service Blurbs.....1	Coming Together for Child Haven.....15
Obituary.....2	GVAT.....18
Committee on Ministry, COVID Guidelines.....3	Honouring Feast.....19
Monthly Theme.....4	Share The Plate Charity.....20
Office Reopening, Ministerial Survey.....5	Refugee Report.....21
Amplify UU.....6	Our Sleeping Giant.....22
SELCY.....7	Calendar, Birthdays, Membership News, BMOD, Editorial Guidelines.....24
Zoom Sing, Indigenous Matters.....8	Staff, Board, Committees, C&C.....25
Auction Fever, Tax Receipts for Donations.....9	Ads.....27
Giant Book Sale Is Back.....12	
Honoured Volunteer, Walkers.....13	

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 Guenther 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



APRIL THEME

When we hear the word awakening, perhaps we think of the phrase, “rude awakening”. Or, perhaps we think of something a bit gentler and not as jolting, but about moving from a less aware and less conscious state to one in which we are paying attention. It seems like perhaps an opportune moment, after two years of some version of Covid-induced hibernation to reflect on what it might mean to awaken. How aware and awake are you to your daily living? When you are more aware and awake what differences do you notice between that and your more semi-conscious ways of being?

For myself, I find that I often think I am quite awake and alert to my life and then something out of the ordinary or significant happens and I realize that I was less alive than I thought. It seems to have something to do with taking things for granted, with going through the motions of living without really, truly absorbing or embracing each moment. As you spend some time this month noticing how awake you are and doing what you can to be more so, notice what practices, rituals, or ways of being help keep focus and what distracts. How do you best savour your days of living?

Theme Questions

Here are the Soul Matters Circle questions for reflection this month:

1. Are you the type that believes awakening most often arises slowly from discipline and dedication, or the type that believes it is something that sneaks up on us and hits us like a ton of bricks?
2. When did you first awaken to the truth that the world’s rules, judgements, and strivings did not have to be your own?
3. Have you ever read a book or watched a movie that “woke you up”?
4. Have you ever tried to “wake up” someone else?
5. What if your life is *already* what you are looking for and *already* offering you what you need?
6. Has pain or loss ever led you to the door of awakening?
7. [They say](#) what irritates us about others is actually something we don’t acknowledge about ourselves. So, what annoying friend or family member is trying to awaken you to something you are struggling to admit about yourself?
8. Is it possible to have an awakening and your exterior life remain the same as it was?
9. Could it be that your ambitions are an impediment to your awakening?
10. What if the path to awakening is simply “[wanting what you have](#)”?
11. What are you willing to do to ensure that those around you don’t forget the awakening(s) that Covid brought them?
12. **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 find it.

“See” you in church—in person or virtually,

Rev. Shana

Gradual Reopening of the Church Office

With the Covid Restrictions slowly being lifted, the church office staff will gradually begin opening up the office for IN PERSON visits with limited hours, starting next week.

Niki will be in the office on WEDNESDAYS from 11-1 pm

Shannon will be in the office on TUESDAYS from 11:00 – 2:00 pm

We will still be observing Covid-19 protocols:

1. Wearing masks
2. Hand sanitizing
3. **ONLY three people** in the church office at a time (not including the staff member), to allow for 6' of social distancing.

We appreciate everyone is eager to resume with our previous activities as much as possible, and with respect to the safety of all, please keep the above protocols in mind when planning your visit to the office.

Please check the Eweekly for updates.

Add Your Voice to the Ministerial Survey!

Periodically, First Victoria asks for feedback about the role of our ministers. In April, we will be doing the next Ministerial Survey. (The last was in 2018.) This survey is particularly significant given the challenges of the past two years of pandemic. Reverends Melora and Shana are looking to us for an honest assessment of their role as a professional team, as well as a snapshot of how we feel about this moment in our collective history. What is it about the ministry that we appreciate, and what would foster your development and spiritual growth?

The survey will be open April 11-25, on SurveyMonkey; print copies will also be available at First and by mail to those without internet access. Look for more details and a survey link in the E-weekly in mid-April.

