



Water Ceremony

Rev. Steven Epperson & our all-ages congregation

– September 10, 2017



UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER



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.*

Warm Welcome!

Please visit our Visitors' Table in the Sanctuary foyer and get a nametag. 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.

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 & strollers.
The UCV campus is a non-smoking environment.

TODAY AT UCV

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM: Children's Program: The Water Ceremony is inclusive of all ages within our Unitarian community. Children remain with their families today to participate in this Welcoming. Crayons, coloring sheets, and activity pages are available in the Foyer at the Greeter's table for any children who wish to occupy their hands during the service.

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.

2ND SUNDAY BOOK GROUP: 12:30 – 2 pm, Lindsey-Priestley Room - Errol McKinstry will present *15 Dogs* by Andre Alexis. Winner of the 2015 Giller prize, it's an allegorical novel set in Toronto about dogs gifted with human intelligence and language by Greek Gods Apollo and Hermes on a pub wager with surprising consequences. Universal themes to be discussed. All are welcome.

SEPTEMBER ART EXHIBIT & ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING: A Retrospective by Claire Babcock - Portraits from the Carnegie Community Centre in the Sanctuary and Fireside Room. Reception Sept 9th, 2 – 5 pm. There will also be an arts committee meeting at 12:30 pm in the Family Room. All are welcome!

TODAY'S FORUM: *Medical Assistance in Dying* – hosted by Jay Aubrey, staff council for BCCLA. 12:45 pm, Fireside Room. MAID (medical assistance in dying) became Canadian law over a year ago. Come find out about its background. Does it go too far? Or not far enough? Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.

LUNCH TODAY: Deliciously prepared and served by the UCV Refugee Committee. Proceeds from today's lunch help us to bring refugee families to Canada and assist refugee families who are already here.

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:

COFFEE SET UP AND SERVERS

Ann Foster, Amy Megumi Anderson

FLOWERS

Lorraine Calame

LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL

Kaelyn Elfert, Lindsay Udem

SUNDAY RECEPTIONISTS

Virginia Crabill

SOUND

Galen Elfert

GREETERS

Margo Elfert, Sakura Nandana, Setty Pendakur, Penny Pearson

WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE

Wendy Bryan, Naomi Taylor



Next Sunday Service: September 17, 2017

Living Our Vision Now

Rev. Steven Epperson

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

*Song for the Mira**

Alistair MacGillivray
with Jane Slemon & Elliott Dainow

Meditation – Spoken, then Silent

Rev. Steven Epperson

Anthem

The Road Home

From “Southern Harmony 1835”
Adapted by S. Paulus,
Solo: Nicola Hamilton

UCV’s Water Ceremony

Rev. Steven Epperson and UCV Congregation

Closing Hymn #1064

Blue Boat Home

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice Flame

Rev. Steven Epperson



The Water Ceremony/Ingathering. Our water ceremony, now celebrated at the beginning of September by hundreds of UU congregations around the world, first began in November 1980. It was created by Carolyn McDade and Lucile Schuck Longview to celebrate the “Women and Religion” continental convocation of Unitarian Universalist women in East Lansing, Michigan.

According to McDade and Longview, the ceremony entitled “Coming Home Like Rivers to the Sea” was “*Created by lay women, women who had long been silent in the pews. We gathered to worship in a way authentic and liberating to us, in a semicircle around a large common bowl. It was a ritual of women’s being connected to the universal symbol of water, a ritual of being connected to the totality of life... Making our way like rivers from places distant and near, we came together to give shape to a new spirituality that calls us to strength rather than just to support the strength of others; that calls us to action rather than to passivity; that calls us to full expression rather than to meek acceptance.*”

“Celebrating now our connectedness, we choose water as our symbol of empowerment. As rivers in cycle release their waters and regain new beginnings, so do we cycle... These new beginnings are powerful, but not easy. But still we come to create and to celebrate and to live by the only spirituality worthy of devotion—a spirituality that uplifts, empowers and connects.”

* I have long loved this song - having sung it as a chorister many times and also having accompanied it many times, but this is the first time doing it without a choir! I have included the choral parts in the piano accompaniment as well as the oboe part. I am so pleased that Jane offered to do it with me, adding her beautiful harmonies. – Elliott

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

UCV BOARD DEVELOPMENT: If any member in good standing is interested in being on the UCV Board, or would like to nominate someone, please contact the Nominating Committee at diane@rubyslippers.ca.

ANNUAL VANCOUVER ISLAND UNITARIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT will be held at Bethlehem Retreat Centre in Nanaimo BC on the weekend of September 15 to 17, 2017. The cost for the weekend is \$265. The workshop is *Write Your Life* with Lois Peterson and Maggie de Vries. Registration form with more information is at <http://tinyurl.com/2017NWR>. For further information contact Theresa at tmarion3@yahoo.com or [604-687-4864](tel:604-687-4864).

THEATRE FOR LIVING PRACTICE – INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP: With Rev. Meg Roberts. Saturday, Sept. 16, 10 am – 1 pm, Hitschmanova. We practice techniques in interactive, improvisational theatre. Wear comfortable clothes. RSVP Meg Roberts to confirm practice: 778-870-9015 or mroberts@uuma.org. Additional dates this Fall include Oct. 14, Nov. 11, & Dec. 16.

EARTH-CENTERED SPIRITUAL GATHERINGS: We are planning family-friendly earth-centred celebrations on the Sunday afternoon nearest the equinoxes, solstices and cross-quarter days. It will be: 2 – 3 pm ritual with song and dance; 3 – 4 pm nature-based activity; 4 – 5 pm potluck finger food. Come for just the ritual or stay for all three hours. The first one will be Sunday, September 17 to celebrate the autumn equinox. Mary Bennett maryinvancouver@gmail.com

CHALICE CHOIR REUNION: Sept. 21 @ 7:15, UCV Sanctuary: All former Chalice Choir members are invited to join the choir for singing, refreshments and a good visit. Former members may also join us in singing at the Sunday service, Sept. 24, but this is not required. Please let Donna Brown know by email if you would like to attend, at quinnbrown44@gmail.com.

WALK FOR RECONCILIATION: The 2017 Walk for Reconciliation Vancouver takes place on September 24th at 9:30 am, and UCV is a registered walking team initiated by Kiersten Moore. Our upper elementary students have the opportunity to participate in an 8-session Truth, Healing, and Reconciliation series beginning in October and this walk is our opening celebration. Please join us and show your own commitment to reconciliation, multi-faith connections, and to our children on this journey. You can find more information and our team at: reconciliationcanada.ca. The 2k walk begins at 650 Cambie St. at 9:30 am and culminates at Strathcona Park.

“Let us find a way to belong to this time and place together. Our future, and the well-being of all our children, rests with the kind of relationships we build today” – Chief Joseph

NEXT MOVEABLE FEAST: 6 pm, Saturday, September 30 at New India Buffet's new location, 901 West Broadway (at Laurel), www.newindiabuffet.com. To reserve a place at our table, contact Dianne Crosbie at dcrosbie@uniserve.com or by phone at 778-686-7987.



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

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, Mark Klassen, Ben Yeung

Paul Nash, Igor Santizo, Ken Godmere

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Aurora Eyolfson

OFFICE ASSISTANT/ ORDER OF SERVICE

Marcus Hynes

BOOKKEEPER

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Nan Gregory, Louise Bunn

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