



Water Communion / In-Gathering

Rev. Steven Epperson & The UCV Congregation

September 9, 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 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.

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:

COFFEE SET UP AND SERVERS

Karen Hertz, Pat Johnson, Amy Megumi

FLOWERS

Lorraine Calame

LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL

Sheila Lindfield, George Atherton

SOUND

Galen Elfert

GREETERS

Sakura Nandana, Setty Pendakur, Penny Pearson, Denise Nereida, Hank Einarson

WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE

Dianne Crosbie, Eleanore Dunn

CARETAKER(S)

Edgar Silveira

TODAY AT UCV

MEDITATION: Join us for the Sunday morning sitting meditation at 10 – 10:45 am in the Family Room. There is brief guidance at the beginning of each sit. Inquiries: victoriaoginski@gmail.com

SERMON DISCUSSION, 12:15 – 1 pm at a designated table in the Hall. Newcomers/regulars welcome!

UCV BOOK GROUP PRESENTATION: 12:30 pm in the Lindsey-Priestly Room, Hewett Centre. Presenter: Judy Villette. Book: *A Girl of the Limberlost* by Gene Stratton Porter. Will this 1909 American classic hold our interest today? The subject matter: environment, poverty, family strife, romance, and education seem timeless. Can we still be inspired by a writer and naturalist with no formal education?

HERBAL TEA FROM OUR LABYRINTH GARDEN: Mary Bennett will have herbs from our garden for you to take home. She will be outdoors near the veggie garden from 12 to 12:30 pm. Drop by and learn what we have in the gardens! If you'd like to be on a waitlist for a small veggie garden plot, let us know. Three of our families are now tending a 38" square plot. maryinvancouver@gmail.com

FORUM: *BC Referendum on Proportional Representation.* 12:30 pm, Fireside Room.

Families with Children, Welcome!

Our Director of Religious Exploration, Kiersten Moore, coordinates a team of staff and volunteer teachers to provide programming for children (up to age 12) and youth (secondary school age). We build community, explore traditions and spiritual practices, ask big questions, and nurture individual power to bring love and justice forward. Visit our website for more information www.vancouverunitarians.ca or email Kiersten at dre@vancouverunitarians.ca There are many volunteer opportunities within the program and it is a great way to be involved, deepen spirituality, and build connections.

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.

Children and babies are welcome to remain with their adult family members through the service if they prefer. 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.

Children and Youth on Sundays

Everyone begins the morning together in the Sanctuary for the first 10-15 minutes of Worship through the *Story for All Ages*. The First Sunday of each month everyone remains in the Sanctuary for Worship together, 2nd to 5th Sundays children (up to 12) and youth (13-19) continue their Explorations across the courtyard in Hewett Centre. **Responsible adults must pick up children under age 9** from their classroom at 12:15, older children and youth will be released to meet their family in the Hall for coffee hour.

Toddler Watch Team

Trained volunteers are available most Sundays to attend to babies and children under 4 within the Children's Program. Look for the Children's Guide with the bright orange button or check in with the Leader—bright pink. You may join your child in Explorations if that works best for your family.

Children and babies are always welcome in our worship services. 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 explain what is going on, how people are listening or participating.
- 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 on worship.
- If your child needs to leave the service, 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.

Celebration of Worship: September 9, 2018

Prelude	<i>By the Brook (excerpt from Symphony 6) En Bateau</i>	Beethoven Debussy E. Dainow, piano
Invocation	<i>Gathered Here</i>	P. Porter With the Chalice Choir
Opening Words/Greeting Our Neighbours		Rev. Steven Epperson
Kindling the Chalice Flame		Rev. Steven Epperson
Opening Hymn	<i>#361 Enter, Rejoice, and Come In</i>	

Litany: A New Year at UCV Begins

Minister: We welcome the beginning of the 2017-18 church year and we proclaim that with this day, a new year in the history of our community begins.