Please take the time to answer the survey as your answers will give valuable insight and clarity of focus for both our ministers and the Committee on Ministry as we move forward.

Committee on Ministry: Bill Glassman (Chair), Lorna Anthony, Suellen Guenther, Lynn Hunter, Jan Thomson, David Vest

For questions, please contact Suellen Guenther (sguenther@shaw.ca, 250-727-0454)



AMPLIFY UU Team

Have you noticed the improvement to the sound and visuals in the Sanctuary at Sunday Service? Marion Pape remarked on the clear, crisp, sound coming from the podium mike. Choir numbers are restricted but yet they sounded like a chorus of 40. The piano has a rich, full sound in the Sanctuary. We are realizing not just that we can come back together in worship but that our experience is better than ever. We have had consistent excellence in the services received from our technical team and consultants. We have managed major installations of acoustic panels, procured equipment during a global pandemic with abundant shortages. For the audio-visual equipment that has been acquired as part of the Amplify UU upgrade project, we still anticipate being on budget (\$200,000).

Technical News:

Charles from Evolution AV, Jamie Twidale and Gary Theal have been working on detecting and removing existing and potential errors or anomalies in software codes and hardware that can cause unexpected behaviour, crashes, or give us issues that cause problems with the various components communicating with one another. For example, the projector screen failed to respond to instructions for the March 13 service and a couple of weeks ago, a power surge took out our new audio mixer, now being repaired in Montreal.

Overall, the process is slower than we would like, but normal with a new facility. We are progressing in the right direction. From cameras to choir monitors, lights to sound, we are, at least functional, but missing a couple of key items to allow us to move completely from analogue to digital. We are approaching the time when we can restart the previous introductory training of our volunteers. This will involve moving into operations and production workshops with demonstrations and full hands-on experience.

Rentals and Tour of First Metropolitan United Church:

Our rental and AV teams are asking for a rental plan for our new equipment. As a part of this process, First Metropolitan United Church graciously gave five of us a tour of their advanced AV facilities and services. We asked questions about policy issues, how to provide services to our renters, where to find additional skilled people to provide these services, financial and technical questions.

First Metropolitan hires a new Co-op student for a 35-hr. workweek each year from UVic. Students come from a wide variety of backgrounds and do many different jobs such as writing articles for the newsletter, creating and editing videos, writing abstracts of sermons for posting, coordinating, and hosting the new FirstMet Online service. While full-time supervised Co-Op students may not be in FUCV's immediate future, the tour showed us an AV operation with a large outreach component. At First Metropolitan, if renters require special lighting (other than the general house lights), sound (other than a single lectern mike) and video cameras and projection screens, they need to hire the church technicians to operate the equipment.

Fire and Security Upgrades:

The Sanctuary and Island Montessori building will be monitored by Telus Custom Security. If there is a fire in the Lion Hall or Montessori a fire alarm will be triggered on site, but now a call will also go out to Saanich Fire Department, and they will respond. In addition, the Sanctuary has a break-in alarm. If the alarm is triggered, Saanich Police will attend and will send an email or text to Peter and Bradley to follow up. Bradley disarms the Sanctuary in the morning for renters and arms the Sanctuary at night.

April offers two options for gently testing the waters of in person all ages community at church:

Handprints Honouring Quilt Evening

Friday 8th April at 6pm

Our Honouring Feast Quilters will help us decorate the border of the quilt to be gifted during the blanketing ceremony for Tsartlip Elder Frazer Smith hosted on our grounds in May. No artistic skill needed! We will be making paint handprints and are hoping for hands of all sizes and ages.

We encourage you to sign up for the dinner we will be serving after art about 7ish (or bring your own food if you prefer). We will have indoor eating tables (with vaccine pass checks and a no mingling policy if still required by provincial health and church covid task force requirements). An 8 pm sunset also allows the option of eating out on the Lion Hall patio or grounds as weather permits. There will be time for games after dinner for those interested. [Dinner signup closes April 3rd](#) to give us an idea of how many to cook for.

