



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN MAY 2022

SUNDAY SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:30 am

Welcome
to the month of
Nurturing Beauty



Services in May are currently planned to be simultaneously in-service and on Zoom. However, with the ever-evolving Covid situation, please check the e-weekly each week to confirm and to find the most current covid precaution guidelines.

Sign up for seats in the sanctuary for in person services: <https://rsvp.church/r/uYZwZfyw>

Sunday, May 1, 10:30 am

Nurturing Beauty

Rev. Melora Lynngood, homilist

Rosemary Harrison, worship associate

Sunday, May 8, 10:30 am

The Beauty of Complex Love (Mother's Day)

Rev. Shana Lynngood, homilist

David Tietz, worship associate

As we delve more into the theme of nurturing beauty, we examine it through the perspective of our relationships. Our connections to one another can be beautiful, and they are often fraught. The more we acknowledge just how complicated our ties can be, the more often we find we can hold them with care, and as close (or at a healthy remove) as is befitting of our life. This morning we will honour the complexity of all our relationships including those to our mothers and maternal figures.

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Sunday, May 15, 10:00 am

CUC National Service

Rev. Shana Lynngood, homilist

Victoria Barr, worship associate

CUC National Service, Note special time of **10am** — Rev. Shana will be part of a collaborative team working on this cross-country service for Canadian Unitarians.

Feelings come and go like clouds in a windy sky. Conscious breathing is my anchor.”

— Thich Nhat Hanh, *Stepping into Freedom: Rules of Monastic Practice for Novices*

We invite you to take a deep, deep breath. Join us Sunday, May 15 for a restorative service. Together, we will pause to reflect on the breath that sustains us.

Sunday, May 22, 10:30 am

Embracing the Wholeness of Authenticity

Dar Gareau-Levy, homilist

Lynne Bonner, worship associate

There's been a lot said over the years about authenticity, but most of us still opt to fit in rather than flaunt our differences. We've been taught how to behave and how to get along - how to be safe by not standing out. We push our authentic selves down in favour of the common denominator or the common good... But what if we've had it wrong all this time? What if being true to ourselves is not only good for us, it's good for everyone else as well?



Bio: Dar Gareau-Levy is a trans non-binary queer, an ACE survivor from a working poor family, and a true blue UU whose faith has lead them on a personal and spiritual quest for wisdom, justice and healing.

Sunday, May 29, 10:30am

Trying Again (or, the Beauty of Second Chances)

Rev. Shana Lynngood, homilist

Emily Tietz, worship associate

One aspect of beauty in our lives is grace. We make a mistake or we don't align our actions or words with our values, and still we get to try again. As long as we live, we learn, and we broaden and deepen our understanding of what it means to be human, to be wholly ourselves here and now. How do you offer yourself grace? How have others? How has the world? When given a second (or third, or fourth?) chance, how do you make the most of it?

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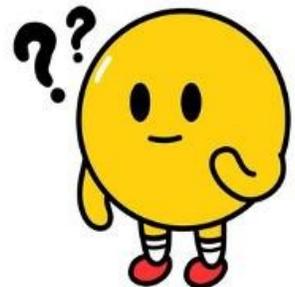
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

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 Guenther and Jan Thomson.

FIND OUR COVID UPDATES

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



Welcome to the month of Nurturing Beauty



Theme Questions

This month we explore the practice of **Nurturing Beauty**.

Here are some questions to spark your thinking inspired by the UU Soul Matters Network. Discuss the questions with a fellow congregants, on the phone or zoom with friends or family, and/or journal about them on you 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?

When were you first healed by beauty?

When were you first protected by beauty?

When did beauty first teach you something?

When was beauty a doorway to the divine?

What makes a beautiful soul? What do you do to beautify your own soul?

What did your family of origin teach you about what it means “to be beautiful”?

What parts of life have grown more beautiful as you’ve aged?

What’s something you know now about beauty that you didn’t know when you were 16 years old?

“If the words spoke appeared on your skin, would you still be beautiful?”

Is beauty a private thing for you? Or do you need to share it with someone for the experience to be complete?

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What if beauty isn't something we encounter but something we become?

Who in your life needs to be told they are a beautiful soul?

Have you ever experienced a "beautiful goodbye"?

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.

This Month's Spiritual Exercises

These suggested spiritual exercises are some of those 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

The Beautiful Thing You Carry

The philosopher Blaise Pascal wrote, "In difficult times, carry something beautiful in your heart."

These are indeed difficult times. They require courage, commitment, hope and self-love. And all of these are sustained by beauty. We find the courage to fight after falling in love with a beautiful vision to fight for. We maintain our commitment only by finding the beauty that nourishes us. We hold on to hope because experiences of beauty remind us that something in the universe is on our side. We withstand dehumanization when rooted deeply in the beauty of our own dignity.

It's one of the most important secrets to successful social change and social survival: When we carry beauty, it carries us.

So this month, **literally find something to carry with you, for weeks on end!** A pebble, poem, torn piece of paper with a quote on it. Might even be a quote from this packet. You'll likely carry it in your pocket, but maybe it will be in a necklace or wallet instead.

The goal is to find a reminder about beauty that will carry you through as you carry it.

Option B

Enter the World of Ordinary Beauty

We've all had those moments. The ordinary suddenly appears extraordinary. One minute the objects around us blend into the background, sit there as "things." The next they come to life, so clearly carrying meaning and memory. What once seemed possessions, now somehow possess us. They are a part of us. And us them. When it happens, it's beautiful.

So this month lean into the beauty of ordinary things, by picking one ordinary thing to praise. And then figure out how to praise it!

