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Beacons of Faith

Rev. Lara Cowtan

[Live streamed](#) from the UCV Sanctuary – **December 13, 2020**



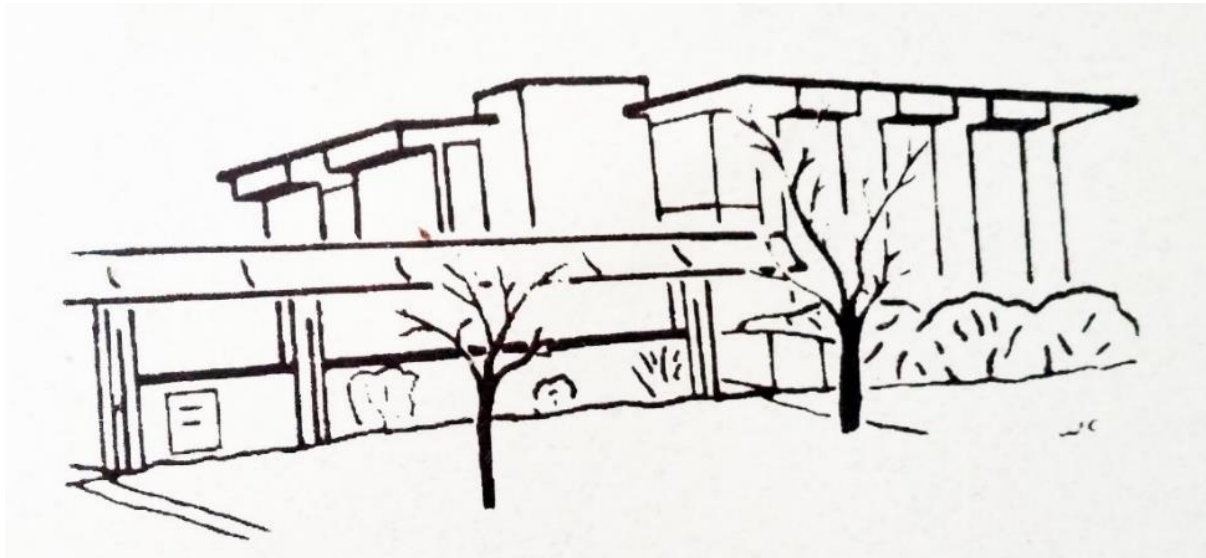
Sunday, December 13, 2020

Beacons of Faith

Rev. Lara Cowtan

Reflecting on ancestral stories in the midst of Advent, Hanukkah and Yule, a sacred time of hope that light will forever return after darkness.

Live stream link: <https://ucv.im/live>



Fall COVID-19 Updates

Following the provincial health order on November 7, 2020, we have cancelled or postponed all social events on the UCV campus for the time being. For more information and ongoing updates on our COVID policies, please visit:

<https://vancouverunitarians.ca/covid-19-update/>.

Questions or concerns? Contact the office at info@vancouverunitarians.ca.

****UCV HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE ****

Dear congregants and friends, please note that the UCV office is closing at the end-of-day on Thursday, December 17, and will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2021. The staff team is arranging coverage so that we can respond to time-sensitive matters.

Parents, Children, and Youth

How to continue feeling connected and renewed in this virtual pandemic time? The Children and Youth Religious Exploration team has programs and ideas in the works—The list below is all of our regular drop-in virtual connections with Zoom ongoing this Fall.

Please contact Director of Religious Exploration, Kiersten Moore, to be notified about in-person outdoor meetups and special programs: dre@vancouverunitarians.ca

Holding connection space for kids and youth requires adult support!

Please visit the website to learn how you can be an adult member of our Family Ministry team. There are both large and small roles to fill: <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/cyre-volunteer/>
Fill out the form to “line up outside Kiersten’s door”: ucv.im/RE-volunteer

Online Connection Spaces

Coffee Hour Breakout rooms: Sundays 12:00—1:00 pm ucv.im/coffee

Weekly all-ages breakout room for kid-centered space led by member volunteers: see friends, check-in and play games. Or join any other conversation group!