Social Justice Storytime Celebration

Saturday April 30th 2pm Broohill Community Park, Sooke

Join our UU Sooke families and our pandemic Social Justice Storytime Zoomers for some outdoor fun in beautiful Sooke. There will be a kids game leader, stories, and bubbles!

What's next? The future is up to you! For the duration of the spring and summer we hope to experiment by creating an offsite event in a different community location with a unique focus once each month that is all ages and family friendly. We are looking to discover each month a place, time, activity, and a group of 6 UUs of any age who commit to show up and welcome those who join them (with our help). Talk to your church friends and groups and share your ideas of ways to help welcome UUs of all ages back into intergenerational community. Contact anna@victoriaunitarian.ca or phone or text 778-557-3492.



Members from both the First and Capital Unitarian congregations in Victoria have recently participated in a study group based on the film *Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong Hearts*, created by the Anglican Church's Primate's Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation and Justice. The film is a response to the Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission which released [94 Calls to Action](#) in 2015, several of them referring to the Doctrine of Discovery and calling for its repudiation.

If you missed registering for the study group, you can still watch the film at this [link](#). If you would like a copy of the questions we discussed, you can e-mail Evelyn Peters at Evelyn.Joy.Peters@outlook.com.

The Doctrine of Discovery refers to the Papal "Bulls of Discovery" released in the 1400s which gave license to explorers to claim vacant land (*terra nullius*) in the name of their sovereign. Vacant land was defined as that which was not populated by Christians. According to these Bulls, if the lands were not occupied by Christians, they were considered to be "discovered," and Europeans could claim sovereignty, dominion, title and jurisdiction. The film shows how the assumptions underlying these proclamations continue to profoundly – and negatively – impact Indigenous people. It gives insight into the racist foundations of some Canadian property laws and other laws still in existence. Learning about this history represents an opportunity to understand the healing and reconciliation that needs to happen for all of us.

Indigenous Matters is produced by the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation team of Unitarian Universalists (THRUU) in Victoria. Its mandate is to identify and facilitate opportunities for education and engagement, in the interests of contributing to the spirit of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Greater Victoria. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact co-chairs Karen Christie (karen.christie8@gmail.com) or Evelyn Peters (Evelyn.Joy.Peters@outlook.com).



Zoom Sing-Everyone Welcome-NEW TIME

Fridays, April 8, 22 from 1-2

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 until we can move to the sanctuary. Practice harmony in the privacy of your home.

Song Circle/Zoom Sing- Everyone Welcome- POSSIBLY

Please let us know if you wish to be notified when we are able to host a hybrid Song Circle/ Zoom Sing from the sanctuary using our new screen and singing without masks. Note- the early pm time to avoid heavy end of afternoon traffic.

E-mail nandobbs@telus.net for a link for Zoom Sing or in-person Song Circle notification.

PLAYBILL®

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

AUCTION FEVER

Revival 2022

An
AUCTION
in
TWO ACTS

**STARRING
YOUR DONATIONS!**

ACT I

Online Auction June 1

from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 pm.

Featuring Gift Cards and The Market

INTERMISSION

Get Your Strength Back June 2

ACT II

Live Auction June 3

6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Featuring: **Silent Auction:** Early Bird Specials, Unlimited Editions, The Pro Shop, The Treat Shop, The Puzzle Shop, The Gift Shop

Complimentary Snacks, a Cash Bar
Live Bidding for Meals, Get Aways,
and More!

What could you contribute?

A gift card? A service? A meal?
A jigsaw puzzle? Something handmade?

To donate, contact Fran Hancock
at hancock@telus.net or 250-477-1310

Taxes on Your Mind? Thinking About Income Tax Receipts?



Consider buying a gift card to support a local business, then contact Kathy Vinton to donate your card to the auction:

**krvinton@shaw.ca or
250-882-8650.**

To obtain your 2022 tax receipt, attach your sales receipt to this special donation form (link below) and send it to the church office.



First Unitarian Church of Victoria

Request for an official donation receipt for income tax purposes
For the eligible amount of gift certificates, gift cards and performance tickets
Donated by the purchaser to the auction to be held June 1-3, 2022.