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Maybe you'll write an ode of your own, like the ones below. Maybe you'll celebrate it by taking numerous pictures of it, from multiple angles at different times of the day. Maybe sharing it or passing it on to someone your treasure will be your way.

Here are a number of poetic praises to help you on your way...

Ode to My Socks - Pablo Neruda: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GOkypeafdM>

A Personal Reflection on Neruda and "our things": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRiCUqi-4Y4>

Burial & To the Fig Tree on 9th & Christian - Ross Gay: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=300&v=YRjEgOoFl68

To the Mulberry Tree - Ross Gay: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=jzLx2aRNTRU

Ode to the Women on Long Island - Olivia Gatwood: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqip0H1QTE>

Ode to Thrift Stores - Ariana Brown: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFZJoU44uOo>

Option C

Remind Yourself that You are Pretty [fill in the blank] !

"Will I be pretty?" It's more than a [song](#) whose tune is stuck in our heads. For so many of us, it's a burden stuck in our skin. One can't talk of nurturing beauty without addressing the way our culture distorts and disrupts - our relationship with our bodies and souls.

Poet Katie Makkai takes this head on in her poem [Pretty](#). In it, she unfolds the challenge of reclaiming and transforming the call to be "pretty."

After listen to Makkai's poem (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7TS2Z6IAI4>), you are invited this month to turn her call into a spiritual exercise by completing one (or maybe all) of these sentences:

"I am most proud of the fact that I am pretty _____."

"I hope my child knows they are pretty _____."

"I love my partner because they are pretty _____."

"I never knew I was pretty _____ until _____ helped me realize it."

"The moment I realized I could be pretty _____ was when I _____."

"I still want to become pretty _____."

Come to your group ready to share which fill in the blank took you the deepest, gifting you with word of comfort, challenge or calling.

Option D

A Beautiful Cup of Coffee

One of the best ways to explore our monthly themes is to bring them into the conversations you have in your everyday life. Or to put it another way, our themes offer you the chance to deepen and enliven your conversations and relationships.

So here are some conversation starters rooted in the call the Nurture Beauty. Take them into a conversation with someone close to you, or engage them with a small circle of family or friends.

Remember: part of this exercise is about the insights that arise from meaningful conversation, but another part is to notice the beauty that arises when our conversations go beyond the weather and normal chit chat.

Come to your group with the story of your favorite "beautiful moment" from the conversation.

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Conversation Starters about Nurturing Beauty:

What is the most beautiful thing you've ever seen or experienced? How did it leave its mark on you?

When did you first feel beautiful?

Have you ever been healed by beauty?

What do you wish your 16-year-old self knew about beauty?

Do you think beauty can save or heal the world?

Have you ever found beauty in the brokenness?

Have you ever experienced a "beautiful goodbye"?

Soul Matters Songs on the Theme



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

<https://open.spotify.com/user/mjf4kicgvwkk17fbzb0un6gg>

Direct link to **Nurturing Beauty** playlist on spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5GZu0gVozGkkhcW8w9CceC?si=da43fa603edb4b30>

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

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

Direct link to **Nurturing Beauty** playlist on youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWKQ6LRncw0&list=PLvXOKgOQVYP7PStiGX1uRyurObkXnNNZC>

SELCY

Nurturing the beauty of Intergenerational community

"All we teach is Unitarian Universalism, everything we do is faith development, and the congregation is the curriculum." - Joy Berry

After a week of spring break day camp together, a 9 year-old and a 4 year-old greeted each other with genuine delight in our nature playground on Sunday morning. My goal in all that I do for the remainder of this church year is to create opportunities for us to build and grow such beautiful moments of being together in community.

For our kids, I think the key ingredients that make such moments possible right now are nature, fun, play, creativity and relationship. Put more succinctly by the always amazing UU educator CB Beal, "No curriculum this church year."

To be able to experience the beauty of being together, many of us must first find a sense of safety being in church community. This requires getting familiar with the space and the people and experiencing a regulated nervous system, either by burning off energy to calm down, or taking things slow and gentle to wake up and come out of our shell. For both of these to be able to happen at once in the same shared space, we need to achieve a delicate balance by offering programming that is flexible, responsive and predictable. The most important learning right now when we are together is to feel a sense of love and belonging down in our bones.

Our kids and youth need to engage with grownups of all ages. Parents and young adults need to be together with elders. We can only find healing together as a community when we build these connections.

Especially if you are not raising kids right now, please show up if you can when you see info about all ages church activities. We need you to help children and family to feel they really do belong at church.

May 1st all ages church picnic

Noonish (after church)

The Junction Orchard & Cidery (5 minute drive [273 Prospect Lake Road](https://www.google.com/maps/place/273+Prospect+Lake+Road))

Co-sponsored by our church Pub Night & Family programs. RSVPs help us plan & dropins welcome

<https://rsvp.church/r/p5oPZT5P>



Purchases optional and appreciated. You are welcome to bring your own food. \$10+tax tasting flights and \$6.84+tax cider on tap. Picnic baskets can be ordered in advance up until Friday for pickup at the Junction on Sunday at <https://the-local-picnic.com/collections/picnics-about-town/products/cidery>

This is an all ages outdoor event. Dogs welcome too.

Covid Guidelines for May

The guidelines below are in general alignment with the BC COVID-19 guidelines, and take a more gradual approach as suggested by the members of FUCV in the survey. We will continue to follow provincial guidelines and aim to keep the vast majority of the congregation happy. For up-to-date changes please follow the guidelines in the EWeekly rather than the Newsletter.

