

“The Argument from Intimidation is a confession of intellectual impotence.”

– Ayn Rand

“If you would have your son to walk honourably through the world, you must not attempt to clear the stones from his path, but teach him to walk firmly over them.”

– Anne Brontë

“Every major horror of history was committed in the name of an altruistic motive.”

– Ayn Rand

“She is always optimistic and resourceful, a woman who, if cast ashore alone on a desert island, would build a house with a guest room.”

– Edna Buchanan

# *What if Citizenship was Voluntary?*

Rev. Paul Beckel

– November 6, 2016 –

# UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER

## Celebration of Worship

## November 6, 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.



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

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### **Prelude**

Music by Rev. Mary Grigolia\*  
E. Dainow, piano

### **Opening Words/Greeting Our Neighbours**

### **Kindling the Chalice Flame**

### **Opening Hymn**

*Gathering Song* Rev. Mary Grigolia  
(lyrics on next page)

### **Story for All Ages**

*It Takes a Village* Jane Cowen-Fletcher

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

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Julia Myers

### **Reading from the Book of Celebrations and Concerns**

Julia Myers

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

*The Vagabond*  
R. Louis Stevenson / R. Vaughn Williams offerings  
Bryan Gick, tenor; E. Dainow, piano

### **Responsive Reading #645**

*Song of the Open Road*

### **Meditation, Spoken then Silent**

### **Musical Response**

*Learn to Fly* Rev. Mary Grigolia  
performed by E. Dainow, piano

### **Sermon**

*What if Citizenship was Voluntary*  
Rev. Paul Beckel

### **Closing Hymn #67**

*We Sing Now Together*

## Blessing of our Building

Adapted from “A House Blessing”  
Welleran Poltarnees

The RE preschoolers are doing a tour of the church today as part of their program, and would like to join us in the sanctuary to offer a blessing for our building and grounds.

## 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.*

\*I would like to thank Rev. Beckel for introducing me to the music of Rev. Mary Graglia.  
—Elliott

*Gathering Song*    Rev Mary Grigolia  
(Rev. Paul Beckel will lead the singing)

*1. We have led different lives  
We have led different lives  
We have led different lives  
And we've come to our own conclusions.*

*2. We have prayed different prayers (3x)...  
3. We have mourned different deaths (3x)...  
4. We dreamed different dreams (3x)...  
5. Let us walk arm in arm (3x)...  
for we've come to our own conclusions;  
yes we've come to our own conclusions.*

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**Next Sunday Service: November 13, 2016, 11 am**

# ***In Memoriam: Remembrance Day***

**Rev. Steven Epperson and guest speaker**

Chalice Choir sings

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](mailto:ucvevents@gmail.com) Please include your name.

**NOVEMBER 2, 2016**

**HOW WE'RE CHANGING THE WORLD!**

The UCV Environment Committee creates an Earth Day worship service every year, followed by participation in the annual Pilgrimage to Burns Bog.

**UCV LIBRARY BOOKS RELATED TO TODAY'S SERVICE:**

- The Art of the Impossible: Politics and Morality in Practice* by Vaclav Havel 943.7
- Creating Community Anywhere: Finding Support and Connection in a Fragile World* by Carolyn R. Shaffer and Kristin Amundsen 303.3
- Some Do Care: Contemporary Lives of Moral Commitment* by Anne Colby and William Damon 302.14
- Different Drum: Community Making and Peace* by M. Scott Peck 307

**CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:** Childcare is available free for the younger ones (aged three and under) in Servetus Room on the main floor of Hewett Centre.

**FORUM, FIRESIDE, 12:30 – 1:30 PM:** *Why (and How to) Stop Kinder Morgan*

Canada's inadequate GHG targets will be missed, and we're on track to trigger runaway global warming. We need zero new Tar Sands development, and zero new dilbit pipelines. At noon, on Nov 19 at City Hall we will march and rally to "Stop Kinder Morgan: No Consent: No Pipeline". Learn more.