Date: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE _____

PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL:

DESCRIPTION OF ITEM: _____

AMOUNT PAID BY PURCHASER:

(Original receipt for this amount must be attached to this request; the CFA does not accept copies of credit card statements.)

Your receipt amount will be included in your annual donation receipt mailed in February.

Thank you.

Office Use Only:

Receipt #:



The Giant Book Sale Is Back!

**Save your books
and save the date
Saturday September 24**

**Quality books in good condition please.
No textbooks, encyclopedias,
Reader's Digest Condensed Books,
computer books, or magazines.**



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 Spiritual Development Council, Wally du Temple, has nominated Lynne Bonner.

Lynne Says

I grew up in Cobble Hill in the 1950s when it was a quiet village, seemingly light years away from the big city “over the mountain” (i.e., the Malahat). The rest of my family still lives there. Our house was surrounded by forest, in the traditional lands of the Cowichan (Quw’utsun) First Nation. This was the playground for my two brothers and me. Although we were brought up in the Anglican church, it was the forest that has always been my spiritual home. It was this connection to nature and a longing to work outdoors that motivated me to pursue a career in fish and wildlife management.



After travelling and working in different places (from Copenhagen to Australia and a few places in between), I went to Lethbridge College, Alberta and University of Alaska, Fairbanks, finally settling in the best place of all – my home, Vancouver Island! For about 35 years, I have worked as a biologist in fish and wildlife habitat management roles, mostly for the BC government but also for non-profit conservation organizations. I adopted my two daughters and as a single working mom had little time to explore my need for a spiritual community.

When I retired, I was able to return to my roots, walking every day in the forests of the southern Island, reconnecting with the familiar habitats of the coastal forest. I see nature through a science lens, but I cannot deny the spiritual connection I forged during my childhood in “nature’s playground.”

Almost five years ago, I discovered the Unitarian church just down the road from where I now live in Royal Oak. I was initially attracted to the Unitarian philosophy of acceptance and encouragement for spiritual growth which is embodied in our third principle. Free of dogma and encouraged to explore my own meanings, rather than being required to follow someone else’s rules, it felt right from the moment I walked in the door on June 4, 2017. I’ve never been a joiner before, but somehow, I seem to have found myself involved in a number of this congregation’s activities: the Memorial Team, Ruth Humphries Innovation Fund, Refugee Committee and my current role as a Worship Associate. Whether in person or on zoom I am grateful to have found my community!

Mariko Matsumoto says:

I feel honoured to do a write up on Lynne. I got to know her a few years ago through the Soul Matters group. She was one of the leaders of the group and she managed the meetings and inspired us all. She lives in my neighbourhood so we got together several times for walks during Covid time. Lynne is so level headed (compared to me), kind and caring and I must say I really appreciate her friendship. Also I must say she is much better walker than I with more stamina. We also worked together at the refugee committee.

Continued on next page....

Mariko says continued:

She was very supportive whenever when I needed extra help with medical issues. I really appreciated that. She has been an excellent worship leader and I appreciate her dedication to make our service so well organized. I understand that she is a single parent with a young daughter but I am confident that her daughter is blessed with such caring mother as Lynne. In Lynne I see many human qualities that I admire in a person. How can you do so many things so well?!! Thank you Lynne, for sharing your time and energy. We sure are lucky to have you with us.

Fran Pardee says:

When I started as a Worship Associate, Lynne was my mentor. I couldn't have asked for a kinder, calmer person to guide me in my new role. Lynne patiently answered my many questions, and reassured me as I panicked about managing the technical aspects of zoom services. Thanks to Lynne, I've settled into my worship associate role and now appreciate the same kind, calm leadership she provides as the Chair of the worship team. I'm ever grateful to have learned and continue to learn from her. Thank you Lynne.

Nancy Dobbs says:

Five years ago, this spring, Lynne visited FUCV in search of a welcoming community for her struggling teenage daughter, Sophie. Sadly, Sophie died soon after. Lynne stayed connected with our church and the following fall shared the pulpit with Rev. Melora and opened to us about the challenges that Sophie had been dealing with. Lynne's willingness to share her deeply personal experience led to an invitation to be a worship associate.