1. **Worship services.** All services are now hybrid, available in person in the Sanctuary and the family friendly Lion Lounge, or by Zoom. For May there are no capacity limits, no registration required, and no vaccine mandates. Please respect others' comfort levels for social distancing and mask wearing.
2. **Masks.** We will continue wearing masks during services in the Sanctuary, but masks are optional in the Lion Hall. Masks may be temporarily removed by officiants, readers or for singing a solo. Microphone covers, which we use when speakers remove their masks, should be used as long as we continue wearing masks.
3. **Groups.** Committees, groups, teams, and choirs in rehearsal may gather in the church or elsewhere, masked or unmasked, at the discretion of the group
4. **Singing.** For Sunday morning services, the choir and the congregation may sing with masks.
5. **Air Circulation.** The Lion Hall and the Farmhouse Common room have HEPA filters installed for air circulation. The HEPA filters should not be used in either of these locations when the windows/doors are open. The sanctuary's two heat pumps will circulate outside air every 20 minutes; it is important to keep the windows closed for proper circulation.
6. **If Symptomatic.** Anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or who has symptoms of COVID should not participate in small group activities in person and should not come to the Sanctuary or Lion Hall.

Children's and Youth's Programs. Children's and youth's programs have resumed. Contact [Anna Isaacs](#) for details.

From your FUCV COVID-19 Team (Nancy Dobbs, Rev. Melora Lynngood, Kristina Stevens, Katherine Maas, and Jim Willis)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) this year will be held in-person in the sanctuary on Sunday, May 29 at 12:30 pm.

The AGM package (Agenda and Reports) will be sent to members by email or Canada Post on May 15 and will be available at the office for anyone who wishes to pick up a copy.

The package will contain a proxy form for members who cannot, or do not wish to, attend in person.

We are hoping to arrange to have coffee/tea service between the Sunday service and the AGM.

Spring into Song!

**Join the Chalice Choir and guests
for an uplifting evening of music and song!**

**Saturday May 7, 2022
7 pm
First Unitarian Church of Victoria
OR Livestreamed on Zoom**

**Admission by Donation -- Proceeds to the Church
Reception to Follow**

SHARE THE PLATE



Power of Hope Society (PoH) was created 25 years ago with two core ideas in mind. One was to create a place for young people to gather and form relationships across lines of difference. The other was to connect young people with creative, caring, visionary adults.

Today, as always, there is a hunger in all of us for authentic connection. The best expression of what PoH does is through transformational empowerment camps that use arts-based activities and foster inclusion and community, where youth supported to express their authentic selves and connect to their potential. We form a community that's characterized by a deep sense of safety — so that people can, in a very natural and gentle way, discover their most powerful next steps.

"Attending or supporting PoH is something that you would never regret. This community has been a space for me to connect to myself, people who hold different perspectives, explore my creative side, be vulnerable, and feel the love that comes from connections to people and the land. I love PoH with all of my heart and look forward to it every summer. It has brought so much power and light to my life and helped me find the tools to step into my power and create change in the world." ~Hannah

All who come to the camps become part of a growing network of people who care about each other and understand our time is nourishing our ability to connect and create.

We call this model the Creative Community model. One of its core intentions is to shine the spotlight on the role of the social artist. The social artist is practiced in all the skills that see people come together and live well in community. The transformation comes from a shift in consciousness about who you are, what you're capable of, and what kind of potential exists for you in the world when it comes to making change: joining your creativity with what you care about.

"This program helped save my life, and the lives of some of my friends. It is the greatest, most unique and life-changing experience I've ever had. It is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and it happens every year." ~Caleb

It's a birthright for each and every one of us to have a transformational experience in our lives. And that's what we aim to deliver.

Caroline Weatherhead Board of Directors, Power of Hope Society

250-812-8782

caroline@powerofhope.ca





Will You Help Fill a Raffle Basket?

We are preparing a raffle basket for the Online Auction June 6-9 and we need your help. Could you contribute small decorative items, gourmet items, wine or spirits, jams & preserves, chocolate, treats? What would you like to find in a raffle basket?

Please bring your items to the church office and put them in the container marked, Raffle Basket.

Help us fill an amazing basket with small treasures!

Thank You!

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.



Auction Fever 2022 **...1,2,3 and pirouette**



...4,5,6 and pivot online.

AUCTION FEVER 2022 BIDDERS

JOIN US IN THE DANCE AS WE PIVOT OUR AUCTION BACK ONLINE.

JUNE 6 TO 9 -- EVERYDAY 8AM TO 8PM

GIFT CARDS, THE MARKET, KNITTING

DINNERS, EVENTS, PUZZLES, WINE

PRO SHOP, BOOKS, TREATS

WE CAN'T BE TOGETHER IN PERSON

BUT WE CAN SUPPORT OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY

WITH AUCTION FEVER 2022 ONLINE!!



