



In The Spirit | March 30th, 2023

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This Sunday's Service, April 2nd



Sunday, April 2nd, 10:30 am

Untangling Our Dreams

Rev. Shana Lynngood and Anna Isaacs, Service Leaders
Jane Kotaska, Worship Associate

Our congregation is teeming with weavers, spinners, knitters, quilters, and other fabric and fibre artists with a passion for the beauty of creating. They will be offering stations in the Sanctuary and Lion Lounge during this intergenerational worship demonstrating simple activities to watch or try. Stories and songs of resistance will inspire us as we create, including the Passover story of freedom to honour this holiday. For those who missed him in March, Nolan Branch will be sharing an original song.

Bring your creativity to worship:

Do you crochet, knit, do needlepoint, hand quilt, make friendship bracelets, darn your socks, sew patches on your jacket? Bring any quiet creative project you can do on your lap or with a bit of table space that is safe to do nearby others in an all ages space. The theme is fiber and fabric arts, but any creative medium (sketching, journalling, Sudoku) is welcome. Feel free to bring materials and ideas to share with others.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/159673316?pwd=eIRBY1d5ZFJlcFVmSXE5aXp4SnhUdz09>

Sunday Services For the Rest of April

Note - It's the same Zoom Link for every service. See the Zoom Link above.

Sunday, April 9, 10:30 am

Life Again (Easter Sunday)

Rev. Shana Lynngood, Homilist
Lynne Bonner, Worship Associate

The Christian story of Easter is the experience a community had thousands of years ago of joy, surprise, and the enduring power of love (and a vision of miraculous life after death). It also represents the culmination of a journey through grief, loss, and attempts to silence the profound message of Jesus of Nazareth. How can we relate to the idea of new life? How is our life renewed over and over again throughout our lifetime?

Sunday, April 16, 10:30 am

Another World is Possible

Reilly Yeo, Homilist
Fran Pardee, Worship Associate

"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way," says Arundhati Roy. "On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing." When we resist, we need to remember what we are resisting for - what truer and more beautiful future lies ahead if we resist injustice today? Join Reilly for a service where we will explore the seeds and shoots of a just world that are already bursting into life this spring.

Sunday, April 23, 10:30 am

Earth Day

Rev. Melora Lynngood, Homilist
Rosemary Harrison, Worship Associate

I have heard older activists pose the question, "What are young people doing these days for social and eco-justice? In this Earth Day service, guided by our 7th principle, which calls us to affirm the interdependent web of existence of which we are a part, we look at all the different ways Unitarian Universalists of all ages are taking part in caring for our planet in the face of climate change.

Sunday, April 30, 10:30 am

Lessons from Coordinating the "Spiritually Speaking" Column

Anna Bowness-Park, Homilist

David Vest, Worship Associate

So often what is published in the media regarding faith and spirituality is negative and critical. But it doesn't have to always be that way. How can we find our voices and speak confidently about our faith traditions in ways that are relevant today? A media project that began in 2012 with eight writers has been blossoming over the past decade, and answering that question in beautiful and inspiring ways.

Covid Guidelines for April



Why are we still asking you to wear a mask in the Sanctuary?

BC has now entered cold and flu season and **health experts are urging people to wear masks at indoor gatherings** to stop the airborne transmission of respiratory viruses, including COVID. The Omicron variants have been dominant in Canada for some months and they spread faster and evade immunity better than earlier strains. Now another new strain is starting to emerge that is sounding alarms about contagiousness, severity, and health-system impact. For more details, see this article from the Jan. 6 Tye: [The 'Kraken' Virus Is Here. What's the Threat Level?](#)

We want to keep our congregation safe and do our best to prevent any additional pressure on BC's strained health care system. The Church's COVID-19 team continues to monitor the situation, stay abreast of the current literature on COVID, and adjust our guidelines to keep the congregation both safe and happy. Our guidelines have been in general alignment with the BC COVID-19 guidelines while taking a more gradual approach and in consideration of the large number of vulnerable elders in our community.

Our guidelines have also been informed by recent research on COVID rates in the Capital Region and recent studies about the long-term effects of COVID infection, including the following:

- [Number of Canadians in hospital with COVID has more than tripled since last year](#)
- [Possible 69% higher risk of Alzheimer's for older COVID survivors](#)
- [COVID-19 May Increase Risk of Diabetes in Children, CDC Study Finds](#)

For the most up-to-date information on our guidelines, always refer to the e-weekly 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. There are no capacity limits, no registration, and no vaccine mandates. Please respect others' comfort levels for social distancing and mask wearing.

2. Masks. The Sanctuary is designated as a mask-only zone Sunday mornings until noon, while masks are optional in the Lion Hall. We will ask people to mask as they enter the Sanctuary, and provide masks to people who do not have one. Masks may be temporarily removed by officiants, readers or for singing a solo. Microphone covers, which we use when speakers remove their masks, are being used as long as we continue wearing masks.

We recognize that it is impossible for us to guarantee 100% mask compliance in the Sanctuary. Some are concerned about the fact that some folks aren't able to keep masks 100% tight fitting over nose and mouth 100% of the time. Others find that wearing a mask at all makes it too hard to breathe or hear/read lips. Sadly, we can't meet everyone's needs in a single space when some of those needs are in direct opposition to one another. The best we can do is offer different options for worship participation that accommodate the different needs (including Zoom viewing at home and unmasked in-person viewing in the Lion Hall).