Being a worship associate (WA) is a major 3-year commitment. As a WA, Lynne gave inspiring reflections and organized the many details of preparing for services. She was also a backup WA and a mentor. Then the pandemic hit us. Lynne became chair of the Worship Committee and led the WAs in the transition to Zoom services. To accomplish the smooth running, meaningful services on Zoom each week, a worship and tech team met every Friday at 5 pm for a tech rehearsal. In the fall of 2021, there were only two trained WAs and Lynne volunteered to extend her WA term. Lynne continued her leadership with her steady, reliable guidance. She is still with us as we make our way through yet another major transition to both in-person and online services. Lynne has been an amazing, hard working, inspiring volunteer since the fall of 2017.

Victoria Unitarian Walkers at Thetis Lake March 14, 2022



Please contact Nancy Dobbs at nandobbs@telus.net or 250-652-5438 to receive future notifications of Monday walks.

**Victoria
Unitarian
Walkers**

Coming Together For Child Haven

Child Haven was formed 36 years ago by Fred and Bonnie Cappuccino of Maxville, Ontario who began by adopting 19 children from around the world. They realized a greater need and with the help of their family doctor, Dr. Nat Shah, started to build children's homes and hired local staff to care for, feed, clothe and educate children and teenagers in their local communities. Today, Child Haven International cares for over 1300 children in nine homes in India, Bangladesh and Nepal. These homes employ approximately 170 local caregivers.



All face to face fundraising efforts for Child Haven were halted in the last 2 years due to Covid, resulting in a great need for financial help from as many of us as possible. To help address that need, there will be a Vancouver Island Virtual Child Haven Event, on zoom, Sunday, April 24, from 5-7 pm PST. This "Coming Together for Child Haven" event is meant to highlight the fantastic work this organization is doing to support the lives and futures of so many children and adults. This event will include a live performance by the children in one of the homes, a virtual tour of the largest home in Kaliyampoondi, in Tamil Nadu state and an overview of the progress being made in all of the Homes by Robin Cappuccino, son of Bonnie and Fred. We will also be preparing a few cultural presentations from Vancouver Island, such as a Dahl and rice cooking lesson, several choir pieces and photos from across the Island. A link to this virtual event is in the attached poster, or will follow shortly.

Your generous donations will make a huge difference to the lives of these children. Please consider what you would have given on previous occasions to attend an in-person fund-raising dinner (which we hope will return next year). All donations will be eligible for a tax receipt.

This is an initiative by Vancouver Island Unitarians and local Child Haven supporters

Please see below for details on how to donate. For a **tax receipt** please provide your full mailing address.

Monthly donations by direct deposit are encouraged. These are a few examples of what your money can buy:

\$10 - would go to general funds

\$20 - would buy Library books

\$50 - a month's supply of fruits and vegetables for 10 children

Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...Coming Together For Child Haven

Annual donations

\$500 would buy school note books and supplies

\$1,500 would buy monthly support for 60 Tribal children (living and education)

How to Donate

E-transfer: send to fred@childhaven.ca Security q & a: My charity? Child Haven

Credit card payment: phone Child Haven at 613 527 2829

Pay Pal

Cheque: write ID # and “need description” on cheque to

Child Haven International

19014 Concession 7

Maxville, ON

KOC ITO

More information about this registered charity can be found online at www.childhaven.ca. A full list of their needs can be accessed through the How ToHelp/Donating tab.

All donations small and large will make an immense difference and allow you to participate in uplifting these children’s lives. **Thank you!**





Coming together for Child Haven

Vancouver Island 2022 Fundraiser for Child Haven Int.

welcoming your
generous donations

April 24, 2022
4:45 - 7 pm PDT

Free Zoom Event

No pre-registration

To Join Zoom Meeting
click the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81596361957>

Preferred donations to event:
e-transfer to fred@childhaven.ca
security q & a - my charity?
childhaven

This very special event will
include:

- ✦ a visit with Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino
- ✦ a review of Child Haven homes with Robin Cappuccino
- ✦ live and taped performances of children from Child Haven
- ✦ a local choir performance
- ✦ a Dahl and rice cooking lesson from a local chef
- ✦ an opportunity to contribute to the costs on Child Haven's Needs List

website: childhaven.ca

For those in Victoria you can also enjoy a Indian vegetarian dinner (chana masala, palak paneer +) delivered to your home for the event by ordering from Fresh Tandoori Flavours (request a Child Haven meal): call (250) 884-2446 to place your order Meals must be ordered by April 21 (\$30 /meal)

for more info call (250) 217-2181
or email: marikom2@hotmail.com

Thanks to Tandoori Flavours for donating a portion to Child Haven after 30 orders!