Children’s activity and check-in: Sundays 10:20—10:50 am ucv.im/kids-zoom

Beginning September 13th, Nan and Mairy co-host this time specifically for children ages 5-9 (any age welcome). Activity or story ties in to our Soul Matters theme of the month. See each other, share a story and a simple activity or craft that we can do together at home.

Tween’s Ukelele Social: Sundays 3:30 – 4:30 pm ucv.im/tween-zoom

Kids in grades 5-7 (ages 10-12), learn to play ukulele (instruments loaned from UCV), hang-out together with games and activities based on our monthly Soul Matters Theme. Drop in any Sunday and get a registration link.

Youth Group! Sundays 3:00—5:00 pm ucv.im/youth-zoom

High School Youth meet to share, explore, come up with distant game time, and generally connect. Drop-in any Sunday—from near and far.

Youth Dungeons and Dragons: Wednesdays 7:00—9:00 pm ucv.im/youthDnD

Exactly what you might think; an ongoing D&D campaign led by one of our youth, supported by adult advisors who are also in on the campaign. Youth-centered, multi-gen, role-playing fun. Contact [Olivia Hall](#) for more information, new characters are welcome to join.

If you would like resources for Unitarian-centered family time and activities to do with your children let me know using this form: <https://vancouver.breezechms.com/form/Sabbath-at-Home>

Celebration of Worship: December 13, 2020

Prelude	<i>Allegro (from Sonata op.13)</i>	Beethoven* Elliott Dainow, piano
Welcome & Announcements		Marilyn McVicar
Kindling the Chalice Flame		
Opening Words		Rev. Lara Cowtan
Opening Hymn	#1051: We Are	Chalice Choir Leads
Story of Hanukkah		Rev. Lara Cowtan
Community Candle Lighting		Laureen Stokes
Meditation, Spoken and Silent		
Musical Response	<i>O Maccabees, Maccabees!</i>	Trad. / Lyrics by Elliot Dainow Elliott Dainow, piano and voice
Reflection I	Mid-Winter Walk	Rev. Lara Cowtan
Musical Response	<i>They Live in You</i>	From <i>The Lion King</i> Performed by Patrick Dubois
Reflection II	UU Heritage	Rev. Lara Cowtan
Closing Hymn	#118: This Little Light of Mine	With Elliott Dainow
Offering: <i>We deeply appreciate your presence here, your offerings and the gifts you share.</i>		
<p>We continue to support the work of this congregation and our outreach opportunities recipient through an online offering. You may use <u>text-to-give</u> now (Simply text an amount to 778-771-1707 to get started today, or visit http://ucv.im/give for more information!) or <u>donate online</u> through our secure Breeze interface.</p>		
Affirmation of Gratitude & Special Recognition of Bequest from Virginia Crabill		Rev. Lara Cowtan
Benediction & Extinguishing the Chalice Flame		Rev. Lara Cowtan
Postlude	<i>Fur Elise</i>	Beethoven Elliott Dainow, piano
Valediction	<i>Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again</i>	

UCV COMMUNITY EVENTS

A LIVING LIST OF ESSENTIAL LINKS: The following is a condensed list of UCV community links:

- <https://ucv.im/live>: Live stream link for Sunday church services (active at 10:55am each Sunday morning)
- <https://ucv.im/order-of-service>: View an online version of the current Order of Service
- <https://ucv.im/coffee>: Virtual coffee hour – every Sunday immediately following the service
- <https://ucv.im/give>: Instructions on how to make a donation/gift
- <https://ucv.im/events>: The most frequently updated list of UCV events
- <https://ucv.im/sermons>: A text-based archive of past services/sermons
- <https://ucv.im/core-documents>: An online repository for important UCV documents such as board minutes, annual reports, and so forth.

Many of our community gatherings have moved online. For a complete list of upcoming events, please visit <https://ucv.im/events>. If you would like to add your zoom event to the list please contact Marie Witt at communications@vancouverunitarians.ca

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: Sunday, December 13, at 7pm. A UCV tradition! Worship, the spoken word, seasonal carols and music, featuring the Chalice Choir, honouring the festivals of December and the beginning of the new year. All are invited to take part via the livestream at <http://ucv.im/live>. We go from “Christmas With an Attitude” to “Christmas Full On” as well as recognizing other festivals of lights including Hanukkah and Yule/Winter Solstice. This is a favourite service of many members!