Presenter: Karl Perrin, UCV Environment Committee; BROKE: Burnaby Residents Opposing Kinder Morgan Expansion; and Climate Convergence, which is organizing the Nov 19 Stop Kinder Morgan event.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A REMINDER TO ALL**

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

**OUR RE PROGRAM IS LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS FOR OUR CHILDCARE ROOM AND PRESCHOOL CLASS:** Music players—either a CD player or Bluetooth speakers; infant bouncy seat; infant play mat; dramatic play props; ethnically diverse dolls (clothed); and someone to make play-doh from time to time. Please see Kiersten Moore before or after the service.

**THE UCV AGM** will be held in the Hewett Centre  
next Sun, Nov 13, 12:30 – 3 pm. If you would like an electronic copy  
of the Annual Report or the Financial Statement,  
please contact the office: [info@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:info@vancouverunitarians.ca)

**BOOK BASH!** A big thank you to all those who volunteered for the Book Bash last weekend, and thanks to all who purchased books. We made over \$1150 for the church.

**CELEBRATE ADVENT WITH U FRIENDS!**

November Movable Feast information: **WHEN:** Saturday Nov. 26, 2016 at 6:00 pm.  
**WHERE:** El Santo 680 Columbia St., New Westminster. Just a couple of blocks from the EXPO line skytrain stations (New Westminster Stn or Columbia Stn). Latin American cuisine. RSVP to Karen Bartlett: [Karen.bartlett@ubc.ca](mailto:Karen.bartlett@ubc.ca).

**THE THIRD SUNDAY BOOK GROUP** is discussing Julian Barnes' *Sense of an Ending and the Noise of Time* on November 20<sup>th</sup> in Lyndsay-Priestly with Rhea Kikkert as facilitator. Please join us!

**MECHANICAL SKILLS REQUIRED** to figure out why the UCV ping-pong table doesn't fold down and fold up as it should. If you may be able to help, please contact Hunter at the church office. Many thanks. [hunter@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:hunter@vancouverunitarians.ca)

**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](mailto:skdalgleish@gmail.com)

**THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE** is endorsing *Pedalling Art* on Saturday, November 12, at Red Gate Arts Society, 855 E Hastings St, Vancouver. This is a fundraising art auction for two programs that provide bicycles to residents of the Downtown Eastside (Pedals for the People) and to seasonal agricultural workers in the Fraser Valley (Bici Libre).

For more info about these projects visit: <http://www.pedalpower.org/pedals-for-the-people.html> <http://www.bikecoop.ca/2015/07/bici-libre-repairing-bikes-for-migrant-agricultural-workers/>

**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](mailto:careandconcern@vancouverunitarians.ca)”*

*sincerely, Rev. Steven Epperson*

## **UCV Visioning Process Continues: and the Taskforce Invites You... to try your hand at writing a UCV Vision Statement!**

Please review (below) the responses to questions from our Vision workshops. Using these responses as inspiration, write a UCV Vision Statement in one-two sentences. The statement should express what our ultimate goal and guiding purpose is as a congregation—what we fundamentally trust in now, and aspire to be in the future. The Vision Taskforce will use the responses in guiding the creation of a UCV Vision Statement for review and approval by the congregation.

**Deadline: November 9.** *(Please submit your statement in hard copy on Sundays (a box will be in the foyer of the Sanctuary) or email them to [info@vancouverunitarins.ca](mailto:info@vancouverunitarins.ca)*

## **Unitarian Church of Vancouver – 2016 Visioning Survey Summary**

*Compiled from responses to survey questionnaires distributed to the UCV congregation in early October, 2016. What follows is a summation of the most popular or common responses.*

### **Motivations that brought you to UCV/What keeps you going here?**

- Seeking a progressive, non-dogmatic spiritual community to be amongst people of like mind – the church provides many opportunities for social, spiritual, and intellectual engagement
- Resonance with Unitarian Universalist values
- Seeking spiritual guidance, solace, and comfort following a personal loss or major life change
- A desire to be more active role in community affairs through advocacy for/participation in social justice, environmental, and refugee committees
- An intangible feeling of ‘coming’ or ‘being’ ‘home’
- Seeking a spiritual community that is welcoming to families, youth and small children
- Interested in religious education programs (both for adults and for youth/children)
- Appreciation of the physical space – the beauty and tranquility of the church buildings and grounds
- The ‘outstanding music and musicians’ (enjoyment of the choir was by far one of the most universal responses)
- Steven’s sermons/presence/personal approach to the ministry (another very common response)
- Familial legacy of Unitarian Universalism and/or referrals from friends and colleagues

