



Fire Communion

Patrick Dubois & Léonie Armstrong

December 31, 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.

The Presence of Children is a Gift to the Church. Welcome!

If you are a new family visiting with children or babies please fill out a Children's Program visitor card at the Welcome Table so Kiersten Moore, our Director of Religious Exploration can be in touch with you about our children, youth, and family programs.

The average Sunday, everyone begins the morning together in the Sanctuary for the first 10-15 minutes. We provide multiage programming and special workshops for children ages 2-12 from 11:15-12:15. Community building, exploring traditions and values, questioning, and wondering are our goals. Babies and young toddlers may join us or stay with you in the Sanctuary.

Buddy Bags with a small stuffie, themed colouring book, and crayons are available in the foyer for use during the service. Please return them to the basket at the end; you may keep the colouring book. There is also a playroom for family use across from the kitchen in Hewett Centre.

<p>The seats in the rear of the church are <i>reserved</i>: (when facing the front) left side for those needing to slip in and out of the service, and right side for persons in wheelchairs & strollers.</p>

The UCV Campus is a non-smoking environment.

TODAY AT UCV

Services on December 24th, 25th, and 31st, are whole congregation worship—so we can celebrate together with our families and to give our children's program staff a holiday break. Children and Adult religious exploration starts back on January 7th at 9:30-10:30 am before the service for our 1st Sunday, First Hour workshops. The children will be celebrating the New Year with treats and a time capsule.

To parents and responsible adults may we suggest: Relax! Mother Nature put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in our church. We are here to support and nurture all who enter!

Sit towards the front where your child can see what is going on; backs of heads are boring! Help your child by being a role model. **Gently and quietly remind** them what we do in worship and explain what is going on. **Answer your child's questions** with a quiet whisper—they often whisper back.

Encourage your child to work with their 'Buddy Bag' to help them concentrate in worship.

If you have to leave the service with your child, **please feel free to come back**. We believe children belong in sacred spaces. The service can also be heard in the foyer and in Hewett Hall where a playroom is open for your use.

Nursing parents are welcome in any part of our buildings, if you wish for more privacy there is a comfy chair and a rocking chair in the Hewett Hall playroom.

YOUTH GROUP: UCV currently does not have an active community of high-school-aged youth. We do have trained and experienced youth advisors as well as a cohort of young people entering high school in the next year or two. If you are interested in Religious Exploration for this age group, please email Youth Coordinator Olivia Hall at oliviahmargaret@gmail.com or Director of Religious Education Kiersten Moore at dre@vancouverunitarians.ca.

MEDITATION: Join us for the Sunday morning sitting meditation at 10 – 10:45 am. There is brief guidance at the beginning of each sit. Any inquiries can be sent to victoriaoginski@gmail.com.

FORUM: Right after church – Happy New Year! *Out With the Old - In With the Old. Environmentally Correct Gifting and Repurposing.* Got a possession that is intrinsically precious, but has lost its magic for you? Bring it along. "If you loved something, set it free." And in the spirit of the season, give and perhaps receive something in return. Any left-over gifts shall be offered to the Refugee Committee. Info: randalmackinnon@yahoo.ca. Please do not leave any donations outside.

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:

COFFEE SET UP AND SERVERS

Theresa Marion

FLOWERS

Lorraine Calame

LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL

David Buchanan, Leslie Hill

SOUND

Hans Elfert

LUNCH

No planned lunch today

GREETERS

Margo Elfert, Pat Johnson, Denise Nereida, Paul Prescod

WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE

Karen Bartlett, Jenny Podlecki

CARETAKER(S)

Paul Nash

Celebration of Worship: December 31, 2017

Prelude	<i>Peg*</i>	Becker, Fagan with Patrick Dubois
Opening Words/Greeting Our Neighbours		Léonie Armstrong
Kindling the Chalice Flame		Léonie Armstrong
Opening Hymn #389		<i>Gathered Here</i>
Story for all Ages		Read by Léonie Armstrong
Welcome and Announcements		Marg Fletcher
Reading from the Book of Celebrations and Concerns		Marg Fletcher
Offering: <i>We deeply appreciate your presence here, your offerings and the gifts you share.</i>	<i>I Won't Back Down</i>	Petty / Lynne with Patrick Dubois
Homily: Part I		<i>When Night is Darkest</i> Léonie Armstrong
Congregational Singing		<i>Be Still and Know</i>
	<i>Be still and know the day and night. Be still and know the dark and light are one holy circle.</i>	
Reading	<i>Holding Too Tightly</i>	Léonie Armstrong
Fire Communion Ritual		
After the reading there will be a moment of silence. You are invited to breathe onto your rosemary sprig all that you are aware of passing out of your life at this time. Music will begin and the cauldron will be lit. When you feel ready, come forward and place your sprig of rosemary on the flame and watch the fire consume it, leaving something transformed behind.		
Reading	<i>In Between</i>	Kate R. Walker Léonie Armstrong
Meditation	<i>It's a Good Life If You Don't Weaken</i>	Downey, Fay, Langlois, Baker, Sinclair

