



Image credit: Steve Snodgrass

The Future: Pessimistic or Optimistic?

Rev. Steven Epperson

January 7, 2018



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 congregation. 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.

Most Sundays, 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.

The seats in the rear of the church are ***reserved***:
(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.

The UCV Campus is a non-smoking environment.

TODAY AT UCV

We gather together on the 1st Sunday of each month for whole congregation worship. On these days both children and adults participate in explorations, programs, and small groups at 9:30 am and then attend worship together at 11:00. **Today at 9:30**, children of all ages will be celebrating the New Year all together with our traditional Time Capsule.

Worshipping together is a learning experience for everyone. To parents and responsible adults, we offer some tips to help you and your children be at ease:

- **Mother Nature put the wiggle in children;** don't feel you have to suppress it in our church.
- **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. That's OK.
- Encourage your child to **work with their 'Buddy Bag'** to help them concentrate on worship.
- If you have to leave the service with your child, please feel free to come back. **We believe children belong in sacred spaces.** Rev. Epperson and UCV supports this.
- 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 building, if you wish for more privacy there is a comfy chair and a rocking chair in the Hewett Hall playroom.

TODAY AT 9:30 FOR PARENTS AND ALL ADULTS: Join Rev. Steven Epperson and DRE Kiersten Moore in Lindsey-Priestley Room **TODAY** at 9:30 am for our First Sunday Adult RE class on Being Unitarian Through the Week. We will continue our explorations of what it means to be Unitarian, what does church mean to us, and what does moving to Family Ministry look like in Small Group Ministry style on the 1st Sundays of January and February at 9:30 am. I hope you will join us and continue to share your insights and experience. In preparation, I encourage those planning to attend to take a look at the provocative and inspiring study (see the following link) that's making creative waves throughout the North American UU world.

Kiersten and I look forward to meeting with you 9:30-10:30 am in Lindsey-Priestley. *Rev. Steven Epperson.* Reading link: <http://bit.ly/2yq23Y0>

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.

COMPUTUTOR: 12 – 2 pm, Lindsey-Priestley room. Bring your curiosity, questions and computer/social media challenges. We will attempt to respond to raised issues. Particular focus this month: What applications have reached a critical mass? Resources: Paul Prescod and friends.

LUNCH TODAY: Refugees are helping refugees! Today's lunch is mostly prepared by a family which was sponsored by our church. The proceeds will go to the Refugee Committee

FORUM: 12:45 pm, Fireside Room. *From Haiku to Senryu, from Zen to Politic* with Jan Walls. Jan will give an overview of how the verse form called 'haiku' has evolved from a 17-syllable "one breath" expression of Zen Buddhist values to include expressions of wit and humour (senryu) and to haiku-like comments on social, economic, and political issues. *Jan Walls has a Ph.D. in Chinese and Japanese languages and Literatures. He is Professor Emeritus at SFU where he was Founding Director of the David Lam Centre for International Communications and of the Asia-Canada Program.* Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee.

* Tom Rawson has played here several times and we are always so pleased to welcome him and his up-beat enthusiasm. A folksinger, songwriter, storyteller and Quaker peace activist from Orcas Island, Washington, he wants to be Pete Seeger when he grows up. Armed with banjo and other weapons of mass delight, Tom leads group singing at camps, festivals, churches, community gatherings, and anyplace else folks want to gather and have a hootenanny. His email is tomrawson@gmail.com.

** This piece was suggested by Steven and it was written by a dear Utah friend, Mark Jardine. I transcribed it and reduced it to a duet version, and I am so grateful to Bryan for lending his talents to present it here today. Elliott



*James Rebanks on the family farm in the Lake District with his dogs Tan and Floss.
Photo: Christopher Nunn*

Next Sunday Service: January 14, 2018

Is Nature Thriving?
Rev. Steven Epperson

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

UCV MEMBERS ART SHOW: January 3rd to February 28th. Mixed media. Please leave your comments in the book provided. Thanks!

NEXT MOVEABLE FEAST: Saturday, January 7 at 6 pm. Location: Banana Leaf Malaysian Restaurant, 3005 West Broadway, Vancouver (at Carnavon). Please RSVP to Dianne Crosbie, dcrosbie@uniserve.com. Venue is wheelchair accessible.



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

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...

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS to help make the April 7th gathering of Lower Mainland Unitarian congregations at UCV a success! Some great plans are underway for the In-gathering, morning programming, lunch, afternoon programming, dinner, and evening entertainment. As the host congregation, we'll need volunteers to manage the kitchen & food, tech support, welcoming, billeting, site coordination, etc., etc. Please send your ideas, suggestions and offers of support to Lynn Armstrong at 778-835-2546 or lynnbea@gmail.com. Or, catch me after Sunday Services for a chat. Many thanks.

JANUARY 14 FORUM: *Renewable Energy in the Urban Environment, and the importance of "negawatts"*. Betsy Agar of BC Sustainable Energy Association will give us an overview of renewables in the Urban Environment, and then we'll take a walk through our Sanctuary, to start thinking about how we can make our own beautiful space more energy efficient. 12:45 in the Fireside Room. Please note change of subject.

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.

2018 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.

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*

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!

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.

A SPIRITUALITY OF RESISTANCE with Martha Saunders - Sat. Jan 20, 2018 10 – 4 pm \$70
Please bring lunch, refreshments are served. What do “good” and “evil” mean in a world enmeshed in human-caused ecological devastation and huge economic disparities among earth’s people? How can economically privileged people who seek to develop a meaningful spirituality and ethic resist the political and economic systems that create and sustain our advantages? **Location:** Canadian Memorial United Church, 1806 W.15th Ave. & Burrard St. Vancouver. Register: Programs@earthliteracies.org 250-220-4601 www.earthliteracies.org

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:

COFFEE SET UP AND SERVERS

Catherine Stewart

FLOWERS

Chris Pearce

LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL

Jean Stanton

SOUND

Rob Taylor

LUNCH

Refugee Committee

GREETERS

Ursula Litzcke, Denise Nereida, Melody mason, Gerda Schulz

WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE

Jane Sutherland, Dianne Crosbie

CARETAKER(S)

Paul Nash, Ahmed Walwail



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

RE STAFF

Doug Ennenberg, Olivia Hall, Julie Worden,

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Jannika Nyberg

OFFICE ASSISTANT/ ORDER OF SERVICE

Aurora Eyolfson

BOOKKEEPER

Marcus Hynes

LAY CHAPLAINS

Collene Harris

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