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, Farmhouse Common room and office have HEPA filters installed for air circulation. The HEPA filters should not be used in these locations when the windows or doors are open. The sanctuary's fans run continuously when the room is in use, completely replacing the air in the room 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 tested positive for COVID-19, or who has [symptoms of COVID](#) should not participate in small group activities in person and should not come into the Sanctuary or Lion Hall. If you have COVID

symptoms, consult [the BC Centre for Disease Control for information on self-isolation and self-monitoring](#). Isolation rules vary depending on whether you actually had a positive COVID test, your age, whether people you come in contact with are fully vaccinated or not, and whether you are fully vaccinated yourself.

7. **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)

Share the Plate - April 2nd



Anawim Companions Society here

Anawim Companions Society



For more than 30 years, Anawim Companions Society has operated Anawim House. It is a day house for men living in poverty who are trying to find a better life for themselves. Anawim offers meals, hot showers, laundry and friendship.

Anawim's mission statement has always been to help those who want to be helped. They are a substance free facility that provides for those basic needs and security to which every individual is entitled. Above all, it is a home people can come to and feel safe and cared for, while being a part of something bigger. The Society does their best to provide that feeling of being part of a family, because they firmly believe connection is the opposite of addiction or personal chaos. By building a trusting relationship with the person, and setting them up with personalized supports, they believe they are setting the person up for success.



The purpose of the Anawim Companion Society is:

- To provide for the charitable needs of people living in physical, emotional, spiritual, and social poverty.
- To provide help, care, and counsel to such persons in a way that invites self determination, mutual participation and the enrichment of love, dignity, and purpose in their lives.
- To provide for the advancement of education, understanding and companionship to such persons, to promote and achieve in whole or in part the purposes of the Society.

News Flash!!

Anawim Companions Society has officially broken ground on its new Women's House in Victoria, BC following the success of the Men's House,

The project, a dream of Anawim's for many years, was kick started by an incredibly generous person who donated her property outright for this very purpose. Not only will Anawim's Women's House provide safe transitional housing support for women looking to make a meaningful change in their lives, but it will also strive to provide residents a sense of community and belonging. Incorporating Anawim House's established 'Family Model' approach, the Women's House will be able to provide a secure residence to women at risk of homelessness due to poverty, fleeing violence or various health issues. It is anticipated that the women's residence will be ready for occupancy by late summer.

Share the Plate - April 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEMS ALLIANCE (EEA)

This charitable conservation organization was founded in September of 2018 by Canadian conservationist Ken Wu, working for the science-based protection of all native ecosystems and to support ecosystem literacy. Prior to becoming Executive Director of EEA, Ken was the Co-founder and Executive Director of the Ancient Forest Alliance between 2010 to 2018 and served as the Executive Director and Campaign Director of the Wilderness Committee in Victoria between 1999 to 2010, having graduated from the ecology and evolutionary biology department at the University of British Columbia. Ken spoke on behalf of the EEA at an Earth Day service at our Church prior to the Covid-19 pandemic a few years ago.



EEA works primarily at the federal level, as well as augmenting local and regional campaigns in the provinces and territories, to push for the protection of at least 50% of Canada in all terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems by 2030.



Science shows that vastly scaling-up the protection and restoration of native ecosystems is a vital game-changer to help avert both the extinction crisis and the climate crisis.

Along with their national campaign efforts, the Endangered Ecosystems Alliance supports regional partners in their provincial campaign efforts. They engage non-traditional allies including businesses, unions, diverse faith groups, and multi-cultural outreach in order to greatly expand the total scale of the conservation movement. A critical part of their work is to work with First Nations organizations and communities to support Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA's), while working to arrange community-based financing to support such protected areas. They engage in science and policy research, public education, news and social media outreach, and major public mobilizations. They will ultimately be working for a federal Endangered Ecosystems Act to protect all native and endangered ecosystems across the country on a much larger scale based on conservation biology principles and traditional ecological knowledge.



Missing a Sunday Service?



Have you missed a Sunday worship service? You can view past Sunday services [here](#). Just click to view the service you want. No sign-in required.

Congregational Stewardship Survey: Please Complete ASAP



As discussed at the General Meeting in January, Unitarian Universalist Stewardship Consultant, Rachel Maxwell, will be working with us in April. Rachel will be analyzing our approach to stewardship, beginning with the following survey. Please complete it ASAP: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VictoriaUnitarian> (it's quick - should only take 2 minutes!)

On Sunday April 16th after the service Rachel will make an online presentation to the congregation of her observations and recommendations, based on meetings with a range of groups across the congregation and on the survey results. A detailed written report will also be delivered within two weeks after our time with her.

