



image credit: Angela Harding *Bringing Back the Tree*

A Unitarian Christmas?

Rev. Steven Epperson

– December 4, 2016 –

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER

Celebration of Worship

December 4, 2016

At the front of the church you will find unlit candles. You are welcome to light a candle in remembrance, in gratitude, in prayer, in celebration.



*The prelude helps to create a spirit for shared celebration and worship.
Please refrain from conversing and please turn off your cell phones.*



Prelude

A Unitarian Xmas Medley (tunes from the grey hymnal)
arr. E. Dainow

Opening Words/Greeting Our Neighbours

Rev. Steven Epperson

Kindling the Chalice Flame

Opening Hymn #235

Deck the Halls

Story for All Ages

Let's Sing the Children Out "*Go now...*"

Welcome and Announcements

Diane Brown

Reading from the Book of Celebrations and Concerns

Diane Brown

Offering: *We deeply appreciate
your presence here, your
offerings and the gifts you share.*

A Xmas Carol
Tom Lehrer
with Nicola Hamilton & E. Dainow

Meditation, Spoken then Silent

Rev. Steven Epperson

Musical Response

Winter Night
Shelley Jackson Denham
performed by E. Dainow

Sermon

A Unitarian Christmas? Rev. Steven Epperson

Closing Hymn #248

O We Believe in Christmas

Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice Flame

Valediction

*Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again.
Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again.*

***Standing Rock Interfaith Day of Prayer, December 4, 2016:
A Message from Rev. Karen Van Fossan, Minister, Bismarck-Mandan
Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bismarck, ND***

“My congregation has received countless messages from people around the country – and world – asking, “What can we do?”

We have received one of the most important invitations we are ever likely to receive, as people of faith and conviction. **Chief Arvol Looking Horse, Keeper of the White Buffalo Calf Pipe Bundle, has called upon each of us to join him at Standing Rock on Sunday, December 4th, for an Interfaith Day of Prayer.** In solidarity with indigenous people and mutual love for the water, it is my hope that you and your communities of faith will participate in this history-making day.

As those who have visited know, the nonviolent water protector movement at Standing Rock is deeply rooted in prayer. Each day I spend at Oceti Sakowin camp, I feel myself challenged and inspired to live a more prayerful and faithful life. We awake with prayers, dine with prayers, go to rest with prayers, and pray continuously throughout each day.

The camps at Standing Rock are based on the conviction that prayer, especially collective prayers, can protect our living water. Your prayers – and your presence – mean the world. I would be honored to see you here.

Please share this call to prayer and solidarity widely. Thank you.

If you aren't able to be here in body on December 4th, please join us in spirit by praying for the water and the water protectors in the morning, before meals, before bed, and whenever you are able. Please invite others to join their prayers with yours – with all of ours.



In peace and faith,

Karen Van Fossan, M.Div.,
Minister, Bismarck-Mandan Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Bismarck, ND

Next Sunday Service: December 11, 2016, 11 am

Orlando Six Months Later

Rev. Steven Epperson

The seats in the rear of the church are ***reserved***:
(when facing the front) *left side for parents with babies or small children in childcare*, and right side for persons in wheelchairs

UCV Upcoming Seasonal Events

949 W. 49th Avenue (Oak and 49^h)



TONIGHT!! 7:30 pm *Chalice Choir Advent Concert*
“Singing the Season” Featuring Bach’s Cantata BWV 140 “Wachet Auf” and a sing-along of seasonal favourites. Tickets \$20 (or pay what you can) Come early for the Arts and Crafts Fair!

Dec. 11 11 am *Worship Service*
“Orlando Six Months Later” An uplifting story of how Orlando Unitarians supported the victims of the Pulse Nightclub shootings and the wider Orlando, Florida community.

Dec. 18 11 am *Seasonal Pageant*
“In the Beginning...” We all evolved from the dust of exploded stars.

Dec. 18 7:30 pm *Candlelight Service*
A UCV tradition: worship, the spoken word, seasonal carols and music, featuring the Chalice Choir, honouring the festivals of December and the beginning of a new year. All are invited. Childcare provided. (Light dessert potluck after the service in the Hall. Please bring a dish & stick around.)



Dec. 24 7 pm *Christmas Eve Celebration*
On this evening, we gather with candles, carols and story to commemorate our fellowship and the gifts of the season. Bring your family and friends; all are invited to this service for all ages. Childcare provided.

Dec. 25 2 pm *Christmas Carol-Sing/Potluck*
We’ll gather in the Sanctuary, then move to the Hewett Hall for a bite to eat and holiday fun. Bring a dish and your carol singing voices. Join with UCV members and friends—Christmas cheer for all ages!

Join with us! Bring your family, children and friends as we observe this special time in the year through music, pageants, meditation, food and the spoken word.

DECEMBER 4, 2016

TONIGHT!

CHALICE CHOIR ANNUAL ADVENT CONCERT: *Singing the Season.*

Singing the Season. Join the Chalice Choir for a concert of seasonal music, featuring Bach's Cantata BWV 140 "Wachet Auf" and a singalong of Christmas favourites. Sunday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 pm, Sanctuary. Childcare provided. Reception to follow. Please remember that this is the choir's main fundraiser of the year and supports the choir's participation in our Sunday services. Invite your friends! Tickets: \$20 (Low income – pay what you can.) Available at the door.

GREEN FUND HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR – TODAY AND TONIGHT: Come and shop at our 2016 Holiday Craft Fair – support the Green Fund and artisans from our own congregation. Discover lots of great cards, jewellery, hand-made soaps, candles, pottery, hand knit sweaters and scarves, hand-painted silk scarves, wicca items, photos, baked goods, organic coffee, Mexican sweets, and more. Visit us before and after services today or before and after tonight's Advent Concert. 10% of proceeds go to Environment Committee Green Fund which supports greening the church – installing solar panels at UCV is our latest project.

FORUM, FIRESIDE, 12:30 – 1:30 PM

How (Not) to Build Support for Climate Policy - Professor Per Espen Stoknes shares his research as a psychologist and economist on the importance of effective methods of communication to change public debate and policy concerning climate change. He discusses people's responses to the science of climate change: under what conditions will people act for the long term and in a manner informed by what they clearly understand about climate change? This lecture has the potential to shift our understanding of how to respond and campaign most effectively towards a sustainable future for all. The forum includes the video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yRRIpBJQ0s>) followed by group discussion. *Sponsored by the UCV Enviro Committee*

2017 MULTIFAITH CALENDARS now available for purchase before and after the service in Hewett Hall! Beautiful, art filled calendars include notes about festivals each month from world religions of all kinds. They make wonderful gifts! \$15 each or 2 for \$25. All proceeds support the Children and Youth programming.

ART IN THE CHURCH: UCV's annual art show. Nov 20—Dec 17 in the Sanctuary and Nov 27—Dec 31 in the Fireside room. Mixed media.

—*Chris Pearce and Caede Pungente, Co-Chairs, Arts committee*

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: We are committed to providing safe, compassionate, age-appropriate programming for all children and youth who attend or visit UCV. Our goal is to find the Fun with Meaning! Sunday morning classes and childcare are provided free of charge as part of the mission of this congregation. Everyone attends the start of service together through the chalice lighting, opening hymn, and story for all ages.

After the story children ages 3-12 proceed to the lower level of Hewett Centre for their classes: Chalice Children (age 3-6);

Stardust Origins (ages 7-9 and 10-12).

Childcare is available for children, up to age three, between 10:45 and 12:30 in Servetus Room on the main floor of Hewett Centre opposite the library.

Children and babies are welcome to remain with their parents/guardians through the service if they prefer.

Please meet your child downstairs after the service: children under age 9 will remain in class until met by a responsible family member.

YOUTH GROUP: Our High School Youth Group (grades 8-12) meets from 1—3 pm each Sunday in Hitschmanova on the lower level of Hewett Centre. Our Youth Group is led collaboratively by the youth and trained advisors. They explore issues of faith development, social justice, life experiences, trials, tribulations and joys of navigating life—and they always include a good measure of fun and games. All youth members and visitors are welcome anytime.

MEDITATION: Join us for the Sunday morning sitting meditation at 10—10:45 am. There is brief guidance at the beginning of each sit. In consideration of others, please try to come on time. Any inquiries can be sent to victoriaoginski@gmail.com.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECURITY AT UCV

A task force is working on increasing the security of the UCV campus. Dianne Crosbie (Buildings & Grounds), Karen Bartlett (Board), Hunter MacNiven (Administrator), and Caede Pungente (Arts Committee) are inviting a submission from a security firm regarding new access procedures. We also met with the Vancouver Police Department community liaison for our neighbourhood area.

The challenges for churches in particular is inherent in the reason we exist! We want to be open and welcoming and have a public face, and the reality of Vancouver in 2016 is that neighbourhoods are changing. For example, the VPD told us that due to redevelopment, there are many vacant houses in our neighbourhood that result in fewer “eyes” on the street, and knowing who our neighbours are.

Going forward, be welcoming, but be careful about locking up, and knowing who is in the building. It’s OK to ask a friendly question “Can I help you?” if you don’t recognize someone or question why that person would be in the building at that time.—*Karen Bartlett*

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS A PLOW ON THEIR VEHICLE and can help clear the lot, should it snow, for a reasonable fee? If so, please contact the office, 604-261-7204 or info@vancouverunitarians.ca

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS to usher for the Christmas Eve Service on December 24, 7 pm. If you can arrive by 6:30 pm to help greet people and assist in taking the collection, please contact Denise Nereida, ditzah@telus.net, 604-731-7630.

UCV TO UPDATE OUR FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS: The UCV Board is looking for a few people to work together to review our Constitution and By-Laws to modernize them and bring them into conformance with the new Societies Act. A small task force has already been formed and Geoff Gomery will support it and guide it. Ideally, the task force would have a mix of long-time members and new members. Please contact paul@prescod.net if you would like to join or even co-chair this important initiative.

UCV COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE HAS A VACANT CHAIR! This is a fine committee with hard working folk, producing the UCV website and UCV Events, among other things. As of January 1, it requires a coordinator to call infrequent meetings, submit an annual report, and to keep the bits together. Please email Connie, cwigmore1@shaw.ca, for further information or to state your interest.

ONE OF UCV'S CARETAKERS, MARCUS HYNES, has recently taken over the Office Assistant position here at UCV. If you have not yet been acquainted with him, please feel free to stop by and say hello. He works in the office Monday through Thursday, 9:30 am – 2 pm. We'd love to see you! –Hunter MacNiven

JOIN US IN MAKING WREATHS AND SWAGS that will decorate the Sanctuary over the festive season.

When: Saturday December 17, 2016, 9:30—11:30 am.

Where: Lindsey-Priestley Room, Hewett Centre.

What: Bring garden gloves and clippers, if you have them. Greenery and decorations provided but please feel free to contribute your own. Coffee/tea and snacks provided. Further information contact Dianne Crosbie, dcrosbie@uniserve.com

TRUCK OR VAN REQUIRED to transport the UCV ping-pong table to where a generous member has arranged to have it repaired. If you may be able to help, please contact Hunter at the church office. Many thanks. hunter@vancouverunitarians.ca

OUR RE PROGRAM IS LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS FOR OUR CHILDCARE ROOM AND PRESCHOOL CLASS: infant bouncy seat; infant play mat; dramatic play props; ethnically diverse dolls (clothed). Please see Kiersten Moore before or after the service.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH for coming and enjoying *Love Soup* last Sunday!

A big thank you goes to those committed helpers! Because of you, we can keep going! Next *Love Soup* is December 18. Please mark your calendars.

THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE HAS DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES FOR CHURCH BULLETIN BOARDS: Postings by anyone not affiliated with the church or a committee are not permitted. If the church affiliation is not self-evident, an explanatory label should be attached to identify the church sponsor. (Labels in pocket at lower right of bulletin board.)

The maximum size of community notices is 8.5 x 11 letter size. (The size of posters in committee areas is up to the committee.) The size of posters/displays referring specifically to church matters is up to the discretion of the committee sponsoring the posters.

Any questions regarding these guidelines may be referred to Connie, cwigmore1@shaw.ca.



WE ALWAYS WELCOME FEEDBACK on our worship services:
worship@vancouverunitarians.ca, Sincerely, UCV Worship Services Committee



FACEBOOK ANYONE? Many of our UCV events are posted on Facebook. Please sign up, like, comment and, most importantly, invite your friends.

facebook.com/UCVancouver/events

ARE: CHRONIC PAIN SUPPORT GROUP: What do we say when we don't want to appear foolish or unkind? I understand that if one hasn't ever really been in pain, it might be hard to imagine what it is like. It is okay to ask about the pain. It is not that elephant we like to have living in our room—that is something else. Talking about our pain is good. Being a friend to someone in debilitating pain may seem boring or scary or hard on the patience but remember chronic pain so easily leads to isolation. Isolation leads to depression. Pain, isolation, and depression can be fatal. A simple visit from you can not only be a distraction from the pain, but also helps to break the pain, isolation, depression cycle.

If you know someone who would benefit from a support group for people and run by people living with chronic pain, tell she or he to visit the Fireside Room, Thursdays at 11 am. If mornings are a difficult time of day, I am available to talk 604-818-5994
skdalgleish@gmail.com



EVERY YEAR AIDS VANCOUVER holds out annual Holiday Grocery Event. On Tuesday, December 13th from 8AM to 5PM we will be providing almost 800 HIV positive people with their Holiday Grocery needs. And we need your help! If you would like to get involved with this meaningful and fun day please look for the sign-up sheets to be distributed during the service.

Rev. Laura Imayoshi is the affiliated community minister at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver and has been working with AIDS Vancouver since 2011.

UCV CARE AND CONCERN ANNOUNCEMENT

A new way to reach out in time of need:

“If you or others in the congregation are in need of support in times of transition, loss, illness, moving, etc.,

please contact: careandconcern@vancouverunitarians.ca”

sincerely, Rev. Steven Epperson

OUTSIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORLD FEDERALISTS: Walter Dorn, Professor of Defence Studies at the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) and Canadian Forces College, Toronto and President, World Federalist Movement Canada will speak on Trump election and World government future. Fireside Room, Thursday, December 15, 7:30 pm. Duncan Graham, 604-306-5785

A REMINDER TO ALL

Please keep the doors locked at all times
and keep watch over personal items!

In the Beginning...

The atoms of our bodies are traceable to ancient stars...
The Universe is within us.

Join the children's RE program
in their pageant presentation of

We Are Stardust

If you love putting together scenery, costumes or sound or
performing on stage, We Need You.

Rehearsals and creation: December 11th and 17th

Performance: Sunday Service, December 18th

If you can help please return this sheet to Kiersten Moore:

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Warm Welcome!

Please visit our Visitors' Table and get a nametag in the Sanctuary foyer. Drop by the Welcome Table in Hewett Centre after the service and stay for coffee or tea and friendly conversation. Learn about our church and our community. Look for people wearing yellow nametags, who are welcoming you today.

If you are a new family visiting with children or babies, we look forward to welcoming you in person. Free childcare is available for children 3 and under, and children 4 and over are invited to join in this week's program activities. Children are also welcome to stay for the church service if they prefer. If you feel that you need to slip out of the service with a crying baby, please feel free to rejoin the service at any time. The service can also be heard in the foyer and in Hewett Centre.

SUPPORT TEAM TODAY

COFFEE SET UP AND SERVERS	Adele Cleverdon, Catherine Stewart
FLOWERS	Christ Pearce
LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL	Jean Stanton, Randall MacKinnon
LUNCH	Youth Group
ORDER OF SERVICE	Hunter MacNiven
SOUND	Rob Taylor
GREETERS	Ursula Litzcke, Denise Nereida, Melody Mason, Gerda Schulz
WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE	Geoff Rempel, Huguette Sansonet

STAFF

PARISH MINISTER	Rev. Steven Epperson
COMMUNITY MINISTER	Rev. Laura Imayoshi
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Kiersten Moore
CHOIR DIRECTOR	Donna Brown
MUSIC ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER	Elliott Dainow
CASUAL CARETAKERS	James Wilson, Ben Yeung, Mark Klassen, Paul Nash, Matt Yeung
CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR	Hunter MacNiven
OFFICE ASSISTANT	Marcus Hynes
BOOKKEEPER	Collene Harris
SUNDAY RECEPTIONISTS	Virginia Crabill, Robert Schultz
UCV LAY CHAPLAINS	Nan Gregory, Sherry King, Louise Bunn

The red pulpit hanging is a gift from our partner church in Brassó, Romania.

The Unitarian Church of Vancouver

We are a community of diverse beliefs and shared values.

In fellowship with one another, we seek spiritual growth, social justice, and environmental sustainability through worship, ethical action, education, and artistic expression. We welcome all who would join this compassionate and visionary community

The UCV campus is a Smoke-Free Environment