



Letting Go
Rev. Steven Epperson

December 15, 2019



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.

TODAY AT UCV

MEDITATION: Join us for the Sunday morning chi gong at 9:15 – 9:45 am in the Meditation Room, followed by sitting meditation. There is brief guidance at the beginning. Inquiries: victoriaoginski@gmail.com

SERMON DISCUSSION: 12:15 – 12:45 pm at a designated table in the Hall. Newcomers/regulars welcome!

ART FOR REFUGEES: Silent auction in the Fireside Room from Dec 1 to Dec 22 at 12:15pm. All money collected will go to the Refugee Committee. Artwork by Karen Brumelle.

GREEN FUND HOLIDAY ARTISAN MARKET/CRAFT FAIR: 10 am – 2 pm and 6:30 – 9 pm today in the Hewett Centre. Come find quality hand-made gifts and help support our Green Fund. Artisans are mostly from our own congregation. 10% of proceeds go to the Environment Committee Green Fund that supports greening the church and other worthy environmental projects.

LOVE SOUP! is on today! Please come to our friendly dining room in the Hewett Centre to enjoy a delicious and nutritious lunch. This is an easy and enjoyable way to support our beautiful church. Your continued support is sincerely appreciated!

DEC. 15 BOARD FORUM: How do YOU feel about the re-dev't idea - for? against? undecided? optimistic ("it's a brilliant idea to solve our financial woes")? pessimistic ("it could well be a disaster for our church")? Come to a sharing circle where everyone will have a chance to voice their hopes, concerns, excitement, trepidation, queries.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: This evening at 7:30pm we celebrate the turning of the seasons and the many festivities of December in this, our annual Candlelight service. Join us for this joyful event featuring holiday poems, prose, and music. A great event for all—whether we come alone or in the company of family and friends.

Families with Children, Welcome!

Vancouver Unitarian families connect, grow, and learn in many ways. Visitors, friends, and returning members are welcome to drop-in to our Sunday morning programs anytime.

Our children and youth groups 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 families@vancouverunitarians.ca



Kiersten Moore, Director of Religious Exploration

Children and Youth on Sundays



Everyone begins together in the Sanctuary for Worship through the *Story for All Ages* before leaving to classes and groups:

- Youth Group (ages 13-19)—meets 10:15 to Noon in Hitschmanova, lower level of Hewett Centre. Drop-in anytime
- Passport to Spirituality (ages 4-9)—meets upstairs in the rooms closest to the Hewett Hall entrance (Lindsey-Priestly)
- Crossing Paths (ages 10-12)—meets either in Fireside room or downstairs in the preschool.

A parent/guardian or adult family member 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.

Toddler Watch Team attends 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.

Children and babies are welcome to remain with their adult family members through the service. Nursing parents are welcome in any part of our building. You may join your child in explorations if you wish.

We offer some tips to help children be at ease in the Sanctuary:

- 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; 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.



Buddy Bags are available in the foyer for use during the service!

UCV COMMUNITY EVENTS

WINTER SOLSTICE/YULE CELEBRATION: Family-friendly! Thursday, December 19, 7 - 9 pm. Ritual, feasting, fun, lantern making, labyrinth walking! RSVP appreciated: <http://tiny.cc/ucv-yule>

NEW GENDER AND CULTURE GROUP: In this group, we'll talk about the influences that have shaped our gender identity and expression, especially role models like parents and cultural figures. We'll share stories about our gender journeys and discuss the role of gender in today's world. Starting November 11th, we'll meet on the second Monday of each month in the Lindsey-Priestley Room from 6:30-8:30pm. Please email Glenn Deefholts (glenn.deefholts@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us.

ANNUAL WOMEN'S GATHERING: Saturday, January 4. Afternoon workshops, 2 – 5 pm (limited space; register early); potluck and conversation, 5:30 - 7 pm; circle Dance, conversation, various activities 7 – 9 pm. Details here: <http://tiny.cc/ucv-women2020>. Must register so we can plan the space: <http://tiny.cc/jan42020>

COMPUTECH WORKSHOPS: January 11 and/or February 1, 1 – 4 pm in Lindsey-Priestley. Limited to 12 participants. Members of South Fraser, Beacon and North Shore are invited.

Registration forms with more details are now online here:

<https://vancouver.breezechms.com/form/compujan>

<https://vancouver.breezechms.com/form/compufeb>

UCV COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FROM THE MINISTER AND DRE: Strong backs and good will (for all ages). On December 28th beginning at noon, we need a volunteer crew to help move a UCV mom and daughter from Burnaby to a small apartment in Kerrisdale (with elevator). Many hands will make light, quick work of it. If you are able to help, contact Kiersten by December 15 at 604-261-7204, extension 225 or dre@vancouverunitarians.ca.



PHILLIP HEWETT'S SERMONS: Stanley Tromp has finished converting all of UCV Rev. Phillip Hewett's 1,200 sermons of 1956-2018 (and many other papers) onto digital files to a CD – now for sale at UCV book table for \$20.