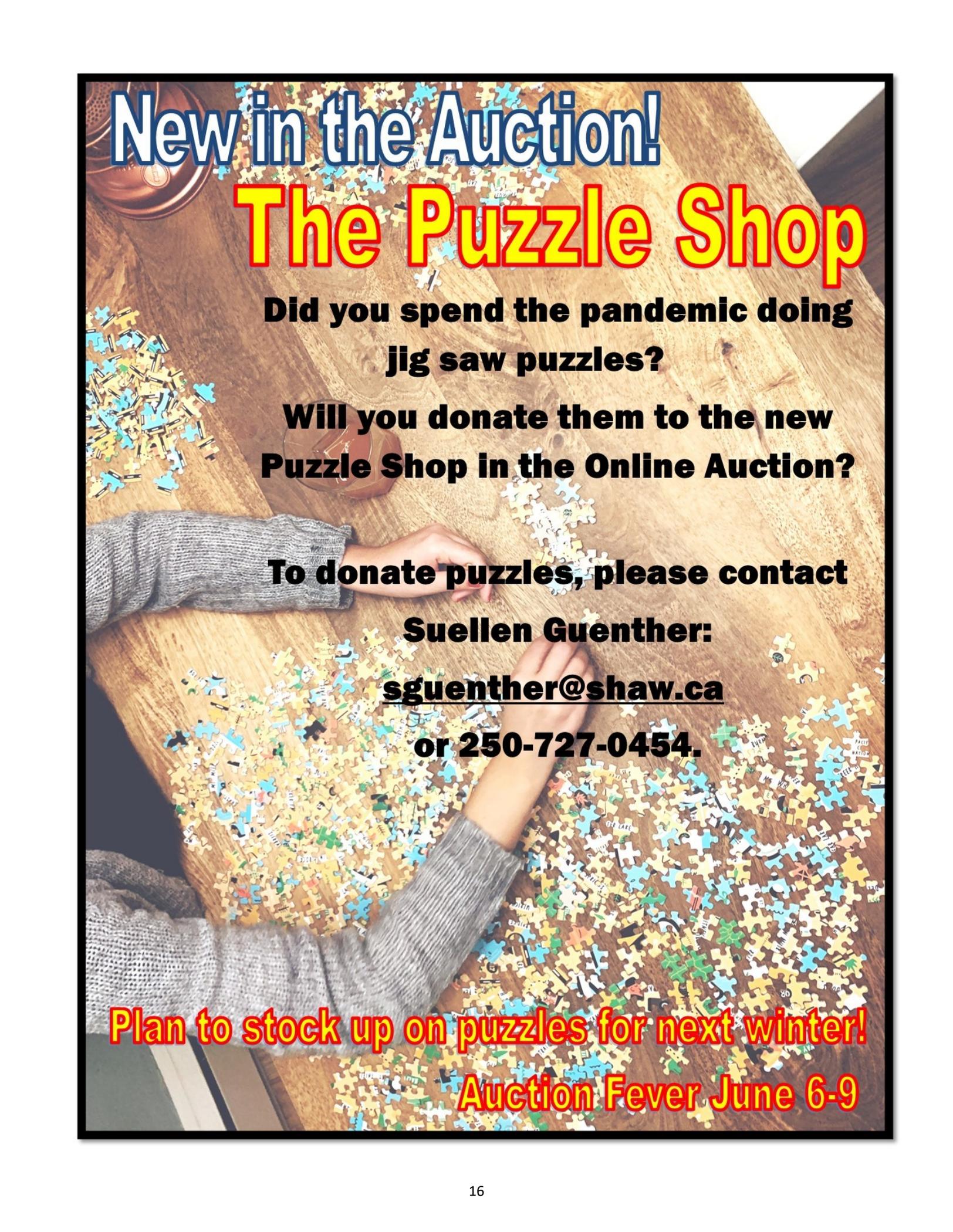
Calling All Cooks

Do you make jam * preserves * marmalade * granola * pickles *
* bread * antipasto * chutney?

We are looking for items for The Market!

To donate items for The Market, please contact Jen Young:
(uujenyong@gmail.com or 250-888-4746) with a list of what you will offer.

The Market will be in the Online Auction on June 6.



New in the Auction!

The Puzzle Shop

**Did you spend the pandemic doing
jig saw puzzles?**

**Will you donate them to the new
Puzzle Shop in the Online Auction?**

To donate puzzles, please contact

Suellen Guenther:

sguenther@shaw.ca

or 250-727-0454.

Plan to stock up on puzzles for next winter!

Auction Fever June 6-9

NEW In The Auction This Year!

Wine Table Blind

Donate a bottle of wine worth at least \$15 to the auction.

Submit your receipt to the church for a tax receipt using the attached form.

To donate wine, please contact Mollie Twidale: mollie@neofusion.net or put it in the auction wine box in the church office. Put your name on the bottle so we know who donated it.

At the online auction, bid on a bottle of wine, sight unseen.

Prepare to be surprised!



AUCTION SAMPLER

THE MARKET

Jams, Paté, Bread,
Chutney, Granola and more!

PUZZLES

A staggering array of
Jigsaw Puzzles!

TREATS

Nuts, Poppycock, Trifle,
Christmas Pudding, Cookies,
Cakes and more!

KNITTING

Hats, Scarves, Blankets,
Handwarmers, Dishcloths!

GIFT CARDS

So many gift cards
supporting local businesses!

FOOD TO GO or STAY

Lunches, Dinners, Outings,
Get-Togethers!

WINE TABLE BLIND

Bid on red or white wines
with a minimum value of
\$15. Get a surprise!

GIFTS

Jewelery, Art, Cards,
Pottery, Handmade items!

BOOKS

Books for everyone and
some authors we know
well!

PRO SHOP

Help at Home, Gardening,
Hauling and more!

ONLINE AUCTION

JUNE 6 TO 9

2022 AUCTION FEVER ABSENTEE BID FORM

You don't have to be at AUCTION FEVER to bid on the items you want. Use THIS FORM to enter your bids for items in both the Live and Silent Auctions.

This form must be turned into the church office by Tuesday May 24.

You may also email your completed form to: hellojenyoung@gmail.com

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____

BIDDING NUMBER

Regular Bid Items

Enter your bids here for the items you want. You will pay the final bid amount as long as your maximum bid is higher. If the bidding goes above your maximum, you lose. If you want it, you should bid "WIT" (whatever it takes). You will only pay what everyone else pays.

