



## Religious Naturalism

Rev. Steven Epperson

*March 24, 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.



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*The prelude helps to create a spirit for shared celebration and worship.  
Please refrain from conversing and please turn off your cell phones.*

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## ***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 sitting meditation at 10 – 10:45 am in the Meditation Room. There is brief guidance at the beginning of each sit. Inquiries: [victoriaoginski@gmail.com](mailto:victoriaoginski@gmail.com)

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

**FORUM:** We would like to hear your thoughts on Zero Waste. In particular, “What would or are you doing to live without plastic?” and “What do you do with the plastic that you are living with?” The Zero-Waste team (sub-team of [Enviro Team](#)) will facilitate. We'll provide some materials, hints and sample products to inspire you to reduce your plastic use. [Sandy Riecken](#) as a resident in South Vancouver is hoping to submit a [Neighbourhood Small Grant](#) application to do a workshop at UCV. Tell us what you'd like! Sign up as interested in further events and have a chance to win a mesh fabric bag as door prize compliments of [Caede Pungente](#). Coordinator: [Mary Bennett](#)

**BOOK BASH:** The next UCV Book Bash will be held today March 24 from 9 am – 2 pm. There will be hundreds of gently used books in all genres selling from \$1- \$5. See you there!

**ART EXHIBIT:** March 1 to April 30 - in the Sanctuary and Fireside Room, inkjet prints by member Catherine Stewart. For the duration of this exhibit, 50% of any sales will be donated to the UCV Refugee Fund! To inquire about purchasing, please speak with Catherine or contact her at [stewartcm@shaw.ca](mailto:stewartcm@shaw.ca).

## ***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 at [www.vancouverunitarians.ca](http://www.vancouverunitarians.ca) or email Kiersten at [dre@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto: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.

**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 (nursery care is available during all-ages services), 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> 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 pm**, Youth Group runs until 12:30 pm, older children and youth will be released to meet their family in the hall for coffee hour. You may join your child in Explorations, but we encourage giving them their own time whenever possible.

### ***Colour Buttons Identify Teachers and Advisers***

**Orange:** Toddler Watch--attending to babies and children under 4 within the Children's Program.

**Green:** Children's Program Leaders and Assistants

**Yellow:** Youth Advisers

**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.



## **\*Choose Something Like a Star by Robert Frost:**

O Star (the fairest one in sight),  
We grant your loftiness the right  
To some obscurity of cloud—  
It will not do to say of night,  
Since dark is what brings out your light.  
Some mystery becomes the proud.  
But to be wholly taciturn  
In your reserve is not allowed.  
Say something to us we can learn  
By heart and when alone repeat.  
Say something! And it says, 'I burn.'  
But say with what degree of heat.  
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.  
Use language we can comprehend.  
Tell us what elements you blend.  
It gives us strangely little aid,  
But does tell something in the end.  
And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,  
Not even stooping from its sphere,  
It asks a little of us here.  
It asks of us a certain height,  
So when at times the mob is swayed  
To carry praise or blame too far,  
We may choose something like a star  
To stay our minds on and be staid.

## **UCV COMMUNITY EVENTS**

**POTLUCK BOOK AND LUNCH CLUB:** 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, Thursday, March 28 in the Fireside Room. Bring a couple of good books to recommend and some food to share. Some of us are vegan and gluten intolerant. Others aren't. No stress. Book chat, friendly conversation, eats. Drop-ins are welcome.

**PHILOSOPHERS' CAFÉ:** Friday, Mar 29, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm in the Fireside Room. This Friday's Fireside Chat will be *Contributing to the Common Good: Lessons from Jazz*. Invited Guest is Dr Brian Fraser of JazzThink. Moderator – Randall Mackinnon: [RandallMacKinnon@yahoo.ca](mailto:RandallMacKinnon@yahoo.ca).

**WORSHIP AS A BEACON FOR CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH:** A webinar being offered on Saturday, March 30, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm PT (12:30 pm – 3:30 pm ET). Cost: \$35 per session, \$30 per for groups of 3 – 6. See <https://bit.ly/2TjqCvH> for more info.