First Unitarian Church of Victoria
DRAFT MINUTES for BOARD MEETING on THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2023
by Zoom

Trustees: Katherine Maas, Kathleen Zimmerman, Audrey Taylor, Jeri Dause, Kent Haden, Al Hoffman,
Kristina Stevens, Evelyn Peters

Ministers: Reilly Yeo (Intern)

Regrets: Jim Willis

Guest: Earle Anthony

1. **Call to order** The meeting was called to order at 2:03 pm.
2. **Selection of Timekeeper and Process Observer** Evelyn Peters was selected as Timekeeper and Katherine Maas was selected as Process Observer.
3. **Chalice Lighting** – Kathleen Zimmerman provided the Chalice lighting.
4. **Check-in:** Joys and concerns were shared.
5. **Approval of Agenda** Moved by Evelyn Peters and seconded by Katherine Maas that the agenda be approved, with the addition of items 11.10 Membership Update, and 11.11 Email re: Rental Space. **Carried.**
6. **Approval of Minutes of February 9, 2023** Moved by Katherine Maas, seconded by Jeri Dause that the minutes of February 9, 2023 be approved as circulated. **Carried.**
7. **Unfinished Business**
 - 7.1 Stewardship Consultant Update – Reilly Yeo explained that Rachel Maxwell is organizing Zoom meetings from April 10-15, with a presentation on April 16 after the Sunday service. Her final report will be submitted on April 30. Reilly Yeo will subsequently organize an in-person session on engagement/strategic planning for representatives across the Congregation on May 5, with possible action items to be proposed for the AGM on May 28. **Action:** Reilly Yeo will send out a Doodle poll for a meeting with Rachel Maxwell and the Board on April 11. Kristina Stevens will send Kathleen Zimmerman a list of documents needed for the consultant.
 - 7.2 Proposed Joint Board Meeting with Capital UU in April via Zoom – Audrey Taylor has emailed Amanda Tarling, and hasn't yet had a response.
8. **Ministers' Reports** No report, as the ministers are on sabbatical.
9. **Reports**
 - 9.1 Treasurer's Report – Kristina Stevens stated that the bookkeeper just sent the files late yesterday afternoon. Rentals are quite busy, and pledged and unpledged income are in good shape. Tax receipts have been sent.
 - 9.2 Council and Committee Reports and Questions Arising – Council Chairs submitted reports, and there were no questions.
10. **Process Observer Report** Katherine Maas noted that there had been lively discussion and good participation.

11. New Business

11.1 Maintenance Budget – Earle Anthony, Chair of the Building Maintenance Committee, explained that 2022 was a year of clean up after the pandemic, plus the drainage maintenance of the Farmhouse. We have discovered that we are well behind in maintenance – and actually need \$118,000 for maintenance costs in 2023. However, the budget has only authorized \$50,000 for maintenance. The workplan for 2023 includes repairing the leak in the foyer, and painting the Farmhouse. The hot water tanks were on their last legs and have been replaced. The ten upper windows on the west side of the sanctuary are tall and irregularly shaped. Last summer the window washers notified us that the windows were going to fail soon. The seal between the windows has failed, and the surround and aluminum frames have failed. The committee contacted four window suppliers, and all the suppliers agreed that the failure is imminent. Only one company would give us a quote of \$49,000 (the quote was only valid for 5 days, as the price of glass fluctuates on the world market). The committee will continue to look for quotes from contractors (as opposed to suppliers). If the window failure results in a leak, repairing the damage from a potential leak would mean closing the Sanctuary – a very costly and undesirable result. Earle presented two options: 1) Hang a tarp outside to protect the windows; or 2) Replace them this year. Moved by Al Hoffman and seconded by Katherine Maas that the Board agrees to fund the replacement of the upper Sanctuary west wall windows in 2023, and if necessary, recommend to the Congregation at the 2023 AGM to use Endowment Fund money to cover some or all of the costs. **Carried.**

11.2 Committee Retention and Recruitment – The Stewardship Report and the Engagement Retreat will help address this issue, so this item was deferred.

11.3 Kitchen Issues – Katherine Maas reported that two kitchens and many users make for some complications. The kitchens are used for Memorial services, by some renters, and for congregational life events. After 2 years of disuse, the kitchens have been cleaned and organized. The Table Fund has historically been used to buy equipment. **Action:** Kathleen to draft a letter for Audrey's signature to a congregational member thanking them for their energy and enthusiasm, and explaining that approval for any future expenditures will need to come from the relevant Council or Committee Chair first - before spending money. As a general rule, expenditures in 2023 should be limited to replacing existing worn kitchen items only, not purchasing new items.

11.4 Possible Division of Treasurer Responsibilities – Kristina Stevens recommended that this item be deferred, to become a part of the Stewardship consultations.

11.5 New Abuse Prevention Coordinator – Audrey Taylor confirmed that the search still on to replace this important position. we need to find someone. **Action:** Kristina Stevens to talk to a member who is a former social worker to see if this might interest them.

11.6 Checklist/Information for New Board Members – Kent Haden drafted a document with a checklist for new Board members, including the potential use of Google Workspace and a Google email address. The medical emergency at a recent Sunday service highlighted the need for the Board to be aware of the FUCV Medical Emergency Protocol. **Action:** Kathleen to ask Niki to copy and laminate copies of the protocol for the Ushers and Greeters box, and cc the email to Fran Hancock (Ushers and Greeters) and Lynne Bonner (Worship). Kathleen to ask Niki to either email the digital version (zip file) of the Board Binder or to create a Google docs link and send it to the Board.

11.7 Insurance Premium Update – Bruce Nicol submitted an information note that the FUCV insurance was renewed. Only one underwriter was interested in offering us insurance. After changing all property deductibles to \$10,000 (some were at \$2,500 and others at \$5,000) for both the Sanctuary building complex and the farmhouse the premium for 2023 was \$37,778.