Item #*	Brief Description	How Many?	Maximum Bid Unit Price
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** We will fill in the list number of the item you have described and assign your bidding number.*

PAYMENT PLAN -- Please make arrangements before the auction.

- I will send a cheque or cash with someone who will be attending the auction.
- I will ask someone who is attending the auction to pay for my purchases that night.
- I will retrieve my envelop and pay for my purchases at the office as soon after the auction as possible.

THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR BIDS

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 6-9, 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 CRA does not accept copies of credit card statements)

Your receipt amount will be added to your annual pledge receipt mailed in February. Thank you.

<i>For office use only:</i> <i>Receipt #</i>

Need for Social Responsibility Coalition Coordinator

This is an invitation for an individual or individuals to take responsibility for administering and re-invigorating the FUCV Social Responsibility Coalition. Individual/s who previously played this role have either moved on to other roles or are desiring to pass on activities to other members.

Until recently the FUCV Social Responsibility Coalition (SRC) served as a coordinating body to raise awareness and promote action among church members and friends on society's major social, environmental and economic issues. The information and an opportunity to respond to these issues, sometimes in concert with others and always in a manner consistent with the seven principles of the Unitarian-Universalist movement.

The Coalition was made up of a variety of Teams covering many areas of concern. These included environmental issues, diversity, helping local individuals and families in urgent hardship situations, addressing the needs of homeless people, sponsoring and supporting refugees, facilitating knowledge about reconciliation initiatives, and others.

The team met monthly, and each month, members of the SRC identified a particular issue, proposed an "action of the month," submitted an article on the subject to the church newsletter, and provided fuller details on the issue at the SRC display shelf in the foyer of the church. A member also administered the Share the Plate initiative, and contributions to charities and organizations in which the FUCV has memberships. The new coordinator may wish to change or add to these initiatives.

If you are interested in taking on this coordination responsibility, please contact the FUCV Board Outreach Coordinator Evelyn Peters at Evelyn.Joy.Peters@outlook.com or at 778-265-5279, by (May 15, 2022). If you would like more information about the previous experience of administering the SRC, you can contact Philip Symons at philmar@islandnet.com or at 250-592-6484.

- Evelyn Peters



Zoom Sing-Everyone Welcome-NEW TIME

Fridays, May 13 and May 27 from 1:30- 2:30



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.



BETH DICKMAN: OBITUARY

By Alisa Wilson, Daughter



Our mom Beth Dickman (nee Ethel Elizabeth Klassen) passed away peacefully in her Metchosin home of 70 years, just short of the age of 99, on Feb. 22, 2022.

Ethel was born in a hamlet near Hepburn, Sask. on June 3, 1923, the 4th child of Peter Klassen, a school teacher, and Mary Klassen (Runge) the daughter of a nearby farm family.

Beth's father immigrated to Regina, Sask. at 16, leaving his Mennonite farm family in what was then part of the Russian Empire (now southern Ukraine). Her mother's family, from a village in what was then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire (now northwest Ukraine) eventually reached Odessa, Sask. around 1900, perhaps by way of Weisenberg, Austria, where her birth was recorded in 1896.

They were among those of many origins who looked for refuge in Canada as a result of political strife, dislocation, starvation and trauma. Perhaps that is why Beth's lifelong belief and passion was for the pursuit of peaceful ways to resolve age old conflicts, through education, understanding and active participatory democracy. She was undaunted by status or power, and seemed fearless to engage anyone who she felt could make a difference on issues of importance.

She would come to the defence of all people facing violence, oppression or prejudice (not to mention, as a lifelong vegetarian, all living creatures...her 'don't step on any bugs' phase was difficult in the countryside). Her children would warn, though, that she didn't always seem such a pacifist, as her 'fighting spirit' meant she didn't give up easily, and could be a tad impatient with those not following her rapid-fire line of reasoning. Apparently she learned to debate from a Jesuit teacher of political science, which meant you seldom won an argument with her.

Her traditional father decided his youngest daughter would be educated when her only brother sadly died, and her father noticed Beth's school marks were better than his son's had been. This led to his sending her off on the train at 16 to the U. of Saskatoon, with \$50 for tuition, where she supported herself waiting tables, and studied biochemistry for 2 years. She then moved to Toronto where she studied Law and Political Science. She also participated in the Women's Movement toward equal rights, and equal pay. She was blind to the idea of a glass ceiling, and relished challenging the status quo...but was also very interested in the best techniques of child raising and education.

Future husband Jack came home from service in WW2 with an appreciation for the fragility of peace, and with an interest in organic agriculture as practiced in England. In 1948 he ran for the CCF on a platform concerning workers' conditions and housing shortages.

A mutual friend introduced Jack and Ethel at a New Year's party in 1949. On their first date, Jack asked Ethel what her middle name was. She said 'Elizabeth'. He said 'May I call you Beth? She said 'By the way, I'm not too keen about the name Jack either, can I call you John?' A whirlwind romance followed, and Beth and John married on April 16 at Trinity College Chapel, her alma mater, U. of Toronto.

In 1951, looking to a milder gardening climate (and adventure, perhaps) they trucked their infant daughter and household goods across the continent to Victoria, settling on their Metchosin property in 1952.

All her life Beth continued to be deeply involved in supporting and promoting a host of social and political initiatives, locally and beyond. She shared with John his respect for and protection of the natural and agricultural environment, and the communities dependent on these.