For more information on the Vancouver Island Child Haven Event contact:

Child Haven by ☎ (813) 527-2829
or email chevrl@childhaven.ca
or on the Island:

Victoria: Peter (819) 861-2410
Courtney: Heather (250) 338-2181

Parksville/Qualicum:

Cilla (250) 240-3362



VISIT the WEBSITE: www.gvat.ca

GVAT is an Alliance of Diverse Organizations

Change is needed to achieve justice and create a more equitable world for us all. Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT) is a coalition of member organizations from across Greater Victoria that work together to advocate for issues of common concern. GVAT currently has over 30 member organizations [of which First Unitarian Church of Victoria is one] with over 100,000 members across Greater Victoria, including faith groups, front-line service organizations, unions, student societies and more.

Staff: Chet Phillips,

Lead organizer



Beatrice Gentili-Hittos,

Associate Organizer and
Administration coordinator



ACTION RESEARCH TEAMS (ARTs)



Housing



Climate Justice



Mental Health & Addictions

For further information about GVAT and its activities, contact a GVAT Core Team member: Susan Layng (lead), Lynn Beak, Patty Disbrow, Marion Pape, Evelyn Peters (Board liaison), Amalia Schelhorn, Philip Symons (secretary), and Audrey Taylor. New members always welcome!

HONOURING FEAST AT FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

May 7, 2022, at 11:30 am to 3:00 pm

Dear First Unitarian Church Congregation,

Some of you have met a teacher of mine, the Tsartlip Elder Frazer Smith. Frazer gave the opening words at the [September 22 2019 Worship Service](#) I led that marked the end of the Victoria UU [Reconciliation and Relationship Dialogue series](#) I co-led in 2019. For those of you interested to know more about Tsartlip Elder Frazer Smith and myself, you can view video of the worship and learn more about these events at the links below.

Since meeting in 2019, Frazer has become a treasured teacher to me. I once asked him, “Frazer, what should I do to live in this territory in a good way?” Frazer’s answer was both simple and profound. “Be a good neighbour.”

I am now moving from Coast Salish territory to Syilx Okanagan territory. In the same way I wanted to live here in a good way, I want to say my goodbye in a good way, also.

I have decided to host a feast to honour my teacher—and to do so in a way that furthers relationship with some of his closest neighbours: the congregation of First Unitarian Church.

Your leadership has graciously agreed that I may hold this feast on the church grounds and an FUCV minister and a member of the Truth Healing and Reconciliation UU team have committed to participate. Members of the church quilting group have already pitched in to help by designing and stitching a blanket for the honouring ceremony.

If you, too, would like to participate in this neighbourly event—you’re invited. I can use all the neighbourly assistance I can get! I also want this to be an occasion that builds on neighbourly relations.

The gifts of the blanket, and of helping out on the day, are beautiful, and I am so grateful. We will need help setting up chairs, putting up tents, and attending to the comforts of our elders. This is an opportunity for more personal gestures as well. I invite folks who would like to participate to reflect on the idea of neighbourliness, and the kinds of gifts neighbours might give. Perhaps a few seedlings to go in the garden. Or soup in a container that can go in the freezer. If you are handy with tools, perhaps a small tool with a note offering to lend a hand. Or a note with an email address if you’re good with computers. Some of your own baking. Or a casserole in a dish that doesn’t need returning.

The feast itself is my gift to you. I look forward to welcoming all who wish to attend.