Congregation: *The blessings of this religious community are open to all, young and old.*

Minister: Grace, beauty, compassion, spirit and justice can be present in the everyday – here and now - in the acts of service we share with one another, in the steps we take together in spirit, mind and heart.

Congregation: *With patience, reason, imagination, and good will, we can also move out from this Sanctuary and help make the world more kind, thoughtful, and just.*

Minister: We are here only for a brief time to dearly love life and to make a difference for good in our homes, in the congregation, and in our schools, places of work, and the community beyond.

Congregation: *The whole world may move toward restoration when we love, care, and learn from each other.*

All: *It is never too late to begin again. Let's do it here and now. So be it.*

Story for All Ages

Read by Rev. Steven Epperson

And today we all worship together!

Announcements

Léonie Armstrong

Reading from the Book of Celebrations and Concerns

Léonie Armstrong

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

Arr. Mary Donnelly
Members of the Choir

Meditation: Spoken then Silent

Rev. Steven Epperson

Musical Response/Anthem *Circle of Song**

By T. Turner, arr. J. Perry
With the Chalice Choir

Homily

Rev. Steven Epperson

Water Communion / In-Gathering

Closing Hymn

21 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice Flame

Rev. Steven Epperson

Valediction

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

* Please sing the chorus with us.

*Come, join with me in the circle of song,
The young and the old, the weak and the strong,
Singing with one voice, though we may speak
different tongues.
In the circle of song, we are one.*

*Viens avec moi dans ce cercle d'amis,
Où jeunes et moins jeunes, où grands et petits,
Chantent d'une seule voix à travers leurs
différences,
Dans ce cercle d'amis, tous unis.*



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.*”

UPCOMING UCV COMMUNITY EVENTS

PAGANISM 101: There are 3 places available in this 10-session program that begins the 4th Tuesday of September. Please register with Aurora ca@vancouverunitarians.ca Suggested donation \$50 to cover expenses. Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month (except Christmas Day) till June, 2019.

HEYUU MEN'S GATHERING: Every year several Unitarian and like-minded men gather at Sasamat Outdoor Centre for a relaxing and inspiring weekend of collegial creative connection. This year it is September 28-30. Find out more, and register now at heyuu.ca!

SEPTEMBER 16 FORUM: *Are We a Church?:* Starting the conversation By the Name Change Task Force. When we welcome folks to the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, are we really representing who we are? And are we really being welcoming to people of diverse beliefs and backgrounds? Is claiming the name 'church' the best way to represent our Judeo-Christian roots, and the beliefs of our congregation today? What else could we call ourselves?

We on the Name Change Task Force don't know the answers, but we think it's time to have the conversation. We'll share individual reasons why we're involved in this and what we're asking other congregations, and we want to hear your thoughts, concerns, opinions, and ideas as we begin the process of engaging the congregation in this important conversation through the upcoming year.

SEPTEMBER MOVEABLE FEAST is taking place on the 30th at 6:00 pm, and will take place at New India Buffet's new location, 901 West Broadway at Laurel. <http://www.newindiabuffet.com>. To reserve a place at our table, reply to dscrosbie@uniserve.com or call 778-686-7987.

UCV COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW ART EXHIBITION: Paintings by Richard Reiner. Self-taught, Richard paints in acrylics. He favors a realistic style with a preference for outdoor scenery. His works include rocky English Bay from Jericho Park and places in Richmond including the colourful Finn Slough community. On now though the end of September.

NEW BENCHES FOR UCV CAMPUS: The Buildings and Grounds Committee has approved the design for new benches in the public areas of the campus, replacing the remaining aging structures. A prototype is installed in the East Memorial Garden. The \$900 cost of this new bench is being paid for in part by a member (a larger, 3 person version will be more).