DEC 16 ACTION EVENING: December means the time of friends and family gatherings; a time of traditions. This year, however, we are in a pandemic, where everything that is 'normal' seems to have been thrown out the window. How are you handling this Christmas season? How are you dealing with feelings of sadness or worry? Do you see any silver linings to life during COVID?

Wednesday, Dec 16 is our last Action Evening of 2020 but we will not have a guest speaker. Instead, we will hold a Zoom Talking Circle (or circles) for you to share among friends your stories of how you are coping, your worries, and your hopes for the new year. Please join us by logging in 6:45 to 6:55 for a 7pm start. <https://ucv.im/action> (Previously <https://ucv.im/action-evenings>)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: Thursday, December 24, at 7pm. Please join us in this festival commemoration of Christmas! We observe this special evening with carols, candles, readings, and the spoken word. This is a special service full of meaning and peace; invite your friends and family to join us via live stream at <https://ucv.im/live>

UCV ONLINE HISTORY WALL: The Wall is building! What is your story? What brought you to UCV? What keeps you here? What is important to you? Go to padlet.com/vancouverunitarian/stories to add your reflections, pictures and videos. Questions, discussion? Come to the Coffee Hour UCV.im/coffee Breakout Room, after the service. Paul Prescod and other members of the Transition Team will be there.

SEWISTS, KNITTERS, MENDERS, CRAFTERS: The UCV mending hour is back on Zoom for the Winter! We are planning to meet twice per month (one daytime and one evening). We can show-and-tell what we're working on, dream up workshops that might be possible over zoom, watch tutorials, and generally share a social hour of craftyness to get us through the isolation. Everyone and all skill levels welcome. Dates and Zoom link: <https://ucv.im/mending>

RECURRING ZOOM GATHERINGS: All the gatherings listed at vancouverunitarians.ca/zoom-gatherings.

- Virtual coffee hour; Sundays at 12 pm: <https://ucv.im/coffee>
- Neighbourhood group connections; 1st Tuesdays at 7:30 pm: <https://ucv.im/neighbourhoods>
- Zoom practice sessions; 1st Tuesdays from 4 – 5 pm: <https://www.ucv.im/zoom>

UCV COMMUNITY ACCOUNCEMENTS

MANY, MANY THANKS to everyone who contributed to the special collection for our friends in Burundi at our service on November 22. The funds are going to the Rutana Women's project and so far we have raised \$3015. This money will go to purchase special sewing machines, rental space and a guard to protect the equipment. Alison Pearson (Chair PCC)

THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE is pleased to announce that seven new benches have been installed on the UCV campus to honour the following past and present members: Joan and Noel Armstrong, Virginia Crabill, Ann Foster, Wolfgang and Hilde Gerson, Tony Roper, Barbara and John Taylor, Lesia and John Voth. Many thanks to all the donating families who have chosen this way to both honour their loved ones and to enhance the UCV grounds. We can all look forward to sitting on these beautiful benches once we are able to gather in person again.



A NOTE FROM CARE & CONCERN: Some of life's challenges are pretty manageable. Others leave us feeling very alone and overwhelmed, or demand great contemplation. Our Care and Concern volunteers work closely with our minister to support members and friends who are in times of transition and need. We are here if you need a tender heart in a moment of sorrow, happy cheer in a moment of joy; a meal or a ride in a moment of need; or personal support in difficult circumstances such as: grief, illness, marital changes, isolation, etc. Contact Care & Concern (careandconcern@vancouverunitarians.ca) or Rev. Lara Cowtan (604-261-7204, x.223 / rev.lara@vancouverunitarians.ca)

OUR LIBRARY IS AVAILABLE! The door to the library is still locked for now but our librarian, David Buchanan, will arrange loans for members/adherents by either snail mail or pick-up at our 49th & Oak location. Just email David <davidfbuchanan@gmail.com> to let him know what you would like to borrow and he'll work out the details with you. Please note there is an "f" between David and Buchanan in the address. Happy reading!