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERS: UCV is looking for volunteers to help provide a presence in the office over the holidays (mostly to answer the phones), specifically on Friday, Dec 27, Monday, Dec 30, and Tuesday, Dec 31. If you are able to help, please call Aurora or Marcus in the office at 604-261-7204.

MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND VISITORS: Wearing a name tag helps others learn or remember who you are and encourages friendly connections. Please take the time to wear a clear nametag each time you're at UCV!

THE RECONCILIATION WORKING GROUP would like to thank everyone who donated to support Tammy last Sunday. Such was the congregation's generosity that we raised \$700 which has been given to her. After discussing with Tammy and others, the matching grant of \$700 will be given to the Aboriginal Mothers Centre in her name and that of her late son, Travis.

UCV MEMBERS ART SHOW: There will be a UCV members art show running this coming January and February – if you are interested in participating, please bring 2-3 of your pieces on January 2nd (with hanging devices included) at 10:30am. This will be a communal process – please help your fellow artists to hang the show. Thank you, Chris Pearce and Caede Pungente, Arts Committee.

CROCHET CLUB: Mary Bennett is bringing a basket of yarn and crochet hooks and samples to UCV every Sunday. Stars, poinsettias, snowflakes... More info and links to instructions here: <http://tiny.cc/ucv-crochet>. And of course, if you knit or do other handicraft and want to sit with us, you are very welcome!

MOMS, MOTHERS OFFERING MENTORSHIP AND SUPPORT, are supporting struggling young people in East Vancouver. MOMS used to organize the "Coldest Night Walk" to raise money, but will instead this year hand out "Christmas bags". They asked us whether we would help to prepare bags, filling them with daily necessities, like grooming and food items, or even with some toys. They are hoping for about 20 bags, big or small. The bags will be collected by Ursula on the Sundays Dec. 8 and Dec.15, before and after the service in Hewett Hall.

GREETERS NEEDED for Two Evening Events in December. The Greeting Team invite you to join them in welcoming members of the congregation and the many visitors to the Candlelight Service on Sunday December 15th, and to the Christmas Eve Celebration on Tuesday December 24th. We hand out the Order of Service, and take up the collection. These are very special occasions, and our contribution is an important one. If you can help, please contact Denise at ditzah@telus.net, or Margo at margoe@telus.net and indicate which evening you are available.

INVITATION TO JOIN THE GARDENING CREW: The UCV Gardening Team needs many helping hands! Join the crew on third Saturday mornings each month to spruce up our grounds. It's good for both body and soul as well as a great way to connect with other UCV folks. Chief gardener Patti Turner always has something delicious prepared for the communal lunch break at noon. Email Patti to get on the mailing list: pgaleturner@gmail.com.

OUR OOF RECIPIENT (OCT- JAN) is Sole Food. Its mission is to transform vacant urban land in Vancouver into street farms that grow artisan quality fruits and vegetables. By providing jobs, agricultural training, and inclusion in a community of farmers and food lovers, the Sole Food project has empowered dozens of individuals who are managing addiction and chronic mental health problems.

Do you receive our e-newsletters? If not, please go to vancouverunitarians.ca/newsletter to view recent newsletters (and sign up to receive in your inbox.)



“It’s not you. It’s November.”

Image Credit: David Borchart

Next Sunday Service: December 22, 2019

Holiday Pageant: *A Green Christmas*

UCV Children and Youth

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:

COFFEE SET UP AND SERVERS

George Myers, Joan Balmer, and Kathy Sayers

FLOWERS

Diane Donaldson

LUNCH

Love Soup!

LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL

Frances Anderson, David Buchanan

SOUND

Galen Elfert

GREETERS

Carolyn Grant, Ralph Theroux, Shirley McLeod, Denise Nereida

WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE

Philomene Jahnke, Janet Ericksen

CARETAKER(S)

Edgar Silveira, Igor Santizo



We actively welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities!

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, Karen Hertz, Edgar Silveira, Vivian Davidson, Marie Witt, Doug Ennenberg, Jannika Nyberg
RE STAFF	Olivia Hall
YOUTH COORDINATOR	Aurora Eyolfson
CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR	Marcus Hynes
OFFICE ASSISTANT/ ORDER OF SERVICE	Gordon Lowe
BOOKKEEPER	Lauren Stokes, Cheryl Amundsen, Louise Bunn
LAY CHAPLAINS	

"Please note that the UCV office will be closed for the Holidays from 2:30- pm, Tuesday, December 24th to 9:00 am, Thursday, January 2nd".

Regular Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:30 am to 2 pm; Friday, 9 am – 1 pm (by appointment);
Sunday, 10 am to 1 pm | **Telephone:** 604-261-7204

Email: info@vancouverunitarians.ca | **Web:** www.vancouverunitarians.ca

Facebook: facebook.com/vancouverunitarians | **Instagram:** instagram.com/vancouverunitarian

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