with Patrick Dubois

Homily: Part II

Comes the Dawn
Léonie Armstrong

Closing Hymn #298

Wake Now My Senses

Closing Words/Extinguishing the Chalice Flame

Let Us Begin Again in Love
Lois Van Leer
Léonie Armstrong

Valediction

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

Note: Our Cauldron was made by sculptor and UCV member Louise Bunn.

*Songs were chosen to honor a few of the many influential musicians who passed away in 2017: Walter Becker (Steely Dan), Tom Petty (Heartbreakers), and Gordon Downie (Tragically Hip)

Next Sunday Service: January 7, 2018

The Future: Pessimistic or Optimistic?

Rev. Steven Epperson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

ATTENTION PARENTS AND ALL ADULTS: Rev. Steven Epperson and DRE Kiersten Moore co-coordinated our first “Being Unitarian Through the Week” session on December 3. Thanks to those who attended this very successful first Sunday Adult RE gathering. For all who’d like to join with us next time: *mark your calendars!* Our second gathering will take place January 7, 2018, 9:30 – 10:30 am in the Lindsey-Priestley room.

YOUR BOARD NEEDS YOUR HELP! To satisfy your New Years’ resolutions to help this congregation, we need someone to chair the nominations committee for Fall 2018 AND a chair for the HR committee, which will be vacant in January. Contact Marg Fletcher for information or to volunteer: mfletcher508@gmail.com

ANNUAL WOMEN’S GATHERING: Planned for early January – date forthcoming (please watch this space for more information). Drumming workshop (to be confirmed); 5-7 pm potluck feast; 7-9 pm circle dancing as well as ongoing activities. Also: regifting exchange; divination/meditation space; drop-in collage/vision board creation. Volunteers needed to help coordinate. Contact: maryinvancouver@gmail.com

CONNECT + ENGAGE: Contact Mary @ucvconnect@gmail.com if you are interested in joining a covenant group or neighbourhood group or otherwise would like to get more connected with other Unitarians...

LOVE SOUP: Thank you very much for your continued support. Please note that we are in need of additional help for the January 21 and February 18 Love Soup lunches while Amy is away in Japan – please contact the office if you would like to participate!

THE UCV BOOK CLUB will meet next on January 14th from 12:30 – 2 pm in Biddle to discuss Mohsin Hamid's short novel *Exit West*, which deals with contemporary issues of migration and xenophobia. Everyone is welcome.

THE REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE recommendation is ready for discussion. January 21, 12:30 - 2:30, in the Sanctuary there will be an extended forum with the committee and the Board during which we'd love to share ideas, concerns, suggestions with as many congregation members as possible. Childcare will be provided.

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.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FUND: The Outreach Opportunities Fund will be collecting for a First Nations organisation, *Warriors Against Violence Society (WAVS)*, from October until January. WAVS has been in operation since 1998 with the aim of reducing violence against women by helping men learn how to make positive changes in their lives. The program provides the opportunity for participants to share their stories and obtain support, and reclaim traditional values of equality, honour and respect for themselves and others.

REVIEW REQUEST: Do you use Yelp or TripAdvisor? If so, you could help the church by reviewing UCV on these sites to let people know that we are a welcoming and friendly community. Currently we have a negative review from a person who disagrees with our religious beliefs. *Thanks, Paul Prescod*

UCV CARE AND CONCERN COMMITTEE

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



Image credit: Signe Baumann



Image credit: Yuko Shimizo



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

Ben Yeung, Paul Nash, Igor Santizo,
Ken Godmere, Jennifer Débrosse, Ahmed Walwail

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Aurora Eyolfson

OFFICE ASSISTANT/ ORDER OF SERVICE

Marcus Hynes

BOOKKEEPER

Collene Harris

LAY CHAPLAINS

Nan Gregory, Louise Bunn

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