A Common Read for Vancouver Unitarians: Transition Team members have been reading *In the Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations*. It's full of interesting stories about transitions, a wealth of information about the potential role of an Interim Minister and intriguing ideas for Vancouver Unitarians to consider. Extra copies are available for loan. Just email David Buchanan <davidfbuchanan@gmail.com> to arrange the loan by mail or pick-up. Here's an excerpt:

"Telling our stories is not an end in itself, but an attempt to release ourselves from them, to evolve and grow beyond them. We tell our stories to transform ourselves; to learn about our history and tell our experiences to transcend them; to use our stories to make a difference in our world; to broaden our perspective to see further than normal; to act beyond a story that may have imprisoned or enslaved us; to live more of our spiritual and earthly potential" (p 43).

UCV REFUGEE COMMITTEE NEWS: The Refugee Committee would like to thank everyone who supported our recent greeting card fundraiser. This initiative brought in \$3,000 all of which will be used to assist refugees that UCV welcomes to Vancouver through the Canadian Government Private Sponsorship Program. Keep an eye open for other fundraising projects that our committee will be bringing to your attention in the coming year.

SOUL MATTERS: If you would like to receive the Soul Matters Chalice Home packets supporting creating a home altar and guidance on monthly home worship around our themes please fill out this Breeze form: <https://ucv.im/themes-home> or contact Kiersten Moore, dre@vancouverunitarians.ca

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR NEEDED! The communications committee is looking for a new chair to work closely with staff and lay leaders. We need someone comfortable with technology who will bring leadership, creativity and energy! We promise to make sure this volunteer workload is an uplifting and manageable effort. Please contact Marie communications@vancouverunitarians.ca if interested!

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FUND: The OOF recipient for this Sunday's collection is The Treehouse Vancouver Child and Youth Advocacy Centre which has formed a multi-disciplinary team to intervene in and prevent child abuse and violence. The team comprises staff from VPD and three child and youth care agencies. Its' programs and services build networks and community support systems that promote safe and sustainable environments for children, youth and their families. A critical goal of the centre is to raise awareness of child abuse in Vancouver.

OUTSIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

LOOKING FOR MEANINGFUL WORK? The Memorial Society of BC (UCV Tenant) is hiring! We are looking for a compassionate, efficient person to help part or full time with office duties. Must be detail oriented and able to work independently. If you are a good communicator (phone and email) and comfortable talking about end of life planning, please get in touch for more information: admin@memorialsocietybc.org
We look forward to hearing from you!

Next Sunday Service: December 20, 2020

A Winter Solstice Story

By Kiersten Moore, with UCV Members & Youth

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:

**SOUND & LIVE STREAM TECH
CARETAKER(S)
FLOWERS**

Christian Malcolm
Edgar Silveira
Chris Pearce, Diane Donaldson, Lorraine Calame



We actively welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities!

Our Vision

Because we envision a more compassionate world, we seek to deepen our spiritual and religious lives, grow and enrich our congregation, and advocate for love and justice.

Living Our Vision

As Unitarians, we are dedicated to spiritual growth, social justice, and reverence for nature and all life. We embody these values through worship, ethical action, artistic expression, and religious education for all ages that aim to connect hearts, heads, and hands. Our congregation welcomes all ages, orientations, abilities, and identities in our joyous search for meaning.

MINISTER AND STAFF

INTERIM PARISH MINISTER
DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
CHOIR DIRECTOR
MUSIC DIRECTOR
CARETAKERS

Rev. Lara Cowtan
Kiersten Moore
Donna Brown
Elliott Dainow

Ben Yeung, Paul Nash, Karen Hertz,
Taka Shimojima, Vivian Davidson, Sam Shenher
Olivia Hall

YOUTH COORDINATOR
OFFICE COORDINATOR/ ORDER OF SERVICE
BOOKKEEPER
LAY CHAPLAINS

Marcus Hynes
Gordon Lowe
Laureen Stokes, Cheryl Amundsen,
Louise Bunn

Regular Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:30 am to 2 pm

Telephone: 604-261-7204

Email: info@vancouverunitarians.ca | **Web:** www.vancouverunitarians.ca

Facebook: facebook.com/vancouverunitarians | **Instagram:** instagram.com/vancouverunitarian

There is a new monthly e-bulletin! If you've signed up for our newsletters previously, you will automatically receive the new e-bulletin, but if not please go to vancouverunitarians.ca/e-bulletin/ to sign up or visit ucv.im/newsletter to see the latest copy.