February 2023



The Victoria Unitarian

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

Growing in Spirit, Living with Compassion, Inspired to Serve

SERVICES IN FEBRUARY 2023



Sunday, February 5, 10:00 am* CUC National Service **Covenanting through Transitions**Online service, can be viewed in Lion Hall

Congregations are experiencing a lot of change these days: from ministerial transitions to implementing the 8th principle, all during a pandemic. Covenanting through Transitions is a national worship service that asks us: "How do we stay in covenant through all of this in our communities? How do we stay in it in a good way when it is hard and people aren't always their best selves or are disappointed?"

Sunday, February 12, 10:30 am Intergenerational Service

Flooded with LoveReilly Yeo, Homilist
Jana Kotaska, Worship Associate

In this intergenerational service, join us as we make an old story new. As waters rise around us, how do we human beings flood the world with our divine love? We'll take the kids of FUCV on a journey, as our community rallies to survive the age-old experience of the flood, and then gleans lessons from it: lessons about being stewards of the natural world around us, about leaving no-one behind, and about listening to and learning from each other, including the youngest and smallest voices among us. This will be a fun, interactive, music-filled service, that will also include moments of quiet and contemplation for those who need them. See you there!

Livestream begins each Sunday by 10:25 am. view please click on this link.

Continued next page...

Sunday, February 19, 10:30 am

The Things We Do for Love

Rev. Shawn Newton, Homilist Rosemary Harrison, Worship Associate

Our guest homilist this morning is Rev. Shawn Newton, who has served as Senior Minister of the First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto since 2007. Rev. Shawn is a colleague and friend of the Lynngoods and graciously agreed to lead a worship service during their sabbatical while he is out in BC visiting with his family of choice. His sermon, "The Things We Do for Love," will invite us to reflect on the eternal human dance between fear and love, vulnerability and risk.

Sunday, February 26, 10:30 am

Love in the Time of COVID

Reilly Yeo, Homilist Fran Pardee, Worship Associate

What has the pandemic taught us about love? Have you had the time and space to ask yourself this question? Join Reilly as we pause to meditate on our personal and collective lessons from Covid 19. As we approach the three-year anniversary of the first pandemic lockdown, give yourself the gift of reflection and intention-setting by joining us for this service about how we ground ourselves in the path of love.

25 YEAR HONOREES





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Our Communications are Changing

This is the final edition of our monthly Newsletter. Starting next month, the eweekly – including a monthly printable version – will become your primary source of congregational news and events. You can expect the Eweekly as usual for the first 3 Thursdays of the month, then on the last Thursday of the month there will be a bulletin with both Eweekly and Newsletter content, which will be combined into one new publication, called "In the Spirit". This will essentially replace the monthly Newsletter and the last Thursday of the month's Eweekly.

This edition is the one that will be printable and available to those who can't easily access email. The EWeekly team, along with Shannon, will be producing future publications.

This is a pilot project which will be evaluated over the summer.

Submitting Material

For now, there is no change in how you submit material that would previously have gone into the Newsletter.

- The 15th of the month is still the submissions deadline for former Newsletter material
- Submit jpegs not pdf

Use the same address to contact and submit former Newsletter material: newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca
The deadline for regular eweekly material continues to be 3 PM each Tuesday with material emailed to eweekly@victoriaunitarian.ca

Thanks Jen Young! Many thanks to Jen Young for producing and co-producing the monthly Newsletter for many years.

The Communications Strategy Team is working on overall communications strategy and will report on progress from time to time. Members of the team are Kent Haden (Chair), John Hopewell, Anna Isaacs, Rev. Melora Lynngood, Shelly Motz, Shannon Oatway, Marion Pape, Gary Theal and Reilly Yeo.

Contact List while our Ministers are away

February 1st through March 31st, 2023, and June 2023

Please print and save this list

Reverends Shana and Melora Lynngood will be on a well-earned "mini-sabbatical" during the months of February, March, and June. During the months of April and May the ministers will be serving the congregation as usual.

While they are away the ministers will not be available, however our church has a wealth of resources to support our ongoing shared ministry. *Here's who to call:*

Supportive Listeners offer a trained, sympathetic, and confidential ear to help with crises and emotional issues. (They do not, however, provide counselling.)