11.8 Electronic Signatures for SELCY Program – Moved by Kristina Stevens, seconded by Jeri Dause that digital signatures be acceptable for the use of the Abuse Prevention Plan, subject to the insurance company's approval. **Carried. Action:** Kathleen Zimmerman to inform Anna Isaacs and ask for a follow up at a future meeting

11.9 Policy on Overnight EV Charging – **Action:** Al Hoffman will consult further on costs and potential security issues of overnight EV charging, and come back to the Board with a recommendation.

11.10 Membership Committee Update – Katherine Maas reported that Rebecca Mellett asked that the Nominating Committee to find a replacement for her as Chair of the Membership Committee. There has been a lot of attrition in that Committee. **Action:** Katherine Maas to email Rebecca to let her know that a replacement Committee Chair is available after the May 28 AGM.

11.11 Email re: Rental Space **Action:** Kathleen Zimmerman to send the member an email that the Board confirmed that the room in question is available to rent, and we will be reviewing that decision after 6 to 12 months.

12. Membership changes - Kathleen Zimmerman. **New Members: 1 (Kelly Legge); Resigning Members: 0; Deceased Members: 0; New Friends: 1 (David van Stolk); Deceased Friends: 0.**

13. Announcements

13.1 **Next Board Meeting:** April 13, 2023, 2 pm

13.2 **CUC AGM:** May 19, 2023

13.3 **FUCV and FUCV Foundation AGMs:** May 28, 2023

14. Questions from FUCV Members – Kathleen Zimmerman reported that no questions were received.

15. Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.

BOARD MEMBER ON DUTY ROSTER (*please check your dates for any conflicts)

Please e-mail Kathleen if you switch BMOD dates with someone - she will update the list and notify the office.

Date	Board Member on Duty
March 12, 2023	Katherine Maas
March 19, 2023	Jeri Dause
March 26, 2023	Al Hoffman
April 2, 2023	Kent Haden
April 9, 2023	Kathleen Zimmerman
April 16, 2023	Evelyn Peters
April 23, 2023	Audrey Taylor
April 30, 2023	Katherine Maas
May 7, 2023	Jeri Dause
May 14, 2023	Al Hoffman
May 21, 2023	Kent Haden
May 28, 2023	Kathleen Zimmerman

WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE

Date	Topic/Minister	Attendance (#Devices + # People in Sanctuary/Lion Hall)
Feb. 5, 2023	Covenanting Through Transitions – CUC National Service	N/A
Feb. 12, 2023	Flooded With Love / Reilly Yeo	40 + 81
Feb. 19, 2023	The Things We Do for Love / Rev. Shawn Newton	47 + 81
Feb. 26, 2023	Love in the Time of COVID / Reilly Yeo	67 + 57

Please do take a moment now to fill out the survey - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VictoriaUnitarian>. This is your chance to give vital input into the future of our stewardship work!

Exploring Unitarian Universalism and our Congregation



Sunday April 2, 2023 from 12:30 - 2:00pm (max)

Curious to know more about Unitarian Universalism and what our congregation at First Unitarian is up to in Victoria?
For newcomers, searchers and anyone wanting to learn more, the purpose of this gathering is two-fold:

- to share information about events and activities within our community so that you can discern and decide how to get involved; and
- to introduce you to some of the history, stories, and theology of Unitarian Universalism.

We hope this will offer a better sense of what is unique about our spiritual community and ways we may be similar to other congregations and communities.

This is also a time to connect with others who are new to exploring this community as well as connecting with Reverend Shana Lyngood and some members of the congregation. We will outline the pathway to becoming a member or friend of the congregation.

RSVP before March 27, 2023 to rev.shana@victoriaunitarian.ca and/or membership@victoriaunitarian.ca - we will send location and meeting details in reply. Light snacks will be served.

Please let us know if you require childcare in your reply.

Rebecca Mellett
Chair, FUCV Membership Committee

Celebration of Life for Reverend Don Vaughn-Foerster



Saturday, April 22nd, 2023, 2:00pm Pacific Time

This spring, we will be honouring and celebrating the life of our former interim minister Reverend Don Vaughn-Foerster, who passed away on June 7, 2021. All members and friends of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria, and all who knew and loved Reverend Don, are warmly invited to join his family for this memorial service. Reverend Don always maintained a special fondness for our church, and his family looks forward to the chance to gather and share memories in our beautiful sanctuary. Please [RSVP](#) to help us get a sense of our numbers, and consider bringing finger food (sweet or savoury) to share.

To register: <https://rsvp.church/r/uYZwZfyw>

Memorial Service Honouring the Life of Marya Nijland



Memorial Service Honouring the Life of Marya Nijland

Saturday, April 29, 2023

10:00am Pacific Time

All members and friends of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria, and all who knew and cared about Marya, are warmly invited to attend this memorial service honouring the life of church member, Marya Nijland, who passed away on December 14, 2022.



In person attendance

Please RSVP for in person sanctuary seats at <https://rsvp.church/r/uYZwZfyw> (it helps with our planning)

While masks are required in the sanctuary, masks are optional at the reception in Lion Hall.

Members and Friends of First Unitarian are invited to bring finger food (sweet/savory) to share at the reception.