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Among many crops and animals, Beth and John 'Metchosin-raised' their 5 children Alisa, Garth, Heather, Meredith and Tim; helped with grandchildren Jennifer, Tara, Natasha, Aaron, Braeden, Kyle, Alex, and cousin Peter; enjoyed the company of great grandchildren Lauren, Madeline, Lucas, Ella, Kattia, Sofia, Oliver and Quinn: and Judy and Jeff who "adopted" them as extra grandparents.

Beth's descendants and their various spouses and partners wish to offer their grateful appreciation and thanks to Drs. O'Connell and O'Conner, Met Seniors' Program, and the many kind, devoted people who supported Mom and family caregivers with home maintenance and attentive personal care, and also gave their warm affection and companionship to Beth as she became less able.

What does one take from Beth 'moving on' just as another dispute erupts in her historical place of origin? Perhaps it is 'I did what I could...your turn now.'

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to:Project Ploughshares Canada (sponsored by The Canadian Council of Churches): <https://ploughshares.ca/donate/>

Interpares 'globalise equality': <https://interpares.ca/>

A Celebration of Life will be held at **1pm on May 15, 2022 at 4744 Rocky Point Rd.** To be **outdoors under canvas**, but please **mask** for close quarters.

Kindly RSVP to 1-604-536-7287 or jagroup@shaw.ca



May 2022 Honoured Volunteer – Barry Wiebe



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 Administration Council, Bruce Nicol, has nominated Barry Wiebe.

Barry Says

I have always felt that to achieve the most benefit from being a member of a community, one must become involved.

In my earlier years, I volunteered to support my son's involvement in soccer, baseball and Scouts. By stepping forward, I met a lot of people in my community and learned about the sports along the way.

I was introduced to Unitarianism by long time church member and my partner in life, Karen Furnes. My atheism and humanist views have been a comfortable fit at our church. A lifelong interest in the physical sciences has shaped my world view. It has been both inspirational and humbling to contemplate our place in the universe.

Karen's involvement with the church choir opened my eyes and ears to choral singing which has since become a significant part of my life. Finding a place in our church choir has been a blessing and has led me to sing in other choirs around Victoria. Not content to just sing, I have been contributing to the ongoing organization of the music program at the church ever since I joined. At the present time, I am chair of the music committee and assist with the week to week needs of the choir program such as creating musical files to help the choir members learn their parts.

For the last few years, I have helped with the Annual Budget Campaign by helping to track pledges as they come in. The church's annual book sale is a busy time for me as boxes of books are collected, stored, sorted and finally presented for sale. I have helped out with work projects on the church property.

Being a member of FUCV has enriched my life in many ways. I enjoy being part of an intentional community that reflects my values and provides opportunities to contribute in meaningful ways.

Peter Hancock says:

Barry, in his quiet and unassuming manner, is a driving force of the choir music program at the Church. He has been a member of the Men's Choir since its inception. He is the one who gets members of the choir to read or sing a little something to begin and close each practice. He is also the one who puts music practice files on the Church website so we choir members no longer have an excuse for not learning our parts. Barry is the only male member of the Church bell choir.

Beneath the music mind, Barry is an accomplished "beast of burden" always there when chairs are needed on or off the stage or cases of books need to be in or out of the Sanctuary before and after our annual book sale.

Continued next page

Andy Lee says

Barry is always able and willing to lend a hand with projects around the church. Just in the last year alone he wielded a jackhammer(!) to remove the old steps to Montessori's playground, then he helped rebuild them. He operated the wood splitter and loaded chunks of firewood into Brad's truck for delivery to buyers, and on two occasions he pushed myriad wheelbarrows full of wood chips uphill and spread the chips on our woodland trails. I think I've missed a couple of Barry's other projects here, but I know his handiwork is totally invaluable, and it's much appreciated.

Nancy Dobbs says:

For the 2021 and 2022 Annual Budget Campaigns (ABC) and the AmplifyUU campaign, Barry has been the behind the scenes, absolutely essential volunteer for Breeze data entry, spreadsheet management, and data analysis. He is a pleasure to work with. My hope is that Barry will continue this generous donation of time and skills for ABC 2023. Thank you, Barry!



FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE WORLD

“Let your vision be world embracing”

An unprecedented series of global conferences are being held in 2022 hosted by the international Baha'i community.

Join us in a conversation exploring the inherent oneness of humanity and a universal call to work for the betterment of the world. What contribution can each of us make?

80 conferences will take place across Canada – people from all backgrounds, cultures, faiths and ages are warmly invited. Families are especially welcome. The Victoria conference will be held:

May 14-15, 2022

Saanich Fairgrounds, 1528 Stellys Cross Rd, Saanichton

The program will include plenary sessions and small group discussions covering five themes. Sessions will also be held for children (5-11 years) and junior youth (12-15 years).

Program: view online at conferences.bahai.ca

Are you interested? Please email Carol Smith nuagesail@gmail.com to register and join a Unitarian conference group. Let's help widen and share the conversation .

Healing Our World Project and Kiva

Lisa Greenly and Kellina Dyer proposed a HOW project to fund microloans to female entrepreneurs through Kiva.org – a web based microlending charity based in San Francisco. The congregation supported the project and \$3800 was funded. In 2010 \$10,000 was donated to FUCV to further this work. The micro-loan project was a success. By 2013, 1,189 loans had been made with a default rate of only 0.98%, and the FUCV congregation approved continuing the program with a review in 2019.