Liz Graham	hello.liz.graham@gmail.com	(250) 384-4351
Hanny Pannekoek	hannyhugo@shaw.ca	(250) 385-2299
Darcy Allder		(250) 818-0419

Care & Concern Committee provides practical support with a caring spirit by making casseroles, phone calls and (virtual) visits. The committee is organized by Neighbourhood Groups.

Cadboro Bay	Fran Hancock	hancockf@telus.net	(250) 477-1310
Esquimalt	Barbara Boyle	barbara.boyle@shaw.ca	(250) 381-0264
Fairfield	Lynn Beak	lynnbeak@gmail.com	(250) 886-4205
Farout	Margaret McKelvie	mmckelvie@richmond-systems.co	(778) 351-3458
Gordon Head	Mary Cramer	marycramer4455@gmail.com	(250) 477-1615
Grand Central	Jane Wilson	janewilson 3575@gmail.com	(250) 886-2448
James Bay	Carol Smith	nuagesail@gmail.com	(604) 961-5381
Nearby	Nancy Dobbs	nandobbs@telus.net	(250) 652-5438
Oak Bay	Lies Weijs	eweijs@ryerson.ca	(250) 595-6990
Royal Oak East	Mariko Matsumoto Mary- Ellen Nicol	marikom2@hotmail.com nicolme@yahoo.com	(250) 592-8016 (250) 590-4107
Royal Oak West	Pam Hood Szivek	pam@canadianchildrenstherapy.ca	(250) 818-2034
Western	Christine Petronis	nebulanana@gmail.com	(250) 642-6624

Ministerial Intern – our student intern minister will be doing several Sunday services and is also available for pastoral care and rites of passage.

Lay Chaplains are trained and qualified to perform rites of passage such as weddings, child dedications and memorial services. To find out more, please contact:

Jenny Heston	jfheston@gmail.com	(250) 509-1240
Barbara Boyle	barbara.boyle@shaw.ca	(250) 381-0264

Dispute Management volunteers can help anyone experiencing difficulty in their relationships with other church members or groups while working on church-related matters. A solution-focussed process will invite participants to co-create ideas that lead to a successful outcome.

Reilly Yeo	reilly.yeo@gmail.com	(604) 779-2239
Paula Steele	pksteele21@gmail.com	(250) 888-5146

The Committee on Ministry helps foster congregational health by facilitating communication between the congregation and our ministers. During the sabbatical, the committee acts as a clearinghouse for questions and feedback. If you don't know who to call call us and we will help you find the resources to address your concerns.

Paula Steele	pksteele21@gmail.com	(250) 888-5146
Lynn Hunter	lynnhunter2828@gmail.com	(250) 220-2240
David Vest	david@davidvest.ca	(250) 891-5886
Shelley Motz	shelley.motz@shaw.ca	(778) 584-7954
Jane Wilson	janewilson3575@gmail.com	(250) 886-2448

The Board of Trustees can answer your questions about the ongoing governance of the church.

President	Jim Willis**	
Vice President	Karen Sharlow	karen.sharlow@yahoo.com
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Administration – Communications	Kent Haden	kent@hadenservices.com
Spiritual Development	Jeri Dause	jkdause@gmail.com
Outreach Council Chair	Evelyn Peters	evelyn.joy.peters@outlook.com

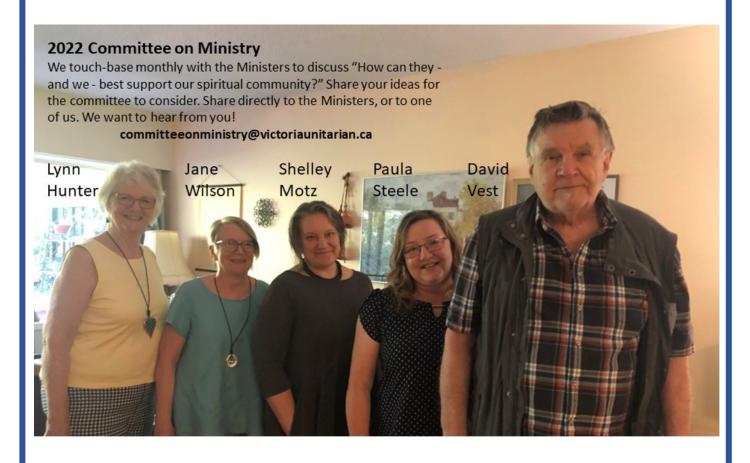
ABOUT SABBATICALS A sabbatical is a period of rest and renewal that allows our ministers an opportunity to do some deep study and reflection, learn new skills, and renew their energies. As a condition of their employment our ministers earn one month sabbatical leave for each year of service to the church. While our ministers are away the congregation can experience again the fact that the church isn't just the ministers, nor is it the building; it is the people – the community we form and the work we do together to make our mission a reality.