Online attendance

<https://zoom.us/j/91804764915?pwd=bFJqYm1rRDlxNjIubEJQcmNWVUFvUT09>

Meeting ID: 918 0476 4915

Passcode: 618898

Or join by phone (audio)

- +1 778 907 2071 Canada
- +1 780 666 0144 Canada
- +1 204 272 7920 Canada
- +1 438 809 7799 Canada
- +1 587 328 1099 Canada
- +1 647 374 4685 Canada
- +31 20 794 6520 Netherlands
- +31 20 794 7345 Netherlands
- +31 707 006 526 Netherlands
- +31 20 241 0288 Netherlands
- +31 20 794 0854 Netherlands
- +31 20 794 6519 Netherlands

Meeting ID: 918 0476 4915

Passcode: 618898

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/adQ0sbghfE>

Memorial Service Honouring the Life of Allen Milne



A memorial and celebration of life will be held for Allen in our sanctuary on **Saturday May 6th at 2 pm**, led by Reverend Shana. Please look for an announcement in the e-weekly in coming weeks. If you would like to share condolences with Allen's daughter Ann, she can be reached via email at rix@explornet.com.

Karen Furnes – Honoured Volunteer April 2023



I started attending the Unitarian Church of Vancouver as a child, when parents Penny and Ted Furnes joined the church. After my brother came home from the local United Church talking excitedly about walking on water and other magical feats, and I was “saved” at the Baptist Church down the street on my way home from school, my parents decided it was time to check out the Unitarian Church. We never looked back.

After living in Port McNeill from 1980 to 1983, I moved to Victoria with my young daughter, Autumn. During that time, I completed a diploma in Public Administration while living with my sister, Nancy and her family. They attended the Unitarian Church in James Bay, and I joined them. I lived in Port McNeill again from 1985 to 1995, before returning to Victoria. By this time, my parents were living in Victoria and attending First Unitarian. I soon joined my dad, Ted, in the choir.

Music has been an ongoing source of joy, nurture and community in my life. As well as singing with the Chalice Choir for the last 27 years, I have sung in a number of smaller choirs and ensembles in the church, and enjoy ringing with the church's Cantabile Handbell Choir! I am pleased to help lead the congregation in singing on occasion, when the choir is not performing.

As a member of FUCV, I have served two terms on the Board of Trustees and spent time on the Human Resources, Music, and Memorial Gardens Advisory committees. I was a member of the Interim Minister Task Force in 2009, and served as an Assessor for the Lifeline List project for six years. My partner, Barry Wiebe and I share a love of choral music, and both enjoy singing in the choir. We are both part of the organizing team for the Book and Bake Sale, and were part of the Sunday morning hospitality crew for several years before COVID hit.

After working for the BC Pension Corporation for twenty years, I retired from my role as a Senior Policy Analyst in 2015. Much of my time and energy is currently devoted to caring for my mom, Penny, and assisting two friends facing life-limiting illnesses. I continue to enjoy and gain sustenance from the wonderful services, music and friendships at First Unitarian, and am grateful to be recognized as an Honoured Volunteer by my beloved church community!

Testimonials:

"Karen and I have been friends for over 20 years, singing together in a number of small group configurations and travelling together. She is a thoughtful, caring and generous person who speaks up when she observes injustice and advocates in an articulate yet kind way for those requiring support. She loves to sing, dance and cook. Karen is an asset to any of the groups she has volunteered with in our church community!"

Barbara Boyle

"I am very glad that Karen was chosen as the Honoured Volunteer for April, a recognition more than well deserved! Karen is one of the kindest & selfless people I know. She will always put other's needs ahead of her own and is mostly happy to contribute behind the scenes. Her role as assessor for Lifeline come to mind, where she is at times faced with heart wrenching decisions and often goes above and beyond her scope, to help others in need. As member of the board, she worked with great dedication, contributing her professional expertise.

The one time Karen does step into the lime light is, when she lets her beautiful voice soar, in the chalice choir or earlier with the Pick up Sticks or whenever a strong song leader is needed!

Karen and I first met, probably as founding members of our church choir on Superior St. in the late 80s. Since then, she has also expanded her musical talents to include our bell choir.

She continues to contribute to our church community in so many ways, that can not be summed up membership on a committee or particular group. She is quietly there for anyone who is in need.

Her main challenge - she does not know how to say NO!"

I feel blessed to call Karen my friend."

Astrid Firley-Eaton

Spirited Jazz



Attila Fias Trio - Sunday April 16th, 2023 @ 7:30

Jazz keyboarding at its finest is what you can expect with Attila taking command of our Grande Piano. With his impressive international credentials this Spirited Jazz will excite and ignite the Sanctuary in applause and wanting more. Attila Fias is an award-winning, jazz pianist,



composer, arranger and producer. His special blend of sounds from across the globe reflects his rich and varied musical background as evidenced in over 100 internationally distributed CDs including multiple gold and platinum selling albums. Attila has toured the world – Europe, South Korea, Brazil, Africa, Japan, Australia, the UK, Singapore, Hong Kong, India and the US, playing everything from packed stadium concerts to small clubs.

Accompanists:

Scott White – bass, Kelby MacNayr – drums

Visit Attila's Website for full bio and recorded samples

<https://www.atalafias.com>

Next Spirited Jazz [The Nick Maclean Quartet](#) May 7th

Artist of the Month Jacqueline Gautier



Jacqueline Gautier, M.A. Artist of the Month for April

My current interests are the integration of psychological, spiritual and visual illumination through the use of multi-colored metallic foils and their interplay with acrylic shapes and images. The foils are multilayered, textured and glazed to create a variety of lustrous experiences. They often act as a backdrop for the magical, mystical and whimsical. I hope you will enjoy the movement from the unconscious to new aspects of self through creatures taking flight.



My creative process is intuitive, each step and figure making itself known to me spontaneously. I have learned to surrender planning and accept moment-by-moment inner guidance; it leads me gently and amusingly to the next surprise.

There is often a theme of transformation or revelation appearing which is evocative and leaves the observer fully in charge of their response. It is a satisfying integration of my counselling profession and the healing nature and beauty of art.

Website: <http://jacquelinegautier.com> (Click on "Art Works")

E-mail: jacquelinegautier613@gmail.com Phone: (250) 619-0374



Auction Fever



The cupboard is bare...

Could you contribute small decorative or 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 or contact Astrid at afedesign@firley.ca before April 22

Auction Fever 2023

What will you donate?

AUCTION FEVER 2023



**What are you willing
to offer to get in on the picture?**

A Gift Card? A Puzzle?

A Lunch? An Outing?

A Skill? A Dinner? A Getaway?

A Games Night? Something handmade or home made?

something no one else would think of?

Something only you can do?

OFFER DEADLINE: APRIL 22

**Talk to Astrid at afedesign@firley.ca (250-384-3405) or
Lorna at lornaanthony09@gmail.com (250-592-4831)**

Spring Meeting of the Garden and Grounds Committee



On **April 2nd, after Church**, the Garden and Grounds Committee will hold its Spring Meeting in Oasis Room (Former Library) beginning at Noon. The purpose of the meeting is to finalize the plans for the Church gardens and ground for 2023.

All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please call Earle Anthony at 250 592 4831.

Monthly Monday Pub Night



Pub Night

Join us on **Monday, April 3rd at 7 pm** at Lure in the Delta Ocean Pointe at 100 Harbour Rd. It's close to bus routes and there is plenty of parking on Tye and in the underground parking, for which you will receive an exit code on your bill.

It's a relaxed evening of lively conversation and getting to know each other. Some eat dinner, others just enjoy a beverage. We have reserved tables against the interior wall in the bar area. Pub Night is held the First Monday monthly. If you have questions please contact John Hopewell hopewell@telus.net

Depression & Anxiety Support Circle



Everyone Welcome 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 contact Pat: kinradep@gmail.com or Lies: eweij@ryerson.ca

Song Circle



Everyone Welcome in the Sanctuary and on Zoom Fridays April 7 and 21, from 1:30- 2:30

Sing along with Jewel Spooner and Nancy Dobbs, and 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.

Monday Unitarian Walkers



Monday Walkers on March 13, 2023 at Willows Beach

Monday Unitarian Walkers welcomes ALL interested Unitarian members and friends to join us for weekly walks on Monday afternoons at 1pm.

We take turns leading walks for an hour to an hour and a half at different locations throughout Greater Victoria from September to June.

Interested walkers may contact Nancy Dobbs at nandobbs@telus.net

Drumming Circle

UU Heart Beats Drumming Circle

April 2nd!

We all have rhythm, we just need to find it; finding it together is magic!



We gather together between 12:15 and 12:30 in the Sunflower Room in the children's wing (at the fa

eate our circle.to crally could use some help from those who are able in transporting the drums and chairs we will need , or somewhere in between there and the Alcove, as I rer end of the hall - name is above the door)

Bring your own djembe or other hand drum if you have one, but if not no worries, there's plenty to share (see above note about the transportation of said shared drums.

Please respect all peoples comfort levels regarding Covid, including wearing masks and hand sanitizer for the cross sharing of drums.

Whatever your level of interest or ability you are welcome to join in, even if it's just to check out what the fuss is all about!

For more information, contact Dar @ darlevy@gmail.com Looking forward to drumming with you!

Pollinator Garden & Youth Fundraiser April 2nd



Pollinator Garden and Youth Fundraiser on April 2nd

Nancy Dobbs, Anna Isaacs, Marion Pape, Evelyn Peters, John Worton

Later this spring work will begin on constructing a pollinator garden on the front lawn of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria (FUCV). The initiative is supported by the Board, THRUU and the Gardens and Grounds Committee. Indigenous people have suggested that establishing this type of garden is an act of reconciliation, putting back what settlers removed and supporting native pollinators. The garden addresses the 7th principle of Unitarian congregation: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." It also meets a goal of the FUCV's One Planet Saanich Action. The location at the front of the FUCV property communicates these values in practice to passers by.

We have been able to keep the costs low through several initiatives. One of our new members, Delisa Lewis, has volunteered skill and machinery to strip the layer of sod from the site and build a berm. Several members have volunteered to assist. There are numerous native plants sowed in flats in Bob Stock and Evelyn Peter's back yard and these will be repotted with the assistance of THRUU members for

planting in fall. Evelyn Peters and Fran Pardee dug up shoots of Oregon Grape from one of the FUCV beds several months ago and 12 of the 14 shoots appear to be growing. We have secured a grant for additional plants from Pollinator Partnership Canada and we will apply for another grant, as well. However, we still need to purchase weed-free soil and mulch and some other materials.



At a ProD day last fall the youth planted Sea Blush, Native Yarrow, and Nodding Onions seeds. These are now growing and will be available for sale after the service on April 2nd. The proceeds from this sale will be split between the Pollinator Garden and the Youth Group. Did you know that the coloured Yarrow many of us have in our gardens hybridizes with native Yarrow and contributes to its loss? Get some native replacements at this sale! You can contribute directly to the Pollinator Garden in a variety of ways: 1) buy a plant on April 2nd; 2) donate a native plant growing in your own garden; 3) volunteer; 4) donate by making a check out to the First Unitarian Church, with the phrase "Native Plant Garden" in the memo line.