The HOW 2009 project was not reviewed in 2019 as voted upon in the 2014 and monthly relending continued. However, Lisa Greenly who belongs to a team that has scrutinized changes in Kiva reported that there had been an ongoing issue with financial and process transparency. She indicated that there had been a huge increase in pay for Directors and wrote that Kiva's response to the team's questioning: "showed a mentality of the Silicon Valley cocoon of artificially inflated salaries, an arrogance of self worth and a Board of Directors that seem to be blissfully out of touch with the reality that most Kiva lenders are not in that pay bracket."

Lisa Greenly, Kellina Dyer and Don Vipond recommended that all funds should be withdrawn from Kiva and returned to the HOW fund. As the monies donated for the HOW 2009 project and Kiva at Conference were done to fund micro finance projects, they recommended the funds be transferred to one or both of the following:

The Greater Victoria Housing Security and Rent Bank which provides financial assistance in the form of a no-interest repayable loan to households at risk of eviction for reasons such as non-payment of rent or utilities. The loan can also be used as a damage deposit and/or first month's rent to move to safe and sustainable housing. <https://communitycouncil.ca/rentbank/>

FINCA Canada which is a partner organization of FINCA International, the non-profit creator and majority owner of a network of innovative microfinance institutions serving nearly 2 million people on 5 continents with a double bottom line approach to financial sustainability and social impact. <https://fincacanada.org/>

The FUCV board supported the recommendation that all funds should be withdrawn from Kiva and returned to the HOW fund. As the money is returned to the HOW fund, the board proposes to divide it equally between the two recommended micro-finance organizations. We solicit any comments about this plan, particularly from individuals who donated funds for the original HOW microloan project. If you have any questions, feel free to contact either Lisa Greenly (greenlylisa@gmail.com) or Evelyn Peters (Evelyn.Joy.Peters@outlook.com) by May 10, 2022.

-Evelyn Peters



Indigenous Matters : Calling All Indigenous Film Buffs Evelyn Peters

In July 2021, Seventh Row presented what it called a “a guide to essential Indigenous films told by Indigenous people from coast to coast across the territories known as Canada.” You can see the guide [here](#). Seventh Row is a Canadian non-profit organization founded in 2013 and dedicated to in-depth film and theatre analysis.

According to Seventh Row, “Whether you’re Indigenous or non-Indigenous, these films are meant to generate conversation and empathy, offering perspectives from across the territory now known as Canada, its many Indigenous nations, and their stories.”

One film set in BC, Sgaawaay K’uuna (Edge of the Knife) is the first feature film made entirely in the endangered Haida language, currently spoken by fewer than 20 people. Set in the 19th century on the Haida Gwaii islands off Canada’s pacific coast, the film tells the Haida legend of ‘the Wildman’. Adiits’ii (Tyler York) joins his friends Kwa (William Russ) and Hlaaya (Adeana Young) and their young son (Trey Rorick) at their summer island fishing village. The boy idolizes Adiits’ii and follows him everywhere, even out fishing in a storm, which results in the boy’s death. Distraught, Adiits’ii isolates himself in the forest while the rest of the community leaves for the winter. This isolation turns him into a Gaagiid (wildman) as he loses his humanity and grasp of reality. When his community returns the next summer, the elders take it upon themselves to find him and help him heal, as well as help Kwa and Hlaaya find it in themselves to forgive. The film can be accessed on CBC Gem.

The guide includes interviews with film-makers, the histories of the films, and where they can be watched. Several of the featured films are by renowned Indigenous filmmaker Alanis Obamsawin, who has documented Indigenous issues in Canada for decades, including her disturbing depiction of what really happened at Oka, in her 1993 film *Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance*. *This guide is well worth checking out, if you are interested in films made by and about Indigenous peoples in Canada.*

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).

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.



From a Sunday service production perspective, we hit our stride in April and put the technical glitches behind us (fingers crossed). We're now using one of our new wireless mics in the service. This is not only a convenience but also removes the tripping hazard of a connected cord.

And continuing that theme, we're now using cable covers to reduce the tripping hazard of the various audio cables used in a service. Prior to that we had been using gaffer tape. Now, we have a re-usable product which doesn't leave a residue on the Sanctuary floor.

When the backstage lighting was installed, we had to remove the back spotlights. However, that left choir members in the back row with insufficient light to read their music. New track lighting has been installed behind the plinth to rectify that issue.

Finally, due to supply chain issues, we're still waiting for two pieces of equipment – a digital snake and the digital Dante card for the mixer. The snake will be here by mid-summer, but the Dante card is probably going to be a Christmas gift. To put this in perspective, without the Dante card, we can't enable the hearing loop or provide complete audio coverage to every corner of the Sanctuary.

Submitted by Jamie Twidale



Affordable Housing—GVAT’s upcoming action!

GVAT is moving as quickly as possible to combat the housing crisis, concentrating on affordable housing. The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously slowed GVAT’s actions. Working on action plans is difficult via Zoom, but the pandemic has thrown other monkey-wrenches into the works, too. Nevertheless, pandemic or not, now is the time for action!

Housing is one of GVAT’s three “Action” areas. Mental Health and Addictions, and Climate Justice are the other two. Affordable housing is an immediate focus for action for several reasons. Building housing for profit is already underway, but building homes that are less profitable has stalled. Municipalities are encouraging housing of homeless people by several means where GVAT can help. GVAT can encourage progressive legislation by supporting what municipalities are already willing to do, and by combatting NIMBYism. A “win” on affordable housing for GVAT (and the municipalities!) is a strong possibility that would re-invigorate the organization and raise enthusiasm of participants.

Two causes of homelessness are “renovictions” and “gentrification”. Increases in rental rates are regulated, but there’s a loophole: once a tenant leaves or is forced to vacate for renovations, the landlord can raise the rent to whatever the market will bear. That can be well above the 30% of income of low income people, making that home “unaffordable”. GVAT can encourage the BC government to reintroduce “vacancy control” where rent is tied to the rental unit, not the tenant.