-Michelle Poirier Brown

How to sign up to participate in the Honouring Feast and “neighbouring ceremony” for KO LE SA LUK (Frazer Smith):

Anna Isaacs will serve as registrar to allow us to ensure that we can welcome those of all ages in a good way who commit to attend. In order to be respectful of our caterers, we are setting a maximum of 40 participants and are closing registration March 31st.

Register at anna@victoriaunitarian.ca and let us know how many are in your party with ages of any kids (also useful to know which youth and young adults are attending), and what offering(s) of help or neighbourly gifts you are committing to provide. You can email or call or text 778-557-3492 with questions.

September 22 2019 Worship Service: <https://fb.me/e/5PCUtbvOC>

Reconciliation and Relationship Dialogue series: <https://fb.me/e/1i6efdHIP>

Honouring feast invite file link of this same text pasted above.

SHARE THE PLATE CHARITY - APRIL 2022



The Share the Plate charity for April is [International Conservation Fund of Canada](#). ICFC is Canada's leading international conservation organization. Since 2007, they have been partnering with local conservation organizations on projects in over 30 countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Their work is science based and they are committed to engaging local communities and indigenous peoples, securing lasting conservation gains in priority areas. ICFC's small staff works with a sense of urgency because they can see how much they are achieving and how much is under threat.



Honoured with multiple [awards and recognitions](#), ICFC empowers Canadians to help poorer countries in the developing world which have very rich and imperilled biodiversity. It also is a way to help restore environmental and social justice to people who have done very little to cause climate change, but who suffer disproportionately from it. It also enables Canadians to help non-human species who have been innocent victims of humanity's encroachment on

their habitat and atmosphere. With low administrative costs covered by a core group of donors, 100% of every dollar raised goes to programs. Please give generously to help protect the astonishing diversity of life in the tropics.



Shelagh is working on ESL with Fatemah twice per week and reports that classes are going extremely well. "Fatemah is a diligent student", says Shelagh, "and always works on her written English grammar 'homework' and usually has questions that lead into Google Translate conversations and going to various resources. She has achieved a Level 3 (out of 5) on her assessment test at ICA and Mohammad, a Level 1." Their ESL classes at ICA should be open to them soon.

Fatemah advised Shelagh that she is now teaching the Qur'an to women at her Victoria mosque with the help of translators for the English speaking students, and that this follows on from teaching the Qur'an in Syria and Jordan as well. There is a whiteboard with markers on the wall in the family's apartment and (in her spare time !) she is teaching her granddaughter and grandson, Wasan and Mohammad, to read and write Arabic along with the Qur'an.

Abdulrahman is also expanding his horizons and settling well into Victoria, meeting other foreign students in his ESL classes at Camosun College. He's at Level 4 in listening and speaking and Level 3 in reading and writing, recently receiving 100 on one quiz and 85 on another. He's interested in going forward into the IT program and then pursuing Spanish language classes.

ALL 

Our Guiding Eight Unitarian Universalist Principles

	We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every person.
	We believe in justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
	We believe in acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.
	We believe in the free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
	We believe in the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
	We believe in the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.
	We believe in respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
	We believe in journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse, multicultural, Beloved Community, by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

OUR SLEEPING GIANT

By Emily and Stu Whitney

Did you know that we have at least one, 8th- Principle, sleeping giant in our midst? He does not snore much and so you probably are not aware of his presence but if you prod him awake, elder member Keith Jobson (retired) would tell you that he was recently called to the Law building at Uvic for the dedication of a replacement hand-carved plaque commemorating the Professor Keith B. Jobson Aboriginal Award. That's correct the Jobson Aboriginal Award in the faculty of law at the University of Victoria.

The following announcement was sent to Keith's former law Faculty colleagues early last December by distinguished Professor Dr. Gerry Ferguson (retired).

"I am pleased to announce that a beautiful replacement plaque commemorating the Professor Keith B. Jobson Award has been hung in the stairwell to the second floor. The previous Indigenous plaque was stolen from the wall a few years ago. The current (sic) yellow cedar carving is called "The Journey", and it has been designed by local WSÁNEĆ artist Douglas LaFortune and carved by Doug and his son Bear.