MINISTERS'_SABBATICAL: February, March, AND June 2023

Reverends Shana and Melora receive one month of sabbatical leave for each year of service to our church. In order to avoid a long absence, they have been experimenting with "minisabbaticals" - taken more frequently. The first one was for two months in 2021.

The Board has approved a three month "mini-sabbatical" in 2023 with the first part being for the months of February and March, and the second part being the month of June; followed in July and the first part of August by the ministers' annual two weeks vacation and annual four weeks study leave.

While the ministers are away, the Committee on Ministry (email: committeeonministry@victoriaunitarian.ca) will serve as the Sabbatical Team, a hub for overseeing the ministry of the congregation, in concert with the Care and Concern Team (for pastoral care needs) and the Worship Associates (for vibrant worship led by guests and lay leaders). Included below is a detailed list of contacts available during the Sabbatical.



Betty Sherwood says:

Elaine is one of those quiet people, so that many are unaware of how much she has given of her time to the workings of the church. For eight years (2014-2022) she co-chaired the Recognition and Awards Committee with me. For hours she sifted through the old membership records in faded, spidery script, in order to accurately calculate who had been members for 25 and also for 50 years. Then cajoled each one to give her a bio for the Newsletter and for the yearly celebration at a Service, where they received a Unitarian pin and a rose. Then there was the interesting but time-consuming job of Honoured Volunteers, eight times a year- obtaining a bio, photo of the person, plus a paragraph each from two appreciative members, for the Newsletter. Together we recognized one or two new Elders each year in a ceremony at a Church Service when they received a certificate, and we also hosted a tea for the Elders each summer. In 2017 she shared in planning and hosting a hugely successful Volunteer Appreciation Tea.

This gentle lady has also worked in the Services Auction crew, the coffee hour crew, sung for seniors in the Jammers choir, and cooked meals for Sandy Merriman House. It was always a joy to work with her and I am so grateful for all her contributions.

Suzanne Beauchamp says:

Elaine embodies the meaning of "good Samaritan". She visited the sick, delivered food, plants and good-will in her role of Neighbourhood Group convenor for many years. She assisted in the "silent auction" as a helper and a generous donor. Elaine co-chaired the Recognition and Awards Committee and with her partner organized a volunteer appreciation luncheon. Elaine is always there to help wherever it is needed. She is indeed a volunteer to be honoured.

In 2005, when Allan and I moved to Victoria from North Vancouver, we knew we wanted to connect with the Unitarian church, as we'd been members of the North Shore Unitarian church for many years.

We remember how warmly we were greeted by Marya and others, and before too long, I volunteered with the lay-led orientations for newcomers, along with Sandra Jordan. This was a fun and interesting introduction to people who were wanting to learn more about the Unitarian church.

Being a volunteer means that you can choose how to become involved, sometimes with a little friendly persuasion from enthusiastic volunteers such as Suellen! I've appreciated being part of the Care and

Concern team, served Coffee on Sundays, sung with the Jammers at Care homes, and more recently I've co-chaired the Recognition and Awards Committee with Betty Sherwood. This was a great opportunity to learn more about the many amazing volunteers who form part of our church community.



SHARE THE PLATE

CHILD HAVEN

Around the year 2000, First Church chose CH as one of its special Charities with an Annual Sunday fund-raiser. This was partly because it was founded by a Canadian UU minister and his wife in1985 and partly because 12 church members had served volunteer placements there, with several returning for a second time because it was such a rewarding experience.