**JES TRIO LIVE MUSIC CIRCLE DANCE:** You've heard Jane Slemon and her trio JES on Sunday mornings and at other events. On March 30, JES will perform 15 tunes including originals and lots of "CanCon". Early-bird fee of \$25 extended for UCV members. Space is limited so advance registration recommended: [circledanceucv@gmail.com](mailto:circledanceucv@gmail.com). Curious about the playlist? Just search for JES on the website!

**SITE REDEVELOPMENT?** If you are uneasy about plans for redevelopment at UCV, please join a circle to share your concerns and ideas in the Fireside Room on March 31 at 12:15 pm. This will be a time to listen, not debate. Contact: Mairy ([mairyelesbea@gmail.com](mailto:mairyelesbea@gmail.com)) and Rob ([rdainow@gmail.com](mailto:rdainow@gmail.com))

**NEW TO UCV BREAKFAST:** Prior to the service on March 31, there will be a breakfast at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room for those having attended the “New to UCV Workshop”. UCV Committee chairs will provide information on activities at UCV. For those wanting to sign the membership book, Rev. Steven Epperson will witness your signature. For additional information, contact Dianne Crosbie at [dcrosbie@uniserve.com](mailto:dcrosbie@uniserve.com) or contact the church office at 604 261-7204.

**PRACTICING INTERACTIVE THEATRE FOR LIVING:** We meet monthly to practice techniques in interactive, improvisational theatre. Anyone welcome! Wear comfortable clothes. Next practice: Saturday, April 13, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm in Hirschmanova. RSVP to host Rev. Meg Roberts to confirm practice: 778- 870-9015 or [mroberts@uuma.org](mailto:mroberts@uuma.org).

**FEMINIST BOOK CLUB!** The next Zoom book club will be April 14 at 4 pm PDT. The book to be discussed is *The Red Word*, 2018 Governor General award winner for novel. Sponsored by Canadian UU Women's Association: <https://cuuwa.org/>. Local contact: Mary Bennett, [maryinvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:maryinvancouver@gmail.com). Search “women” on website for other news and events.

**GENDERS & SEXUALITIES ALLIANCE (GSA) POTLUCK AND FILM:** Join us on Friday, May 3, for a potluck dinner at 6:30 pm. We will show the 2008 documentary film *She's a Boy I Knew* at 7:30 pm. RSVP appreciated: [gsaucv@gmail.com](mailto:gsaucv@gmail.com). Search the website for “GSA” to see other news and events.

**PROMOTE YOUR EVENTS!** We are planning two upcoming workshops to help UCV teams get the word out about their events. Register on the web or contact [sharingucv@gmail.com](mailto:sharingucv@gmail.com). May 25, 1 to 4 pm: posters, flyers and brochures; June 1, 1 to 4 pm: design your team's web presence. For more details, see the events list on the web.

## **UCV COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LOVE SOUP:** Thank you very much for your continued support for LOVE SOUP last Sunday! It was very successful, with lots of donations from the Environment Committee's Intergenerational Gathering dinner on top of our usual contributions. A very big thank you goes out to our preparation and cleanup crews! Enjoy the beautiful Spring weather and we will see you on Easter Sunday, April 21.

**WANT TO ENRICH AND EMPOWER THE LIVES OF WOMEN?** Thirteen women participated in a discussion group at the 4th Annual Women's Gathering (<http://vancouverunitarians.ca/events/annual-womens-gathering/>) and decided to form two women's groups. Both groups are now full. Contact Sheila at [sresels@gmail.com](mailto:sresels@gmail.com) if you would like to register for a third women's group (date TBD).

**2019-2020 UCV DIRECTORY OF SMALL GROUPS AND COMMITTEES:** Wanting to get involved with a group but not sure what's available? Our updated Directory will help you navigate our complex Unitarian community. You can find hard copies on the Welcome Tables or in the office. If you'd like an e-version, contact Sheila R. at [sresels@gmail.com](mailto:sresels@gmail.com).

