



The Victoria Unitarian

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

SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Worship Service and Children's Spiritual Exploration at 10:30am. Child-minding available 10am—noon.

October 1

The Healing Power of Us

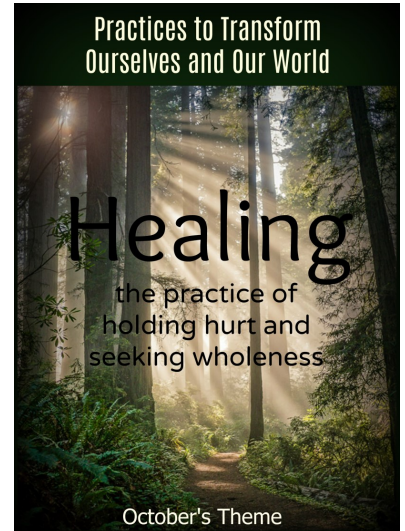
Reverend Shana Lynngood

Chalice Choir

Worship Associate: Anna Isaacs

Often when we envision healing we picture an individual taking steps to get well physically or emotionally after a challenging time. There is also a collective or communal healing that can take place when a person feels nourished or held by a community and when a group of people work to make the world a more hospitable place. Come explore this dimension of healing as we begin the month exploring this theme.

After the service, stay for the **Theme Exploration Session** on **"Healing: the practice of holding hurt and seeking wholeness"** from 12:15-2:15pm in the Farmhouse Common Room. See page 4 for details.



October 8

International Healing? Seeking Hope

Reverend Melora Lynngood

Men's Choir

Worship Associate: Doug McGinnis

So much violence and suffering in our world. Much of it due to human-made international and political conflict. What human-made healing is possible? October 24 is United Nations Day. On this Sunday, we lift up the work of our Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO), and we look at the broader question of how to find hope in the face of international facts and events that cause us to despair.

October 15

Compassion, Kindness, and Generosity of Spirit

Reverend Melora Lynngood

Chalice Choir

Worship Associate: Oliver Belisle

The mission of our congregation is to "transform ourselves and our world through compassionate action." Our congregations are like dojos for practicing this becoming. Even as imperfect and wounded people ourselves, how do we become forces of healing -- in our own lives and in the larger world?

This is Pledge Sunday – you are invited to stay for the after-service luncheon in which we consider our financial pledges for the 2018 fiscal year. See page 2 for details.

October 22

Healing in the Hard Times

Christopher Wulff: Ministerial Intern

Chamber Choir

Worship Associate: Madelaine Clark

"Upon the table she lay. We spoke words. We sang songs. We wrapped her and we wept over her. In this place and in this time, we were not alone." In the hardest times, we need one another the most and yet we often struggle to know what to do. How do we learn to sit in the space of sorrow and hold another, to offer healing when loss is most profound? How will we choose to heal the world?

Services continued next page

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**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
 TO THE NOVEMBER ISSUE IS**

OCTOBER 17

Services Continued:

October 29 Better Together
Reverend Shana Lynngood
Worship Associate: Larry Boldt

Farmhouse Ringers

Our North American mindset frequently leads us to turn toward individualism. We go it alone all too often. How different would our world be if instead we were inclined toward seeing our selves and our lives as richer in meaning in the ways and places where we connect? What if we go it together?

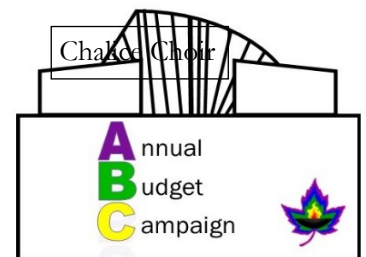
All are invited to Intergenerational Walk with Rev. Melora after the service at Todd Inlet. See page 4 for details.

ABC CAMPAIGN 'OKTOBERFEST' CELEBRATION LUNCH

Our Annual Budget Campaign (ABC) is underway. You should have received an invitation to our 'Oktoberfest' Celebration Lunch on Sunday, October 15. You are asked to confirm your attendance by October 1.

The lunch will be an opportunity to enjoy good food, connect with old friends, and then enjoy brief presentations about our congregation, including a slideshow of highlights from the past year. Before leaving you will be asked to complete your pledge form with your financial commitment to the Congregation for 2018.

All Members and Friends should have received an email or letter explaining our congregation's needs for next year and providing some financial information. If you did not receive this communication or if you have questions, please contact John Hopewell at 250-721-3920 or email hopewell@telus.net.



Looking forward to seeing you,

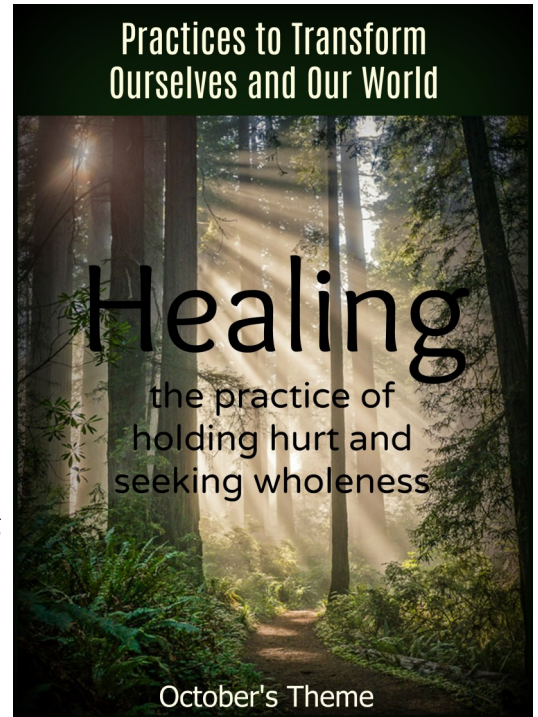
Your ABC Team: Barbara Boyle, John Hopewell, Marion Sollazzo,
 Shirley Travis, Barry Wiebe, Jen Young

Healing: the Practice of Holding Hurt and Seeking Wholeness

This month's theme is "Healing: the practice of holding hurt and seeking wholeness." Here are questions to begin your pondering. Discuss the questions with a fellow congregant, with a friend, or with family, and/or journal about them on your own.

(Based on material from the Unitarian Universalist Soul Matters Network.)

1. Fred Recklau wrote, "Cure seeks to change reality; healing embraces reality." What healing work might be done for you through embracing reality – by accepting what is, rather than fighting against it?
2. Are you exhausted? Have you been running on empty for so long that you no longer notice? What might you do to begin to rest and restore, and let yourself heal?
3. Are you in pain? Physical, emotional, or both? To what extent do you "power through" without letting others know its intensity? To what extent have you shared your pain with others?
4. When was the last time you visited your "healing place?" When in pain, sometimes we need to be around *people* who love us. Other times we need to be surrounded by *places* we love. If you don't have a real "healing place," imagine one – what would it look like? What would it feel like to be there? Consider spending some time there in your mind as you drift off to sleep at night.
5. Sometimes healing requires forgiveness. Is there something for which you need to forgive yourself? Is there a grudge you want to let go? What would that look like? Imagine or draw a picture of it.
6. Is taking on the care of the broken things of the world breaking you? How might you seek healing for yourself? Ask your friends where they find hope and what practices restore their spirits.
7. Denis Waitley wrote, "Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end. Failure is something we can avoid only by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing." Choose something you have thought of as a failure and try to retell that story in a way that brings you some healing. Alternatively, look ahead at something you are afraid to fail, and retell that story – can you reframe it so that success is not the goal, but rather learning and growth?
8. *Dr. Yolanda Pierce* wrote, "Let us not rush to the language of healing, before understanding the fullness of the injury and the depth of the wound." Do you need to gently hold and examine a given hurt a bit more before finding the path to healing? Could you create a ritual that might help—perhaps something as simple as lighting a candle every evening for a week to honour the hurt, sitting with that candle, and holding the hurt gently.



Sign Up For Theme Exploration

Stand-alone, one-time, drop-in, open-to-anyone, after-church, theme exploration sessions. Based on the Soul Matters program, but single sessions. Come to one or both!

Sunday, October 1 : 12:15pm – 2:15pm

Healing: The practice of holding hurt and seeking wholeness

Sunday, November 19: 12:15pm – 2:15pm

Ancestry: The practice of reflecting upon the places and people from which we come

Kids? Open to Youth (teens) and Adults. Childminding available with advance notice.

Food: You are invited to partake in the “Souper Lunch” offered in the Sanctuary after the service, before the program. Soupers are by donation – give what you can afford.

Location: Farmhouse Common Room (in building just north of Sanctuary building, follow signs for office)

RSVP: rev.melora@gmail.com with “theme exploration” in the subject heading, or call/text Reverend Melora at 250-891-6330.

Walking In Spirit with Reverend Melora

Our experiment continues. Walking—and simply being outside—can be good for body and soul. You are invited to join me on one or both of the walks below. Walks will include some walking and some sitting; some mindfulness practices and some time to chat as we walk.

Wednesday, October 18, 1:00 pm

Congregational Labyrinth

At church, 5575 W Saanich Rd, north of Farmhouse Building

This one will have a **sitting only option** for those who can't / don't wish to walk.



Sunday, October 29, 12:00 pm (note new time!)

Intergenerational Walk – Bring the kids!!

Tod Inlet Trail (meet in Sanctuary)

- Meet in Sanctuary at 12 noon to organize carpooling.
- Bring bag lunch. (If it is rainy, we'll eat in the Sanctuary before the walk. If clear, we'll picnic at Tod Inlet.)
- Dress in weather-wise clothes and non-slip footwear. Remember, walking in the rain can be fun too—and good for the soul. As our son's daycare provider says, “There's no such thing as bad weather—just bad clothing.”

- Gowlland Tod Provincial Park, Wallace Drive

<https://www.victoriatrails.com/trails/tod-inlet/#overview> The hike starts on Wallace Drive, about 4 kms north of the church. We'll walk down to lovely Tod Inlet where we will picnic before strolling back uphill. Horizontal distance from Wallace Drive to Tod Inlet is about 1.5 km; elevation change is about 60 m. The trail is wide with good footing.



Let me know if you plan to come to either of the above: rev.melora@gmail.com subject “walk” or cell/text 250-891-6330.

SEL-ections on Healing

It almost feels we predicted what might happen over the summer when we picked healing as the theme for October. Despite the trees that have burned in this province, and those further afield that have been toppled, drowned, or died of drought, I find the words of Chief Skidegate (Lewis Collinson) a good reminder of how healing the earth and one another is most likely to happen:

“People are like trees, and groups of people are like the forests. While the forests are composed of many different kinds of trees, these trees intertwine their roots so strongly that it is impossible for the strongest winds which blow on our islands to uproot the forest, for each tree strengthens its neighbour, and their roots are inextricably intertwined... Just as one tree standing alone would soon be destroyed by the first strong wind which came along, so it is impossible for any person, any family, or any community to stand alone against the troubles of this world.”

To continue the forest metaphor: if we want to keep the forest healthy, it's important also to ensure that our own roots are reaching ample nutrients and helping us build personal resilience. We need to remember, also, that the tiniest of saplings poking their way through the soil are as important to forest health as are the giant shade trees, just as our small acts of compassion and healing are significant to the overall health of a community.

With these thoughts in mind during the month of October, we'll spend time in the Children and Youth Programs considering ways we can keep ourselves healthy, and how we might help heal others and the earth. The focus of each group will be different. The gr.6-8 Coming of Age and the gr.9-12 Youth groups' explorations will be broad. The K-gr.3 Seekers are zeroing in on our relationship with First Nations. The gr. 4-5 OWL sexuality education program is focused on supporting the children entering into puberty with healthy relationship tools and a good understanding of the changes taking place.

I appreciate the many volunteers standing by my side in working with the children, and welcome more seedlings, saplings and towering evergreens in our midst! In other words, if you'd enjoy getting to know some of the children of the church, let me know.

Why are there so few children in the Sanctuary?

This fall, the programs we are offering the children and youth in grades 4 and up are very ambitious. The groups need a maximum amount of gathering time and so most weeks they are going directly to their meeting places.

We Care!

Care and Concern Committee

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

Barbara Boyle at 250-381-0264

Val Roberts at 250-477-7192

or your Neighbourhood Group Care & Concern person

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!

Email: laychaplains@victoriaunitarian.ca

COMMUNITY DINNER

Friday, October 13, 6:00 pm

TACO NIGHT

We will be serving hard and soft tacos with loads of delicious toppings. Vegetarian options will be available.

Everyone is very welcome! Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

To help with cleanup please bring your own plate, cup and cutlery. A rinsing station will be provided.

Community Dinner is a multi-generational event and an opportunity to meet new people or catch up with friends over a casual, fun delicious meal. Help is always welcome in the litchen in the kitchen with the cleanup!

ARTIST OF THE MONTH**IRISH BROOKE**

Irish Brooke is an international oil painter who has exhibited and sold her work in England, Canada and the USA. Born in England, where she also trained, she exhibited and sold there over several years. This was followed by a move to Ontario, Canada, where she continued to develop her artistic career exhibiting and selling her unique works. In 1999 she moved to Chicago where she was selected to show some of her work in the annual Chicago Art Show 2002 and continued to exhibit and sell her paintings via several galleries there, earning an Artist for the Arts Honors Award via the Aldo Castillo Gallery and Sotheby's Chicago in 2003. She ended her time in Chicago with a large retrospective exhibition shared with a sculptor. Nowadays, Irish lives on Vancouver Island where she draws inspiration from the wild Pacific Coast and the multicultural mix of people. Throughout her life she has traveled extensively. It is the distillation of those diverse cultural experiences that is evident in the unique Connectionist works she paints.



Irish's Connectionist Art is dynamic, colorful and often startlingly beautiful. The messages her paintings carry are universal and timeless, speaking about the deep matters that make us human. To own a Brooke painting is to own a work of art that will unfold and communicate with you and your visitors over many years. Although Irish usually creates large paintings, she tries to keep her prices affordably low because she believes that good art should be made accessible to all people. Now living at the top of Saanich Peninsula, she welcomes you to her studio where there are more paintings than could be shown in this current exhibition.

SPIRITED JAZZ**JOHN TIFFANY****Fall Unitarian Jazz Vespers**

Enjoy jazz with a splash of spiritual inspiration.

A program of the First Unitarian Church of Victoria, by donation and greatly appreciated.

October 8, 7-8 pm

Maureen Washington Quartet

Maureen Washington, Vocals | Karel Roessingh, Piano | Damian Graham, Drums | Joey Smith, Bass

First Unitarian Church of Victoria

5575 West Saanich Road, Victoria BC

www.victoriaunitarian.ca

Those who have been appreciating the short trip on a country road to a beautiful setting with top jazz musicians, completed with the musings of Reverend Shana, will be sure not to miss the next two vespers. Fall Vespers of 2017 continues with the Maureen Washington Quartet.

She slips easily from sassy to sexy within a single line of lyrics, at times echoing the haunting tones of Etta James and Carmen McRae, then faster than the mind and ear can make the transition, Maureen Washington exudes the impish irreverence of Jann Arden and the vocal agility of Holly Cole. And yet, with all splendor attached to such comparisons, Maureen's musical style remains distinctly her own. With now nine albums to her credit, Maureen began her musical career in her home town of Prince George, British Columbia. Her vocal diversity lent itself to performances of blues, swing jazz and funk with BOP, a band widely acclaimed as the best dance band in the Prince George region. Their versatile repertoire, ranging from classics to lively originals, brought them sold-out crowds.

Now based in Victoria, British Columbia, Maureen continues to create new musical avenues and is blessed with a growing entourage of fans as she performs with duos, sextets, and solo artists, including singing back up on Canadian Folk legend Valdy's 2011 album, *Read Between the Lines*.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Maureen has also worked as a singer-songwriter and vocal instructor, and hosted and performed on the main stage for four years at the Prince George International Folk Fest.

Enjoy jazz with a splash of spiritual inspiration in a venue with exquisite sound and setting. These hour-long evening services are a unique blend of jazz and spirituality. Each service brings together live music from popular local jazz musicians, a brief meaningful message, and a little of the history of the music performed.

BOARD BUSINESS**LORNA ANTHONY**

The following is a snapshot of the Board meeting held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017. The minutes will be posted on the Lion Hall Board.

- Reverend Melora led the Board in revisiting and redrafting the covenant for Board members.
- Strategic Planning Session 4 will take place on September 24 in the Sanctuary from noon to 2:00. Information notices have been sent to the *E-weekly*, website, Facebook, Order of Service and SEL-CY parents.
- UU Islands Network will add the Regional Spring Gathering 2018 to their September agenda. A Zoom conference will be held October 4 to determine date and theme. The one-day event will take place at First Unitarian.
- Reverend Shana was in Boston this week serving our congregation at a Ministerial Fellowship Committee. Among her many duties, Reverend Melora is working on a series of one-time Soul Matters groups; on a committee to hire a replacement for our SEL-CY director, Faye, who will be leaving at the end of December; and is instituting a walking group.
- Ministerial Intern Chris Wulff will be working with us Friday to Sunday each week. He and his wife, Ariel, have moved to Vancouver where Ariel has accepted a position with North Shore UU church. The details of his time with us have not yet been finalized.
- Treasurer Jane Wilson presented the Combined Budget vs. Actual, which is on target.
- The Board approved a motion by Jane W. for the church to obtain a credit card to be used for some purchases, especially online purchases which require a credit card for processing.
- The Board approved a motion by John Worton to have the initial annual budget presented to the Board in November rather than January. The request for this came from the Finance Committee so that the Board has more time for input to the final budget.
- The Board approved a motion by John Worton to authorize Zoie Gardner Overseas Fund trustees to purchase ETFs (Exchange-Traded Funds), subject to certain conditions.

As always, please know that you are welcome to chat with me about questions, concerns or ideas.

Lorna

GREEN CORNER**LOUISE COLE****Fish Farms Put Wild Salmon at Risk?**

For over 20 years, Alexandra Morton has been fighting to protect wild salmon stocks from the dangers of fish farming in BC coastal waters. She lived in the Broughton Archipelago when fish farms growing Atlantic salmon arrived. She became increasingly concerned as she studied the effects of lice as well as a virulent virus that gets transferred from farmed fish to wild salmon. In addition, the potential of inter-breeding with Pacific salmon has also become a risk.

Your Environmental Action Team (EAT) has been supportive of her work. We have followed the response from the federal government as well as the defensive stance of the former provincial government. Massive research has been done by Alexandra and her team which has grown into a research centre in collaboration with First Nations and strong environmental actions, to no avail.

This, however, could alter with the change in government in BC. We encourage support of wild salmon stocks by choosing wild salmon over farmed at the grocery store or restaurant. Further action would be to support wild salmon by learning more about the issue and contacting our new premier, the Hon. John Horgan, and the new Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Hon. George Heyman, in support of wild salmon.

I have known Alexandra since she was researching orcas in Johnstone Strait back in the 1980s. She is a woman of integrity who has dedicated her life to research and social action in support of our environment and more specifically, wild salmon.

Please look at this issue in depth by going to: www.alexandramorton.typepad.com

HOW MIGHT YOU/WE BE PART OF THE TRUTH, HEALING AND RECONCILIATION PROCESS?

Our congregation is sponsoring two collaborative creative projects with indigenous organizations and interests to help build enduring understanding of the issues and opportunities for honorable reconciliation.

Project One: An Interactive Play - Hold the dates January 19 and 20, 2018 to participate in an interactive forum play, *Home* by Theatre for Living, about reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people. Theatre for Living, a Vancouver-based professional theatre company, is a worldwide leading example of theatre for social change, dialogue creation, community healing and empowerment. The play is an effective vehicle for people to more fully understand some of the complex issues in reconciliation. Our congregation (through the Innovation Fund) is pleased to be a sponsor of these two performances. For more information on the sold-out first run of the show last March in Vancouver, see: http://www.theatreforliving.com/present_work/sxwPamet/index.html.

We need help: volunteers for promotion to the wider community, onsite setup/takedown, ticket sales, ushers, etc. Let us know how you might want to help at collaborativelearning2020@gmail.com.

Project Two: Hosting Indigenous Artist(s) - Spring 2018. This fall/winter we are getting ready to host and engage with indigenous artist(s). The concept is to engage children, youth and adults in our congregation with indigenous ways of knowing and encourage deeper relationships as a creative means to further our commitment to reconciliation. Artistic expression is at the heart of indigenous culture. Indigenous art and artisanal activities encompass so much: storytelling, drumming, music, dance, writing, visual, fabric/fibre art, media arts, and theatre. Many local artists are role models and mentors who strive to protect, nourish and interpret history, culture and spirituality. **We seek your ideas and thoughts about how to best do this.** Come and participate in one or two conversations in October and listen and learn. We sense there is much wisdom, deep connections and knowledge about how best to engage and share....

Participate in a one-hour listening circle during the month of October and share your ideas, contacts, experience and perspectives on what we might create with indigenous artists.

Choose among these dates, times and locations:

Noon October 1: Join the Roundtable at Souper Sunday in the Sanctuary.

5:00 pm Thursday, October: Cook St Village Serious Coffee, 230 Cook Street

3:00 pm Tuesday, October 24: Coffee at the Brentwood Bay Village Empourium, Brentwood Crossing Shopping Centre, 12-7103 West Saanich Road

*“My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back.” **Louis Riel***

*“I hope to create artworks that reflect the values of this land, which are cultivated and nurtured by the Indigenous peoples of this territory,” said City of Victoria artist-in-residence **Lindsay Delaronde**. “I see my role as a way to bring awareness to and acknowledge that reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples is a process, one in which I can facilitate a collaborative approach for creating strong relationships to produce co-created art projects in Victoria.”*

“Love is something you and I must have. We must have it because our spirit feeds upon it. We must have it because without it we become weak and faint. Without love our self-esteem weakens. Without it our courage fails. Without love we can no longer look out confidently at the world. But with love, we are creative. With it, we march tirelessly. With it, and with it alone, we are able to sacrifice for others.”

Chief Dan George

Ballots for Proportional Representation

In the first article in this series (August newsletter) we examined how our current First Past the Post (FPTP) voting system often results in unfair results where a “majority government” elected by less than 50% or even 40% of the voters has all the power. In the second article (September) we looked at what is meant by “proportional representation” (PR), where power is in proportion to the votes received, and why that is so much fairer.

Here we’ll consider three broad groups of PR systems. These systems use different kinds of ballots. Most voters only need to know how to mark a ballot correctly while being assured that the system used to count them will result in proportional representation.

These three types of ballots are:

- ballots where you write an X against the candidate you most favour, as in our current First Past the Post system;
- ballots where you rank candidates in order of your preference by numbering them 1, 2, 3... for as many candidates as you wish, as in the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system;
- ballots where you vote for your favourite candidate, and again separately for the political party of your choice, as in the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system.

Many people like to stick with the kind of ballot we are used to, where you simply mark X against the candidate you most favour. While under First Past the Post this does not result in proportional representation, there are ways these ballots can be used to create PR. For instance, it’s possible within Parliament or the Legislature when members are voting on a motion to weight the votes of each member by the number of votes he or she received when elected.

To obtain PR, all systems are necessarily more complicated than simply counting votes to see who has the most, or a plurality, as in our FPTP system. Since no system is perfect, and all have advantages and disadvantages that require time and energy to understand, most people are happy to leave these complexities to electoral system specialists.

An oft repeated criticism of proportional representation is that it results in weak, unstable governments. We’ll examine that in next month’s article.

BOARD MEMBERS ON DUTY

October 1	Karen Furnes
8	Susan Layng
15	Lorna Anthony
22	Lynn Hunter
29	Nan Dobbs

CONTACT CHANGES

Pauline Kinneally and Roger Sandford
moved to:
215-225 Belleville St.,
Victoria, BC, V8V 4T9,
James Bay NG.

Rebecca Mellett
New email: rlmellett@gmail.com

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Cedar Thokme
3	Forrest Smith, Flora Niven
5	Stella Hagan-Braun
6	Francois Duruisseau, Lisa Niven
8	Karen Furnes, Sarah Harris
11	Mariko Matsumoto and Doreen Wood
12	Margaret McKelvie
13	Mary Canty, Barry Wiebe, Scott Branch
14	Doreen Burgess, Stu Whitney
15	David Smith
16	Trish Henry, Maria Hoffman, Bruce Edwards, Rebecca Mellett
18	Rowland Mak
19	Bonnie Halvorson
20	Lorna Shaw,
22	Sharon Boldt
25	Virginia Daniel, Marion Pape, Zoe Brimacombe
26	Fran Hancock
27	Allen Milne, Don Armstrong
28	Susan Lean
30	Diane Berry, Helga Jacobson, Kent Haden
31	Ruth Ellen Pozer-Telford, Doug McGinnis

Around The Neighbourhood

All members, friends, and newcomers to the church can be part of the Neighbourhood Group where they live. Groups meet monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly, or occasionally. If your group is missing from this column, there was nothing to report this month. If you don't know which group you are in, please phone the church office.

Esquimalt: Maureen Sherlock writes this welcoming note, “Esquimalt Neighbourhood Group would like to welcome new friend, Sharon Jackson, to the Church. We have not met recently, but will hopefully have a potluck or get-together in October.”

Fairfield: Kathy Vinton has stepped up to help organize Fairfield members for the Souper Lunch they will be hosting with Oak Bay on October 1.

Far Out: Phyllis Aherne announces, “The Far Out group will be having a pot-luck lunch at my place on September 30. We are looking forward to catching up with the summer adventures of our members and hopefully enjoying some more of this glorious summer weather with a glass of wine on the patio.”

Gordon Head: Mary Cramer has been busy visiting members in this group who are ill. She writes, “In Gordon Head NG, we are hoping to have a NG potluck early this fall. Over the summer, we have a church member who has moved out of our NG to another group, a member who has moved in from another NG and one who is moving this month and staying within our group. Also, we have several folks that are new to our church and have not yet attended a potluck with us. It is definitely time to get together and do some catching up!”

Grand Central: Marya Nijland reports on the recent NG tea in her home, “We had a lovely cozy tea with cakes and goodies galore and wonderful stories about our adventures this summer. We hope to meet again in November, date and place still up in the air. We have several new members in our group that we hope to welcome soon.”

James Bay: Lynn Hunter writes, “The James Bay Neighbourhood group met for afternoon tea at the home of Adeleine Morris on August 22. Good conversation was had as well as admiration of the hunky man on the crane opposite Adeleine's home. We continue to seek a new convenor and a care and concern representative. Our next gathering will be at the home of Carol and David Smith for afternoon tea at 3 pm on September 27. James Bay is providing the goodies each Sunday for the church coffee time during the month of September. Thanks to all.”

Nearby: This NG hopes to have a gathering sometime this fall.

Oak Bay: John Tiffany wrote from Newfoundland, “Oak Bay NG will be having a fall potluck at Jany and Tiff's place on Saturday September 23. The theme of the potluck is “What does the fall season mean to you?” OBNG will also be having its monthly luncheon on the third Wednesday of the month at the Monterey Rec centre. In addition, Oak Bay is hosting the October 1 Souper lunch with Fairfield.”

Royal Oak East: This NG will gather again on October 17 for one of their quarterly meetings.

Royal Oak West: In the midst of moving, Fran Hancock is still tending her NG group. She writes, “Jennifer and Lance Young have kindly offered to host a potluck dinner at their home on 760 Genevieve St. on Friday, September 22 at 5:00 pm. This family really knows how to make people feel welcome, so be prepared to have a good time. This will be a great opportunity to welcome Lynn Bonner to our NG, as she has expressed an interest in meeting members from the Memorial Team and ROW who volunteered to put on the memorial service for her daughter Sophie this summer.” Royal Oak West will also be providing goodies for the Sunday services in October.

Western: Susan reports that Western is continuing their monthly Saturday potlucks this fall.



Toronto, Canada Named Host of the Seventh Parliament of the World's Religions in 2018

Toronto—acclaimed as the most diverse city in the world and home to six million Canadians—has been chosen as the host city of the Seventh Parliament of the World's Religions, to be convened in November 2018. The selection of Toronto was made by the Board of Trustees of the governing organization at its April 2017 meeting.

More than 10,000 people will participate in the 2018 Parliament, which will last for seven days and comprise more than 500 programs, workshops and dialogues, alongside music, dance, art and photography exhibitions, and related events presented by the world's religious communities and cultural institutions.

Since the historic 1893 World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago, modern Parliaments have attracted participants from more than 200 diverse religious, indigenous, and secular beliefs and more than 80 nations to its international gatherings in Chicago (1993), Cape Town (1999), Barcelona (2004), Melbourne (2009), and Salt Lake City (2015). These Parliament events are the world's oldest, largest, and most inclusive gatherings of the global interfaith movement. Professor Mark Toulouse, Co-Chair of the host committee, believes that “the selection of Toronto was a perfect match for the Parliament.”

He continues, “As one of the most international, multicultural, and religiously pluralistic cities in the world, Toronto provides a perfect venue for the Parliament of the World's Religions. More than 140 languages are spoken every day, and at least 47% of Toronto's population speak a native language other than French or English. Over half were born outside of Canada, representing more than 200 ethnic origins.”

Toronto Mayor John Tory added his support for a Toronto Parliament, saying: “Nowhere is our diversity more evident than in the variety of places of worship you can find in communities across Toronto. These institutions are an integral part of the social fabric of our city . . . [and] our faith communities help build bridges of mutual understanding and make Toronto a welcoming place for people of all beliefs.”

The exemplary effort of Canadians—and especially the people of Ontario—to welcome the stranger and immigrant, honor indigenous communities, and protect the earth with its public initiatives, provides inspiration for other global cities that desire to build a better world. Parliament Site Selection Committee Chair Andras Corban Arthen says, “Toronto is a place where important conversations are taking place about reconciliation, environmental approaches, and the integration of immigrant populations. A vibrant and wide-reaching interfaith community was a determining factor in answering the question: Why Toronto? Why now?”

In a May 2 press conference and reception at the Toronto City Hall, Parliament of the World's Religions Executive Director Dr. Larry Greenfield said the 2018 event is an “extraordinary opportunity for people of the globe to engage the crucial issues of our world, such as climate change, poverty, and violence.” He continued, “We are especially encouraged by the Indigenous, women, and young people who will be featured among the international leaders coming from around the world to this Parliament.”

The Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC) will host the thousands of participants of the Parliament in 2018. President and CEO Barry Smith of the venue said, “We are honoured to be the first Canadian venue to host the Parliament of the World's Religions. Toronto is proud of its cultural diversity and we look forward to welcoming delegates from around the world who stand for peace, justice, and sustainability.”

Professor Toulouse concurs, “In our time, few things are more important than developing global literacy concerning religion and initiatives seeking social justice, partnerships and dialogue among religions, and understanding between the religious and the non-religious. The content and global relationships associated with the Parliament advances all these ends in significant ways. For me, it is especially exciting to welcome the Parliament to Toronto as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.”

In the coming 18 months, the 2018 Parliament program will be developed in close consultation with Toronto itself, as well as with religious and civic stakeholders across Canada and around the world, so that the event reflects the perspectives and priorities of multiple faiths and ideologies.

Reverend John Joseph Mastandrea, Parliament Ambassador and Interfaith Chaplain who serves on the Executive Committee of the Greater Toronto Interfaith Council, will be among those introducing the 2018 event to groups across Ontario.

He said, “More than a symbol, the Parliament is an instrument of peace. This is why the Parliament of the World’s Religions will be converging on Toronto in 2018.”

Super Saver Registration is available at ParliamentOfReligions.org, including rates exclusive to students. Group registration is coming soon.

You'll find the program information [here](#), and registration rates [here](#).

MINDFUL JOURNEYS

BEVERLY CARR

There are two mindful journeys for Unitarians and their friends in 2018:

1. Rev. Wayne and Joan Walder in March to India - email saranac2@gmail.com
2. To England with Beverly Carr. (info is below) - Beverly Carr beverlz@me.com

The Gilded Age Meets Downton Abbey. Cora, of *Downton Abbey* fame, is the inspiration for this journey. She was based on the American heiresses who arrived in England during the late 1800s to rescue a great estate in distress. We will focus on some of these heiresses while we explore their homes and visit *Downton Abbey* film sites. Highclere Castle was the home of heiress Lady Almina Carnarvon, and was also used as the fictional home of Cora. American Consuelo Vanderbilt married the 9th Duke of Marlborough and saved Blenheim Palace with her fortune. Another heiress, Jennie Jerome, married the 8th Duke of Marlborough's brother, and gave birth to Winston Churchill there. The great-grandmother of Diana, the Princess of Wales, was an American heiress and the future kings of England are her descendants.

We'll stay for 5 nights in my favourite English city, Oxford, the unique university town of amazing bookstores, unusual architecture, historic pubs, and eclectic free museums. We see where JRR Tolkien met with the *Inklings*, where Lewis Carroll dreamed up *Alice in Wonderland*, where CS Lewis had a magical wardrobe, where Inspector Morse solved many crimes, and where Bill Clinton didn't inhale. Two nights in the Midlands and one in London complete our itinerary.

The challenge of this journey is that Highclere Castle and Althorp House aren't posting their opening times for 2018 until October, and we can't ask for tickets before then. At that time we can confirm the dates and the finalized itinerary and costs. We are aiming for May or September 2018. The journey will be mindful, fun, and informative, with some time for you to explore your interests – especially in Oxford.

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October

2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30 Sunday Service* 11:30 Souper 12:00 AHA Mtg 12:15 Theme Exploration Session	2 10:00 Farmhouse Ringers Rehearsal 1:00 ABC Team Mtg 7:30 FUCV Pub Night (Canoe Brewpub)	3 1:00 Board Meeting	4 7:00 Finance Committee Meeting	5 6:30 Men's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Chalice Choir Rehearsal	6	7 10:30 Depression & Anxiety Support Circle 12:45 Buddhist Meditation
8 10:30 Sunday Service* 12:00 Newcomer Orientation 7:00 Jazz Vespers	9 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	10 12:00 Sandy Merriman Cooking	11 1:00 Care & Concern Meeting	12 6:00 Chamber Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Chalice Choir Rehearsal	13 6:00 Community Dinner (Fiesta Night)	14 12:45 Buddhist Meditation
15 10:30 Sunday Service* 11:30 ABC Oktoberfest Celebration Lunch	16 10:00 Farmhouse Ringers Rehearsal	17 11:00 Committee on Ministry Meeting 2:00 SRC Meeting	18 1:00 Walking in Spirit with Rev. Melora (Congregational Labyrinth)	19 1:00 Staff Meeting 6:00 Chamber Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Chalice Choir Rehearsal	20	21 10:30 Depression & Anxiety Support Circle 12:45 Buddhist Meditation 1:00 Volunteer Tea Coming of Age Sleepover
22 9:30 Singing with Nancy 10:30 Sunday Service*	23 10:00 Farmhouse Ringers Rehearsal	24	25	26 10:00 Board Exec Mtg 5:45 Worship Associates' Mtg 6:30 Men's Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Chalice Choir Rehearsal	27	28 10:00 Farmhouse Ringers Rehearsal 12:45 Buddhist Meditation
29 10:30 Sunday Service* 12:00 Intergen Walk with Rev. Melora (Tod Inlet)	30 1:00 Choices in Dying	31				

*Children and youth programs run concurrently with the service.

For a comprehensive listing of First Unitarian Church of Victoria events, please visit victoriaunitarian.ca/members/events/.

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Services Schedule “At a Glance”

<u>Date</u>	<u>Title / Topic</u>	<u>Minister/ Speaker</u>	<u>WA</u>	<u>Backup WA</u>
2017-10-01	The Healing Power of Us	Rev. Shana	Anna	Dan (Mado shadow)
2017-10-08	International Healing? Seeking Hope UU-UNO (Thanksgiving)	Rev. Melora	Doug	Oliver
2017-10-15	Compassion, Kindness, and Generosity of Spirit ABC - Stewardship Sermon	Rev. Melora	Oliver	Anna (Shelley shadow)
2017-10-22	Healing in the Hard Times	Chris	Mado	Anna (mentor)
2017-10-29	Better Together (ABC wants community focus)	Rev. Shana	Larry	Doug

THE VICTORIA UNITARIAN

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The **deadline** for submissions to
the **November** issue is **October 17**.
Copy should be sent to
newsletter@victoriaunitarian.ca.



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

Information for Events Highlights should be sent to
calendar@victoriaunitarian.ca or left at the church office.

Feedback is welcomed.

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Barbara Nyland and Jen Young (editors); Doreen Burgess
and Myra Rippon (proof-readers); and Nadia Kozak
(production, distribution and paid advertisements).