GVAT can also encourage housing construction that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions (primarily CO₂ and methane). It can encourage construction of duplexes and triplexes in areas where getting to work and to shops by walking, by bicycle, or by public transport is easy. Parking spaces in new condominiums can be limited to a maximum number rather than a minimum, thereby discouraging car ownership. GVAT can also encourage installation of heat pumps in new and some older homes avoiding heating with fossil fuels and simultaneously addressing one of GVAT’s other priorities, Climate Justice. Several faith organizations, including ours, held a workshop in April where many of these ideas were discussed.



The precise actions that GVAT will press governments to adopt have yet to be decided, but excitement is building at the prospect soon of positive and concrete progress!

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, and Philip Symons (secretary). New members always welcome!

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.**





PRIDE PARADE AND FESTIVAL IS BACK!
Mark your calendar for this year's Pride Festival!

SUNDAY JUNE 26

The last time First Unitarian of Victoria participated in PRIDE was in July 2019. The first Victoria Pride Parade was in 1994. FUCV has been in the parade for many years since then. This photo of us is on the festival home page!

A great Intergenerational event where all are welcome - birth families, adoptive families, chosen families, extended families, and church families!

We require many volunteers to carry our huge rainbow banner along the parade route. Our banner and "chants" always bring smiles to the faces of the parade viewers. The parade starts at 11:00am. The parade date is earlier this year (June instead of July). The parade will take us on a new route over the Johnson Street Bridge. Exact details of our place in the parade will be forthcoming a week prior to the event. Please watch for further information in the June Newsletter and the E-Weekly. This is a fun event and not to be missed! The excitement continues after the parade at McDonald Park for the Pride Festival with entertainment, food, and vendors. This year, First Unitarian will highlight a children's activity area beside our tent and volunteers will be ready to answer questions from the public about our amazing faith community.

Let's show our colours!! See you there. For further information to assist in volunteering to help set up and take down, or to take a shift at our booth, kindly contact Liz Graham hello.liz.graham@gmail.com or Nancy Dobbs nandobbs@telus.net



CALENDAR:

[CLICK HERE](#)

Board Members on Duty

- May 1 Peter Hancock
- May 8 Kathleen Zimmerman

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
EVERY MONTH!**

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Susan	Layng	May 1
Sean	van Gessel	May 2
Abigail	McCallum	May 2
Susie	Williams	May 4



Continued

Elaine	Klimke	May 4
Susie	Williams	May 4
Robert	Rintoul	May 5
Claire	Ebendinger	May 5
Sherrill	Ewings	May 5
Pamela	Harte	May 6
Lynn	Guengerich	May 7
Shelley	Motz	May 8
Elijah	Marrett-Hitch	May 10
Roberta	Clair	May 11
Jewel	Spooner	May 12
Alex	Anderson	May 13
Karen	Potts	May 13
Oliver	Belisle	May 13
Grace	Scarabelli	May 14
Desiree	Heston	May 14
Louise	De Lugt	May 16
Kiriell	Hays	May 16
Marguerite	Hobbs	May 17
Amalia	Schelhorn	May 17
Anastasia	Thorn	May 18
Samantha	Magnus	May 18
Emma	Wilson-Pease	May 19
Pat	Kinrade	May 21
Alex	Andersen	May 23
Gladys	Porcher	May 23
Stephanie	Ippen	May 23
Karen	Potts	May 23
Kathy	Vinton	May 23
Desiree	Heston	May 24
Terry	Czyz	May 25
Elizaveta	Roberts	May 25
David	Andersen	May 25
Jennifer	Young	May 25
Candace	Moore	May 29
Raine	Mak	May 29
James	Thomson	May 30
Catherine	Ramsay	May 31
Elaine	Dakin	May 31

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

5575 West Saanich Road • Victoria BC • V9E 2G1

www.victoriaunitarian.ca

churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

250-744-2665

STAFF, BOARD EXECUTIVE, COUNCIL CHAIRS, C & C COMMITTEE

MINISTERS

Reverend Melora Lynngood

Cell: 250-891-6330

rev.melora@victoriaunitarian.ca

Reverend Shana Lynngood

Cell: 250-891-6331

rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca

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

Acting Director : Anna Isaacs

anna@victoriaunitarian.ca

Continued next page

Continued from previous page

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Nick Fairbank
music@victoriaunitarian.ca

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Niki Mullin
250-744-2665
fucv.churchoffice@gmail.com churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Shannon Oatway
250-744-2665
fucv.communications@gmail.com communications@victoriaunitarian.ca

BOARD EXECUTIVE

President

Jim Willis
jimwillis568@gmail.com

Vice President

Audrey Taylor
audreyt@telus.net

Secretary

Kathleen Zimmerman
ageresults@shaw.ca

Treasurer

Kristina Stevens
kristinalstevens@gmail.com

Past President

Marion Pape
marionpape@shaw.ca

COUNCIL CHAIRS

Administration: Finance

Bruce Nicol
brucenicol@inbox.com

Administration: Congregational Life

Katherine Maas
katherine@kjmaas.com

Sunday Coffee Coordinators:
Christine Peterson, Fiona Cook

Board/Outreach /SRC

Evelyn Peters
evelyn.joy.peters@outlook.com

Property

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.



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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



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

Phone: 250-744-2665
E-mail: churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca
www.victoriaunitarian.ca

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

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Niki Mullin - at **churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca**