

Image credit: The “Cosmic Web”: galaxy clusters and connecting filaments

The Important Stuff is Invisible

Rev. Steven Epperson

– November 27, 2016 –

UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER

Celebration of Worship

November 27, 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

Moonlight Sonata (1st mov't) Beethoven
Clair de Lune Debussy
E. Dainow, piano

Opening Words/Greeting Our Neighbours

Rev. Steven Epperson

Kindling the Chalice Flame

Opening Hymn #27

I am That Great and Fiery Force

Story for All Ages

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

Welcome and Announcements

Paul Prescod

Reading from the Book of Celebrations and Concerns

Paul Prescod

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

The Galaxy Song
Eric Idle & John Du Prez
Gavin Grandish & E. Dainow

Meditation, Spoken then Silent

Rev. Steven Epperson

Musical Response

To the Rising Sun Trygve Torjussen
E. Dainow, piano

Sermon

The Important Stuff is Invisible Rev. Steven Epperson

Closing Hymn #304

A Fierce Unrest

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.*

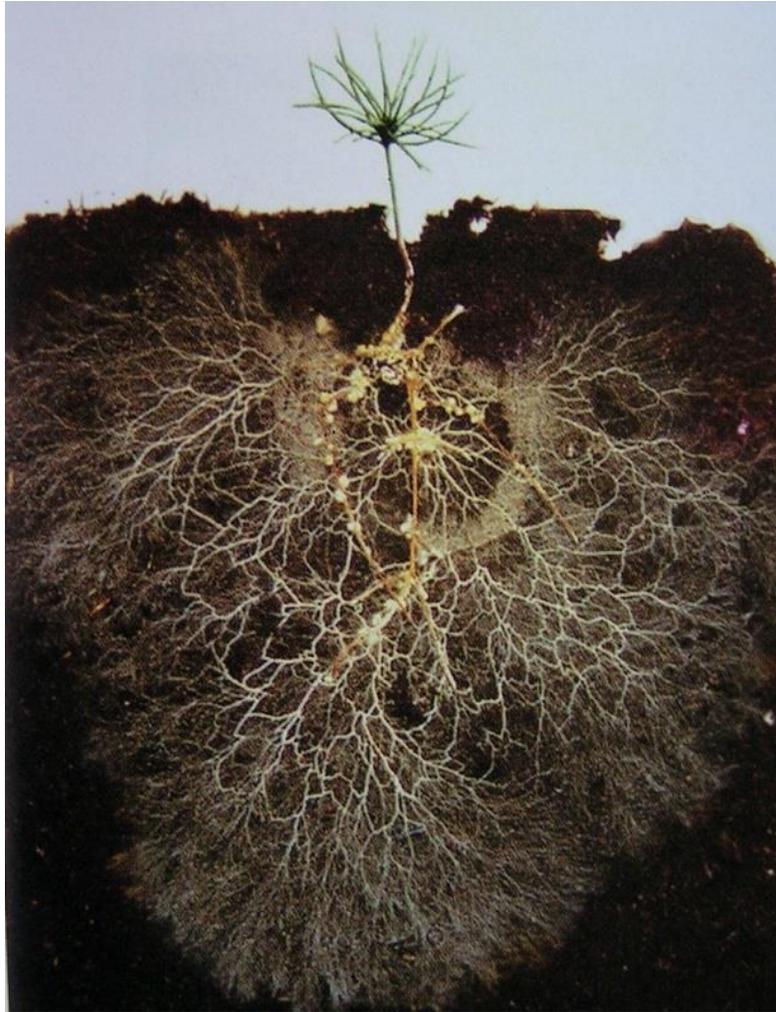


Image Credit: Seedling with roots and mycorrhizal fungi network

Next Sunday Service: December 4, 2016, 11 am

A Unitarian Christmas?

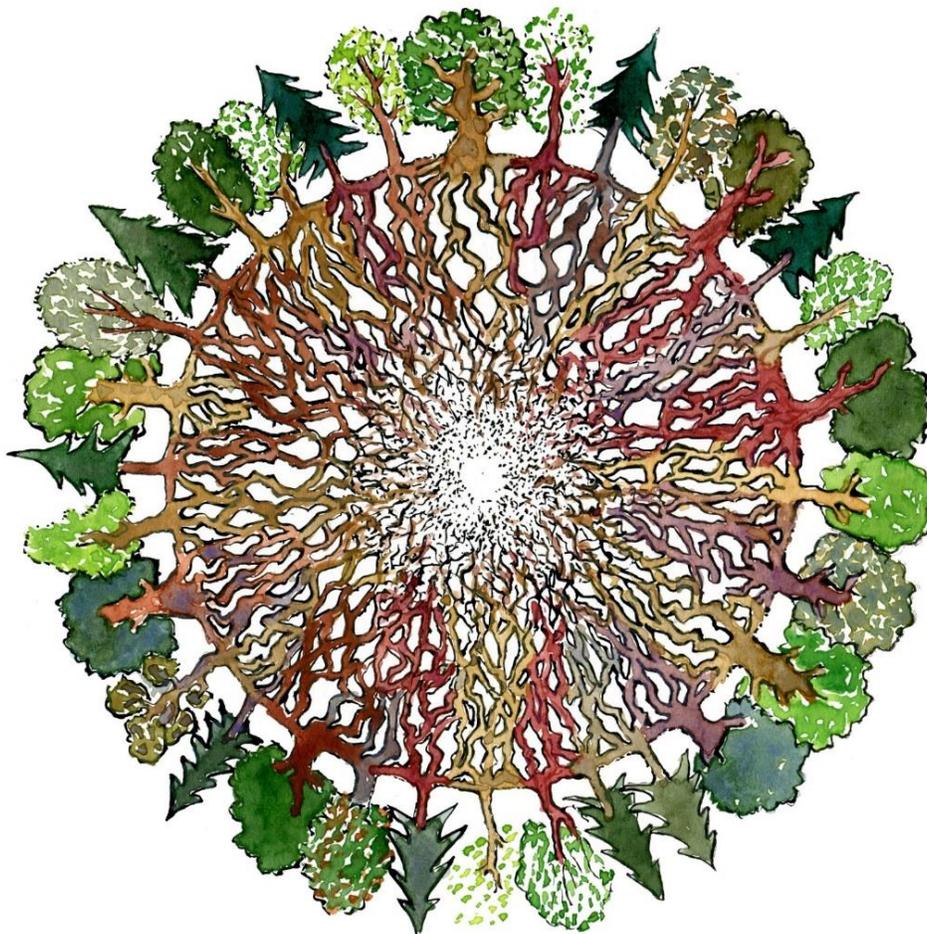
Rev. Steven Epperson

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

To subscribe to the email version of the *UCV Events & Order of Service* write:
ucvevents@gmail.com. Please include your name.

First Advent Sunday Services 2002-15

2002	Evolution
2003	Birth of the Moon
2004	Life from the Seas
2005	Plate Tectonics
2006	Size of the Universe/Sea of Knowledge
2007	Cell: Smallest Living Thing
2008	The Astonishing Atom
2009	Photosynthesis
2010	The Feeling Brain
2011	Teenage Brain
2012	View from the Center of the Universe
2013	The Advent of Us: How We Became Human
2014	On Human Consciousness and Goodness
2015	A Dangerous “Advent?”



UCV Upcoming Seasonal Events

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



Dec. 4 *11 am* *Worship Service*
“A Unitarian Christmas?” How a bunch of “non-believers(?)” helped to inspire, create, and revive the Christmas Holiday. No kidding!

Dec. 4 *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...”

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.

NOVEMBER 27, 2016

A REMINDER TO ALL

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

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.

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: Nov 20—Dec 17 in the Sanctuary and Nov 27—Dec 31 in the Fireside room is UCV’s annual art show. Mixed media.

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

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.

FORUM, FIRESIDE, 12:30 – 1:30 PM

How Can We Farm Sustainably?

BC policy has focused on protecting farm land, not farmers. This forum will focus on personal and political changes that might allow sustainable farming on the land we preserve.

UCV member Michael Bomford is a faculty member in the Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems program at [Kwantlen Polytechnic University](#). His work focuses on organic and sustainable agriculture systems suitable for adoption by small farms operating with limited resources. His projects examine practical ways to reduce food system energy use and meet farm energy needs using renewable resources produced on-farm.

Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee

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*

CHALICE CHOIR ANNUAL ADVENT CONCERT: *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 from any choir member or at the door. Note: tickets will be on sale TODAY after church in Hewett Centre.

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.

DECEMBER 8 FORUM - VIDEO AND DISCUSSION: *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

ACTIVISTS ACROSS THE AGES: A GATHERING AND FEAST:

Thurs., Dec. 8, 6 pm in the Hewett Centre.

The Environment and Social Justice Committees are inviting local activists and UCV members to share an evening of food, entertainment and storytelling. Are there similarities between Vietnam and Kinder Morgan? Standing Rock and the Civil Rights movement? What can we learn? Potluck dinner. Babysitting available.

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.

GREEN FUND HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR – DEC. 4 AND DEC. 11: Discover candles, jewellery, pottery, hand-made soaps, hand knit sweaters and scarves, hand-painted silk scarves, wicca items, photos, lots of great cards, baked goods, organic coffee, Mexican sweets, and some surprises. Artisans are mostly from our own congregation and others were vendors at the Oak Street Farmers' Market. Visit us before and after services on Dec. 4 and 11 or before and after the choir concert on Dec. 4. 10% of proceeds go to Environment Committee Green Fund which supports greening the church – installing solar panels at UCV is our latest project.

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.

ARE: CHRONIC PAIN SUPPORT GROUP: If you live with chronic pain day in day out, and would find it helpful to talk with others who live with the same, as well as explore options for more pain-free days or help with government forms or red tape, join us Thursdays at 10:30 am in the Fireside Room. –Sharon, skdalgleish@gmail.com



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

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.

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

DEMONSTRATION: The *Alinker* is a new 3 wheeled device that allows the elderly and physically challenged to become more mobile and independent. There will be a demonstration at the Unitarian church on Sunday, Nov. 27, at noon until 1 pm.

For info, see www.thealinker.com

WE ALWAYS WELCOME FEEDBACK on our worship services:

worship@vancouverunitarians.ca, Sincerely, UCV Worship Services Committee

A scenic night photograph of a log cabin on a lake with a forest in the background. The cabin is illuminated from within, and its reflection is visible in the water. The background shows a dense forest of evergreen trees under a dark, starry sky.

Singing the Season

Chalice Choir Advent Concert

Sunday, Dec. 4, 2016

7:30 pm

Unitarian Church of Vancouver

Oak & 49th

Featuring
Bach's Cantata BWV 140
Wachet Auf

Tickets: \$20
Available at the door
(low income, pay what you can)

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

Raj Pendakur, Pat Johnson

FLOWERS

Carolyn Innes

LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL

Aphrodite Harris, Hilda Wiebe

LUNCH

Environment Ctte

ORDER OF SERVICE

Hunter MacNiven

SOUND

Rob Greig

GREETERS

John and Rae Smith, Greg Grant, Gary Smook, Hilda Wiebe

WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE

Karen Brumelle, Paul Wright

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