CH runs an efficient and caring charity of 9 Homes for homeless children across India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Tibet, along with education and job training. In addition it provides 4 training centres for handicapped and needy women, and food for "Orphan Seniors".

For 3 Sundays the CHI team are collecting donations for CH; and then on April 24 they are planning a fundraising Indian Dinner at the church with entertainment and more information.

Note the date!



Monday Unitarian Walkers



Yes the Monday walkers have resumed - at 1 pm on Mondays.

Sylvia is making the schedule for January. Sylvia will be away in February – so Nancy will take over then.

Then Sylvia will resume in March until I leave on April 12 – to return to Edmonton for the summer.

Contacts:

Sylvia Krogh Landline phone 778-350-6216 Cell phone 780-887-6216

Nancy Dobbs <u>nandobbs@telus.net</u> to be put on the email list.



Calling For an End to Old Growth Logging

Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT) is supporting the United We Stand for Old Growth Forests Declaration, March and Super-Rally on Feb 25th at the Legislature. One hundred and sixty eight (168) organizations in British Columbia are calling on David Eby and his government to fulfill their commitments to Old Growth Forests, including the Union for BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC), Elders for Ancient Trees, the BC Sierra Club, the Canadian Physicians for the Environment, and the David Suzuki Foundation, as well as many faith groups. In our Church, there is a motion before the FUCV Board (11.3 United We Stand) to endorse the Declaration of United We Stand for Old Growth Forests. September 2022 marked the 2nd anniversary of the British Columbia government's release of the report of its Old-Growth Strategic Review (OGSR) panel, "A New Future for Old Forests", calling for a paradigm shift in forestry in this province.

We, members of the GVAT Forestry Committee, a Working Group of the GVAT Climate Justice ART (Action Research Team) and the FUCV ECAC/EAT Committee, are supporting this initiative and have been working very hard for several years to make progress on this issue. Preserving Old Growth Forests in this Province follows the triple bottom line sustainability principle (financial, environmental, and social well-being). The vast stores of carbon that these forests represent will help alleviate future risks to our climate and planet, such as (i) the heat dome in June 2021 resulting in a wildfire that destroyed Lytton and caused 600 heat-related deaths in BC and (ii) the flooding and supply chain failures in Southwestern BC and Vancouver Island due to the atmospheric rivers and record rainfalls in Nov. 2021. As per the Declaration, GVAT is asking the BC government to immediately halt the logging of at-risk Old Growth forests and put in place the supports necessary for First Nations and forestry communities to transition to sustainable, second growth forestry, in accordance with UNDRIP.

Depression & Anxiety Support Circle

We are a confidential peer-led support group. Weekly zoom meetings are a mix of structured sharing and informal conversation, to provide a safe space, as well as foster warmth and humour wherever it can be found, during our 90 minutes together.

For more information, or to put your name on our email list, please email Pat: kinradep@gmail.com or Lies: eweijs@ryerson.ca

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

LAURA EVANS

Originally from Newmarket, Ontario - Laura grew up floating between city and rural. She has her BA in Indigenous Studies from Trent University, and is self-taught in her artistic practice, using curiosity as a compass to navigate and motivate learning.

Laura is endlessly inspired by landscapes, but mostly by the people and stories that are birthed from them. She is a seeker of patterns and designs, and since a small child has observed nature and people with a patient persistence.

Laura's medium of choice is pen and ink on paper or wood panel, but gets great inspiration from textile traditions, especially quilting.

Laura uses her artwork to explore storytelling, self-expression, mental -health, the environment, and more.







Laura is also an art instructor, and considers this exploration of creativity to be an integral part of her art practice. She loves to work with youth, and with adults who are reconnecting with their imaginations and sense of play. She currently teaches amongst the vibrant community at McTavish Academy of Arts in North Saanich.

Indigenous Matters: We Are All Treaty People

What does the statement "We are all Treaty people" mean? Are you aware that 14 Treaties were negotiated on Vancouver Island between 1850-54? How are these Treaties relevant today and why does it matter that we know about them?