The Jobson Award is made annually to a law student "who has demonstrated leadership, community interest or academic excellence with respect to Indigenous issues." The Award was established upon Professor Jobson's retirement and acknowledges Keith's many contributions to the founding of UVic Law. His passion has always been for social justice for the most marginalized members of our community, especially Indigenous persons, prisoners, and the poor. I frequently told others that Keith was "the social conscience of the law school" since he always remembered and advocated for the interests of marginalized persons in respect to all our Faculty programs and activities.



He was my mentor and I greatly admire him.

Thanks also to Jack Woodward, Q.C., a member of our first graduating class, who donated with me, this Indigenous carving in Keith's honour."

A few days later, there was a small ceremony in the entrance foyer of the Law building. Principals attending were: the carvers, Doug LaFortune and his son Bear; Doug's wife Cathy; Keith and two of his sons, David and John; Val Napoleon, Interim Dean and Law Foundation Professor of Aboriginal Justice ; Ruth Young, the

University's Indigenous Initiatives Director; and Distinguished Professor Dr. Gerry Ferguson.

Continued from previous page...**Our Sleeping Giant**

This Award at UVIC is in addition to the many interactive projects that Keith has been involved in between FUCV and various nearby aboriginal communities. We have seen evidence of these in our church building and in several church programs. For example, past years of art hangings were a follow-up to the first annual Art Show exhibiting the work of our aboriginal neighbours. This original show was initiated under Keith Jobson's leadership. Also, the FUCV scholarship program for aboriginal students at Camosun College was initiated with a generous donation



by Keith and Florence Jobson. These are of examples of the efforts of one of our members to "...dismantle racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion...". Additional recognition of Keith's work for justice in aboriginal/settler affairs can be found in Shirley d'Estrube 2002. Unitarians in Victoria 1871 – 2002. Hillside Press, Victoria.

Emily and I are privileged to be guests in Keith's home from time to time and over the years we have seen several mementos that he has been given for being a friendly neighbour with local aboriginal communities. One that he has had for many years and that he remembers very well is a single Feather. The gift of a feather is held in great esteem by numerous aboriginal communities throughout western North America. What a treasure.

"In Native American culture it is believed that all things possess an inherent virtue, power, and wisdom. The feather, for example, is a powerful symbol that signifies honor and a connection between the owner, the Creator, and the bird from which the feather came. It symbolizes trust, honor, strength, wisdom, power, and freedom. It is an object that is deeply revered and a sign of high honor" ...<https://blog.nativehope.org/the-feather->

FUCV is fortunate indeed to have Keith's legacy pointing the way to the objectives of our newly adopted eighth principle.

Dr. Jobson was born and raised a long time ago on a homestead farm located near two Indian Reservations S.E. of Prince Albert Sask.

CALENDAR:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Status Change

Rev. Debra Faulk-Member

Board Members on Duty

April 3, 2022 Kathleen Zimmerman

April 10, 2022 Evelyn Peters

April 17, 2022 Bruce Nicol

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!

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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Sarah	Kendall	April 02
Earle	Anthony	April 05
Barbara	Kovar	April 06
Martha	McDougall	April 09
Maureen	Sherlock	April 13
Catherine	Haynes	April 14
Jan	Thomson	April 14
Mike	Fibiger-Crossman	April 16
Isabelle	Grenon	April 16
Suzanne	Beauchamp	April 17
Suzanne	Clement Thorne	April 19
Nille	Fibiger-Crossman	April 19
Kathleen	Doerksen	April 20
Barbara	Nyland	April 21
Gisele	Bentley	April 22
Barbara	Boyle	April 24
Chris	Cook	April 25
Leslie	O'Hagan	April 25
LeAnn	Andersen	April 28
Erin	Kinrade	April 30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ON MARCH 29 CURRAN DOBBS

Not March 30 as listed incorrectly in last month's newsletter -- The Newsletter Team will resolutely hunt down the culprit and mete out the punishment they richly deserve!

Our apologies Curran

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

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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

Acting Director : Anna Isaacs

anna@victoriaunitarian.ca

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

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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.



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afe.design@firley.ca

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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