We invite other members and adherents to contribute to the funding for these new benches. Individual donations or donations from groups and families are welcome. A commemorative plaque can be included if there is a wish to recognize a person or a UCV project. Arrangement for a charitable receipt can be made. For more information please contact Michael Clague: mclague@telus.net

COFFEE SERVICE: Thanks to those who have offered to help. Much appreciated! We still have a couple of regular spots to fill. We need servers for the 3rd and 4th Sunday of each month. If you can't commit to be a regular helper, please consider becoming a spare. Please contact Eva Allan at eallan@telus.net or at 604-738-4062. **OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FUND NOMINATIONS:** Every year, the OOF Committee selects three recipients to be given 25% of the funds from the Sunday collection. Traditionally, the

committee has selected the beneficiaries of the fund but this year we would first like to seek nominations from the wider congregation. Nominated organizations must comply with OOF's selection criteria. For more information go to the UCV website, or check the notice board in Hewett Hall for nomination forms. Contact Melody Mason with any queries.

GENDERS AND SEXUALITIES ALLIANCE: (part of Connect and Engage Team) - to plan to recertify as a congregation welcoming to LGBTQ+ members and visitors, we are forming a GSA (Genders and Sexualities Alliance). We hope to work with the other three Metro Vancouver congregations to offer programs in 2019. In the meantime, you are invited to offer suggestions and comments to Mary Bennett sharingucv@gmail.com to ensure we are living up to the commitments of the program. You can see the commitments and some useful links here: <http://vancouverunitarians.ca/about-us/lgbtq/>



EARTH SPIRITUALITY GATHERINGS @ UCV: our latest e-newsletter with lots of events (circle dance, labyrinth walking, earth spirit rituals) is now posted at vancouverunitarians.ca/earth-spirit

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Office staff are looking for volunteers to provide a presence at the reception desk on Sundays from 10 am - 1 pm. Training will be provided. If interested, please call Aurora at 604-261-7204, extension 224, or email ca@vancouverunitarians.ca.

COVENANT GROUPS: Two groups (2nd Thursday and 4th Sunday) are accepting new members. Contact ucvconnect@gmail.com to be put in touch (or check event listings on web.)

OTHER NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS:

- New Westminister: Rob Dainow (rdainow@shaw.ca)
- East Vancouver: Mairy Beam (mairyelesbea@gmail.com) and Paul Prescod (paul@prescod.net)
- Richmond/South of the Fraser: Drew Lemen (lemen.drew@gmail.com)
- Westside: Jeannie Corsi – contact ucvconnect@gmail.com

Is your neighbourhood not listed? Would you like to meet Unitarians who live near you? Contact Mary Bennett ucvconnect@gmail.com for help at connecting with your neighbours. Mary can offer some suggestions of how to get started and facilitate introductions.

THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE is exploring the idea of creating opportunities for people to bring their small household appliances to have them repaired (as we are able). We would like to hear from those who have a talent for making your appliances work again. If you enjoy fixing things, and would like to volunteer, please contact tweedyx4@hotmail.com or leave a message at 604-733-0370 or 604-261-7204.

Next Sunday Service: September 16, 2018

The Religious Experience
Rev. Fred Cappuccino

The wall hanging above the stage was created by Donna Hamilton for the UUA General Assembly in 1995.



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 DIRECTOR	Elliott Dainow
CASUAL CARETAKERS	Ben Yeung, Paul Nash, Igor Santizo, Ken Godmere, Edgar Silveira, Vivian Davidson
RE STAFF	Doug Ennenberg, Jannika Nyberg
YOUTH COORDINATOR	Olivia Hall
CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR	Aurora Eyolfson
OFFICE ASSISTANT/ ORDER OF SERVICE	Marcus Hynes
BOOKKEEPER	Collene Harris
LAY CHAPLAINS	Lauren Stokes, Cheryl Amundsen, Louise Bunn

Telephone: 604-261-7204

Email: info@vancouverunitarians.ca

Online: www.vancouverunitarians.ca

Facebook: facebook.com/vancouverunitarians.ca

To subscribe to the email version of the *UCV Events & Order of Service*, go to
www.vancouverunitarians.ca/newsletter.