A while ago I brought to your attention a Vancouver Island Treaty course being offered by the James Bay United Church. For those of you who were unable to commit the time to this course, here are some sources so that you can make an exploration of these issues on your own time. First, there is a <u>video</u> by Doug White, descendant of one of the defendants in the 1964 case R v White and Bob, in which the courts decided that the 14 agreements negotiated by James Douglas were Treaties under Canadian law. Note that White depicts the blankets the Hudson's Bay Company provided in these negotiations as relatively worthless. In fact, blankets were an important currency used by First Nations on Vancouver Island at the time, and the blankets traded were, in fact, quite valuable.

In February 2017 a conference about the Vancouver Island Treaties held at the Songhess Wellness Centre was the occasion of the translation of two of the Treaties into the Lekwungen language of the Songhees and Esquimalt peoples and the SENĆOŦEN language of the WSÁNEĆ (Saanich) people. The website is now a resource centre for information about these Treaties. On the Treaties tab you will find an introduction to the Treaties, a Treaty timeline, and a pdf from the BC Archives containing copies of the Treaties themselves, full transcripts, and the translation of two of the Treaties. The Resources link provides as full a set of sources on the Vancouver Island Treaties.

You can also access a webinar that describes the book that was created from the conference <u>here</u>. The Treaty situation in BC is relatively unique in Canada. Find out what it means to be a "Treaty person" in this province.

Everyone Welcome In the Sanctuary and on Zoom

February and March 10 and 24, from 1:30-2:30



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

We now have the ability to host a Hybrid gathering on Zoom and in the Sanctuary.

The sanctuary is well ventilated and spacious. Masks are optional.

Our Song Circles are Informal, relaxed, with a campfire vibe... songs of peace and joy; familiar, new, folk, world songs, lighthearted, chants...all with words provided.

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

Memorial Team

When a member, friend or sometimes a family of a member, of our congregation dies, loved ones of the deceased usually desire a memorial gathering, and usually in our church building. Members of the neighborhood group (NG) that the deceased was part of, are the first ones to be asked to help facilitate the memorial and the reception following.

Our church also has a memorial team. It is made up of volunteers that are willing to step in on an ad hoc basis to help with the tasks necessary to host a memorial if a NG is unable to fulfill that role. The tasks include set up, clean up, ushers and greeters.

Sometimes as a church community, we support a grieving family, and the deceased is known to very few or unknown in our congregation. This can happen when:

an elderly member has been unable to attend or be active at church because of declining health and abilities;

the deceased recently moved to the Victoria area;

the grieving family is part of our community, but the deceased is not.

If you would like to consider joining our Memorial Team, please contact Nancy Dobbs at 250 652 5438 or nandobbs@telus.net

First Unitarian Church of Victoria Foundation Call for Grant Proposals 2023

The First Unitarian Church of Victoria Foundation was established to promote the principles and values of our Church. Currently the Foundation has contributions invested with the Victoria Foundation totalling approximately \$87,000. Income from approximately \$47,000 of these funds is dedicated to supporting First Nations post-secondary education through the Church. Income from the approximately \$38,000, is directed by request of the donor to support the music programme and/or social responsibility programmes of the Church.

In 2022 the Foundation funded three bursaries totalling \$1,700 to the Social Responsibility Committee for First Nations students attending Camosun College. From the Music and Social Action Fund a grant of \$500 to hire professional musicians for Sunday Services and a grant of \$900 to purchase drums for a new drumming circle were also funded. This year we anticipate around \$1,800 will be available to fund ongoing First Nations bursaries at Camosun College from the First Nations Fund.

The Foundation is currently seeking proposals from Church groups who need a grant of up to \$1,400 to fund church music programmes. Applications must be for enhanced activities not normally supported by the Church budget and must cover costs not yet incurred. An application form is available from the church website under FUCV Foundation.

The deadline for submission is March 24, 2023 and funding will be approved in May by the Board of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria Foundation. For more information, please contact Frances Hancock at 250-477-1310. The Unitarian Church Foundation expresses its gratitude for the support by the Jobson Family for the First Nations funding, an Anonymous Donor for the Church Music funding and the contributions of others.



What Can We Do as Individuals to Make Things Less Bad?