If you have any questions, you can contact Evelyn Peters at evelyn.joy.peters@outlook.com, or call 778.265.5279.

Legacy Circle Tea



Wednesday, May 3rd - 1:30pm

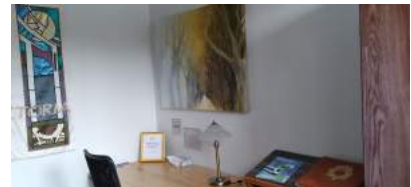
Members and Friends who have named the Congregation for a future bequest in their will are invited to attend a celebratory tea **at the Church** at 1:30pm on Wednesday May 3rd. Reverend Shana will be in attendance. Invitations will be sent out early April. If you do not receive an invitation and have named the congregation for a bequest, please contact John Hopewell at 250-721-3920 or hopewell@telus.com

Did You Know?

The Farmhouse building has a Reading Room? It's a quiet, contemplative, and family-friendly space where church members and staff can enjoy solitude, conversation and/or a good read from a cornucopia of all-ages books that are not only relevant to issues of importance to Unitarian Universalists, but also include a selection of books from the now defunct Library which were deemed important to retain.

Curious about this church's evolution in Victoria? Read all about it! You'll find information that relates to its formation and relocation from the downtown location to where we are today – and check out the photo albums that feature members who have gifted us with the privileged legacy of what we now call the First Unitarian Church of Victoria.

Understandably, this space has been slated for rental – so check it out and enjoy it while you can! You'll find it between the Revs Lynngood offices in the Farmhouse hallway leading to the Archives.



Indigenous Matters



Indigenous Matters: The Victoria Native Friendship Centre Invitations to a New Community Learning Program and Friday Soup Lunch

The Victoria Native Friendship Centre extends invitations to settler and Indigenous people to participate in a Community Learning Program and a Friday Soup Lunch.

The new Community Learning Program is a holistic learning experience that offers an opportunity to learn with Indigenous people in a collaborative and experiential way. Course topics include local Nations, urban Indigenous people, self-introductions, respectful communication, asking/responding to difficult questions, learning from mistakes, participating in protocols, impacts of colonization, cultural connections, Indigenous technologies and innovations, and ongoing self-directed learning. Lynn Hunter is currently taking this course and is happy to tell you more about it if you would like to contact her at: lynnhunter2828@gmail.com.



The VNFC Community Soup Luncheon is an opportunity to meet VNFC staff and community members. It is free and everyone is welcome. Lunch is served every Friday at 12pm. Several THRUU members went to a recent lunch and found it to be a welcoming space, with delicious food. If you would like to attend but you would like company, contact a THRUU member and we'll try to match you up.

The Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) has been in operation since 1970. It provides services to an estimated 20,000 Indigenous people living off reserve in greater Victoria, as well as approximately 5,000 people from local First Nations communities. With more than 75 programs and services, and over 125 staff, it provides wrap-around services in Careers and Employment, Health and Social programs, vibrant Youth initiatives and dynamic Arts and Cultural practices. The Centre also has an Indigenous library (the only one in a Friendship Centre in Canada and catalogued by UVic), a daycare centre, a community kitchen and food hamper program and a homeless shelter from November to April annually. The Community Learning Program and the Soup Lunch are good ways to get to know what this vibrant organization is doing in Victoria.

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).

karen.christie8@gmail.com and Evelyn.Joy.Peters@outlook.com

Child Haven Fundraiser Dinner



Victoria 2023 Fundraiser for Child Haven Int.

welcoming your generous donations

April 28, 2023

5:30 pm

doors open at 5:15

where: First Unitarian Church,
5575 West Saanich Road,
Victoria

Tickets: adults \$50,
11 to 17-year-olds \$25,
10 and under free

Checks payable to Robin Colyer or by
e-transfer to robincolyer@gmail.com

Note "Childhaven Victoria" in memo
Net proceeds donated to Child Haven
International (www.childhaven.ca)

This very special event will
include:

- an online visit with Bonnie and Fred Cappuccino
- a review of Child Haven homes with Robin Cappuccino, in person!
- live online performance by children from Child Haven
- local musical entertainment
- discussion with Island supporters of their experiences as interns
- a sales table with hand-made items as well as articles from the regions of the Child Haven homes

- an opportunity to contribute to the costs on Child Haven's Needs List

For more information on the
Victoria Child Haven Event
contact:

Child Haven by 
613 527-2829 or email
cheryl@childhaven.ca
or on the Island Robin or
Peter at:
819-432-5997 or 819-861-2410

Note: this is a mask-optional
event

For tickets contact Christine at christinejohnston@telus.net or Hanny at hannyhugo@shaw.ca

Price for dinner and entertainment \$50, 11-17 years \$25, 10 and under free.

For more information about Child Haven, please [click here](#).



The times are uncertain, but neighbourhood groups continue to be a resource!

All members, friends and newcomers to the church are invited to be part of the Neighbourhood Group where they live. Plus, The Care & Concern contact for each N.G. keeps tabs on members who may need extra assistance.