### **What are the challenges and drawbacks?**

- A lack of ethnic/cultural/spiritual/economic diversity in the congregation
- Concerns over the aging congregation and the relative lack of young families and newcomers to the church
- Concerns over Steven’s retirement and succession
- Concerns about financial instability, both within the church itself and in the greater Vancouver area as a whole
- Several people were sensitive to what they perceived as pressure to contribute more financially – concerned that the church is exclusionary toward people in lower income brackets

- Several people commented that the congregation is not as inclusive as it could be, especially considering that inclusivity is cited as a core value of the church – they have had trouble getting to know people and navigating the social ‘hierarchy’, or have had negative experiences with some of the more longstanding or active members (negativity, cynicism, judgmental attitudes, factionalism/elitism, etc.)
- Concerns about too few people undertaking too much of the important work – paradox of committee members needing more help, but also being resistant to accepting it, especially from newcomers
- Lack of time/over-commitment in other areas of life prevents many people from being more active in church services or programs
- Travel time/lack of accessibility via public transit

## **Considerations/suggestions for the future**

- Focus on outreach and public engagement – build bridges with local organizations and institutions with similar values, as well as local aboriginal communities and other spiritual communities – in order to increase the overall strength and diversity of the congregation
- Work to further increase accessibility while minimizing environmental footprint of the buildings & grounds
- Consider bringing back the Adult Religious Education program (this was a popular response)
- Several people voiced a desire for more ritual/pageantry in church services or in church-sanctioned events
- Several people put forward the idea of ‘rebranding’ to remove the word ‘church’ and replace it with something more ‘neutral’, such as ‘community’, the rationale being that many people find that the word ‘church’ is triggering or has certain connotations (dogmatism, oppression, etc.) that people are resistant to or suspicious of. There are many people in the world today who are spiritually-inclined, but who do not resonate with the idea of a ‘church’ as it is popularly conceived – the idea is that since the UCV offers a non-dogmatic approach to spirituality that is open to and accepting of all cultures and beliefs, it should take efforts to distance itself from the word ‘church’ in order to better engage with young spiritual seekers.
- Coordinate a ride-sharing program to make it easier for people to attend on Sundays (particularly elders) – this would also have positive environmental effects as well
- Look for opportunities to create a Unitarian presence in other areas of the city – e.g, creating location-based ‘splinter groups’ of the various committees to help tackle local issues and increase community engagement, offering classes or talks in public venues, distributing UU materials to community centers and libraries, etc. As wonderful as the buildings and grounds are, there are concerns that focusing too much of the congregation’s collective energy within a singular location is not advantageous when it comes to community engagement
- Create more ‘fun’ opportunities to gather outside of Sunday services – circle dances, pot lucks, etc.
- Involve local government: invite local MPs to attend Sunday services/committee meetings, etc.
- Nurture stronger relationships with other Unitarian churches and the Unitarian Council of Canada
- Several people responded: ‘more of the same’. 😊

## ***A 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**

<b>COFFEE SET UP AND SERVERS</b>	Catherine Stewart, Susan Krug, Adele Cleverdon
<b>FLOWERS</b>	Chris Pearce
<b>LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL</b>	Jean Stanton, Randall MacKinnon
<b>LUNCH</b>	Refugee Family Sponsors
<b>ORDER OF SERVICE</b>	Hunter MacNiven
<b>SOUND</b>	Rob Taylor
<b>GREETERS</b>	Ursula Litzcke, Denise Nereida, Melody Mason, Gerda Schulz
<b>WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE</b>	Karen Bartlett, Brock MacLachlan

### **STAFF**

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