January's newsletter described some of the actions GVAT is undertaking to make our society's bad situation less bad. Your contributions to Share the Plate last month will help GVAT continue that work. The participation of individuals in meetings, interviews, demonstrations and other activities is also needed to bring GVAT's objectives to fruition. Many of us don't have the time or inclination for such activities, but there are other ways you can contribute, such as by supporting environmental organizations like BCSEA, Eco-Justice, Sierra Club, Western Wilderness Committee, and many others that you can find on-line that suit your particular interests.

Most environmental organizations have been struggling for decades to get Canadian federal and provincial governments to make our worsening situation better. They've won a few battles, but governments still act too slowly to slow or stop climate change. The crises are deepening.

The major reason for the deepening crisis is the power of corporate industry, particularly the oil and gas lobby. The number of oil and gas lobbyists at the recent COP27 conference far outnumbered those of environmental lobbyists. Some small steps have been taken to reduce the power of corporations to buy and bribe politicians—corporations can no longer donate to political parties, for instance, but they can still donate small amounts to political candidates. Whether they bribe employees to vote for and contribute financially to a certain party is difficult both to determine and control.

The reality is: our democracy is weak! Corporations spread misinformation and they have more lobbying power than voters. Most corporations have little interest in combatting climate change when that hurts their profits. Governments therefore make few changes to the immediate and underlying causes of the worsening situation.

The immediate causes of climate change are, of course, increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, the priority focus of environmental organizations. More basic underlying causes are the increasing living standards of 8-billion humans whose numbers also are increasing. We need to strengthen our democracy, reduce the disparity between rich and poor Canadians and between Canada and poorer countries. Organizations you could support that are tackling these basic problems are Democracy Watch, Fair Vote Canada, Canadians for Tax Fairness, Oxfam Canada and others you can find on-line. Choose one or more organizations that match your interests and contribute what you can.

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

CALENDAR:



Board Members on Duty

February 5, 2023 Peter Hancock

February 12, 2023 Kent Haden

February 19, 2023 Kathleen Zimmerman

February 26, 2023 Evelyn Peters

DECEASED

NONE

NEW MEMBERS

Bruce Brady

Tracy Rankin

Andreas Clesle

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Suzanne	Dearman	February 01
Jean	Mihell	February 01
Kobe	ter Neuzen	February 01
Nanw	Cariad	February 04
Kieran	Domney	February 04
Anne	Swannell	February 04
Clara	Buttemer	February 06
Ed	Taylor	February 06
Marcella	Calberry	February 08
Jerrelyn	Dause	February 08
Margaret	Nixon	February 09
John	Stewart	February 09
Forest	Sterling	February 10
Edgar	Lancaster	February 11
Phyllis	Gardiner	February 12
Anna	Isaacs	February 12
Daniel	Klimke	February 12
Claire	Barnes	February 13
Ben	Smith	February 13
Teo	Smith	February 13
Robin	Sacker-van Gessel	February 16
Jonathan	Taylor	February 16
Harriet	Stanley	February 17
Shana	Lynngood	February 19
Heather	Zeh	February 19
Ryan-James	Adam	February 21
Cyrus	Belisle	February 21
Leslie	Gillett	February 21
Mary-Ellen	Nicol	February 21
Sheila	Drew	February 22
Ruth	Ralston	February 22
John	Tibbles	February 23
Sandra	Haywood	February 26
Jean	Wallace	February 28

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

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(778) 430-3471

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

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CARE AND CONCERN COMMITTEE

We Care!

for hospital and home visits, or just to talk...

Barbara Boyle

250-381-0264

or your Neighbourhood
Group Care and

Concern person

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



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- Kodaly music program
- lovely rural location connecting children to nature



Housecleaner Wanted

for Mike and Nille Fibiger-Crossman 3 hours every 3 weeks \$25/hr References preferred mfrogbog@icloud.com 250-658-2239

"I want to express my sincere gratitude for the ongoing, and long-term, support I've received from the church members, friends and ministers. I find it incredible that even though I've been frequently ill and often in hospital--especially over the past 3 years--that people still manage to give me ongoing love and support with food gifts, visits, cards, phone calls, texts and the like. Thank you all so very, very much! Kudos to you all!"

Thank you very much! Warmly, Louise de Lugt

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)

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