If you don't know which group you are in, please phone Kathy Vinton at (250) 882-8650 or via e-mail at kathyvinton2@gmail.com

Toronto-Victoria House Swap (May 20-July 31, 2023)

We are a semi-retired UU couple in Toronto who are looking to swap homes with a Victoria area individual or family for up to 2 months starting in late May, 2023. We live in a detached, energy-efficient 3-bedroom house with a furnished basement on a quiet residential street just off Danforth Avenue, just a 15-minute subway ride from Bloor and Yonge, and a 2 km walk or ride to Woodbine beach and Lakeshore trails. For more information please contact Michael or Joanne at michaelfdpolanyi@gmail.com. Thank you.

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CUC Annual General Meeting 2023

Friday, May 19: In Person and Online via Zoom, 10:00 am PT

The CUC's Annual General Meeting (AGM) takes place on Friday, May 19th. It's a time to attend to the business of the Council and a chance for congregations and their delegates and members to be involved in making decisions that affect our national faith community.

The AGM is open to all and free of charge, and observers may attend in-person or online. The AGM will be held on the campus of Algonquin College in Ottawa; Zoom will be used for virtual participants.

All delegates must be [registered](#) by **May 1, 2023** in order for your congregation to vote.

AGM Motions

A motion to revoke the Doctrine of Discovery. A motion to update the CUC's bylaws. A motion to reimagine goals and strategic priorities for our national faith community.

Board Executive and Council Chairs

BOARD EXECUTIVE	<i>Outreach</i>
<i>President</i>	Evelyn Peters
Jim Willis	evelyn.joy.peters@outlook.com
jimwillis568@gmail.com	<i>Property</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	Peter Hancock
Karen Sharlow	hancockp@telus.net
karen.sharlow@yahoo.com	<i>Spiritual Development</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	Jeri Dause
Kathleen Zimmerman	jkkdause@gmail.com
agresults@shaw.ca	<i>Human Resources,</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Abuse Prevention Plan</i>
Kristina Stevens	<i>Insurance</i>
kristinalstevens@gmail.com	Audrey Taylor
<i>Past President</i>	audreyzwaaltaylor@live.ca
Vacant	
	CARE AND CONCERN
COUNCIL CHAIRS	COMMITTEE
<i>Communications</i>	We Care!
Kent Haden	<i>for hospital and home</i>
kent@hadenservices.com	<i>visits, or just to talk...</i>
<i>Congregational Life</i>	Barbara Boyle
Katherine Maas	250-381-0264
katherine@kjmaas.com	or your NG Care and Concern Person

BMOD, March Birthdays, Calendar

Board Members on Duty:

April 2, 2023, Kent Haden.

April 9, 2023, Kathleen Zimmerman.

April 16, 2023, Evelyn Peters.

April 23, 2023, Audrey Taylor.

April 30, 2023, Katherine Maas.

April Birthdays

LeAnn	Andersen	April 28
Earle	Anthony	April 05
Suzanne	Beauchamp	April 17
Gisele	Bentley	April 22
Barbara	Boyle	April 24

Suzanne	Clement Thorne	April 19
Andreas	Clesle	April 16
Chris	Cook	April 25
Kathleen	Doerksen	April 20
Mike	Fibiger-Crossman	April 16
Nille	Fibiger-Crossman	April 19
Isabelle	Grenon	April 16
Catherine	Haynes	April 14
Sarah	Kendall	April 02
Erin	Kinrade	April 30
Barbara	Kovar	April 06
Martha	McDougall	April 09
Barbara	Nyland	April 21
Leslie	O'Hagan	April 25
Maureen	Sherlock	April 13
Jan	Thomson	April 14
Luke	Walrafen	April 21



Church Staff Info

Niki Mullin

Church Administrator

Sunday, Monday and Wednesday 8-3pm

With the exception of long weekends (Statutory Holidays)

IN PERSON - Sunday and Wednesday after 11am - 1pm

Please email Niki for more information:

churchoffice@victoriaunitarian.ca

fucv.churchoffice@gmail.com

Shannon Oatway

Communications Coordinator

Shannon's Hours: 10-4pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

In Person Tuesdays 10am - 1:30pm

communications@victoriaunitarian.ca

fucv.communications@gmail.com

The church office is closed on all long weekends.

If you wish to get in touch by phone, please call 250 744-2665 and leave a voice message.

Your call will be returned by the next work day. Please see above for staff hours/days.

Visit our website for the latest church news and events. www.victoriaunitarian.ca

Minister Emerita

Reverend

Jane Bramadat

(778) 430-3471

LAY CHAPLAINS

laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

Jenny Heston 250-509-1240

Barbara Boyle 250-381-0264

Oceanna Hall 250-886-1077

DIRECTOR OF SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION AND LEARNING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Acting Director :

Anna Isaacs

anna@victoriaunitarian.ca

Director of Music

Nick Fairbank

music@victoriaunitarian.ca

IN THE SPIRIT AND E-WEEKLY SUBMISSIONS

Please send e-weekly submissions to:

eweekly@victoriaunitarian.ca

DEADLINE: 3pm Tuesdays

Submissions to IN THE SPIRIT are sent here:

newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca

DEADLINE is the 15th of the month.

The e-weekly and In the Spirit are produced by a four member team: Kathy Vinton, Lesley

Duthie, Lies Weijjs and Shannon Oatway.

ARCHIVED MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

Read or download

[The Victoria Unitarian](#)

CONTACTS & LINKS

- [Church website](#)

- [Event calendar](#)

- [Facebook](#)

- [Email the office](#)

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