**UCV EVENTS PUBLISHER NEEDED:** Margo will be stepping down in June. For someone familiar with MS publisher or adept at learning, this task is about 6 to 8 hours per month. It can be done at the UCV office or at your home. Contact Mary [sharingucv@gmail.com](mailto:sharingucv@gmail.com) for this or other Communications team contributions.

**UCV NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS:**

- New Westminster: Rob Dainow ([rdainow@shaw.ca](mailto:rdainow@shaw.ca))
- East Vancouver: Mairy Beam ([mairyelesbea@gmail.com](mailto:mairyelesbea@gmail.com)) and Paul Prescod ([paul@prescod.net](mailto:paul@prescod.net))
- Westside: Jeannie Corsi & Sheila Resels – contact [ucvconnect@gmail.com](mailto:ucvconnect@gmail.com)
- Fairview/False Creek – Vivian Davidson ([vdavidsonsc@gmail.com](mailto:vdavidsonsc@gmail.com))

Is your neighbourhood not listed? Would you like to meet Unitarians who live near you? Contact Mary Bennett [ucvconnect@gmail.com](mailto:ucvconnect@gmail.com) for help at connecting with your neighbours.

**OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FUND:** West Coast Environmental Law (WCEL) will be the recipient of OOF funding from 1 February to the end of May. Over the years, WCEL has worked with communities, NGOs, the private sector and all levels of government to develop legal solutions to protect the environment. It has supported First Nations in articulating, revitalizing and applying their laws to protect land, air and water and has taken a leadership role in developing models for co-governance in BC and Canada.

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

**OUTSIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FARMERS ON 57<sup>TH</sup>:** Registration is open for our 2019 Grow Your Own Food Course. Starts Thursday April 4. Costs \$300 and comes with a 4' X 6' instructional plot, all the tools and supplies you'll need and 12 instructional sessions every 2nd Thursday, 6:30 – 8 pm. Urban farmers Karen & Jess guide you through every step of the season from soil prep, seed starting to crop maintenance and harvesting. Eat what you grow! Find more details at [www.farmerson57th.ca](http://www.farmerson57th.ca).

**Next Sunday Service: March 31, 2019**

*Owning What We Create*

*Rev. Steven Epperson*

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**THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:**

**COFFEE SET UP AND SERVERS**

Karen Hertz, Ingrid Luters, Amy Megumi Anderson

**FLOWERS**

Carolyn Innes

**LUNCH**

No lunch today

**LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL**

Aphrodite Harris, Hilda Wiebe

**SOUND**

Rob Greig

**GREETERS**

John Smith, Greg Grant, Denise Nereida, Diane Brown

**WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE**

Jenn Podlecki, Geoff Rempel

**CARETAKER(S)**

Paul Nash, Matt Yeung, Igor Santizo

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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

<b>PARISH MINISTER</b>	Rev. Steven Epperson
<b>COMMUNITY MINISTER</b>	Rev. Laura Imayoshi
<b>DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b>	Kiersten Moore
<b>CHOIR DIRECTOR</b>	Donna Brown
<b>MUSIC DIRECTOR</b>	Elliott Dainow
<b>CASUAL CARETAKERS</b>	Ben Yeung, Paul Nash, Igor Santizo, Edgar Silveira, Vivian Davidson, Matt Yeung
<b>RE STAFF</b>	Doug Ennenberg, Jannika Nyberg
<b>YOUTH COORDINATOR</b>	Olivia Hall
<b>CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR</b>	Aurora Eyolfson
<b>OFFICE ASSISTANT/ ORDER OF SERVICE</b>	Marcus Hynes
<b>BOOKKEEPER</b>	Gordon Lowe
<b>LAY CHAPLAINS</b>	Lauren Stokes, Cheryl Amundsen, Louise Bunn

**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](mailto:info@vancouverunitarians.ca) | **Web:** [www.vancouverunitarians.ca](http://www.vancouverunitarians.ca)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/vancouverunitarians](https://facebook.com/vancouverunitarians) | **Instagram:** [instagram.com/vancouverunitarian](https://instagram.com/vancouverunitarian)

To subscribe to the email version of the *UCV Events & Order of Service*, go to  
[www.vancouverunitarians.ca/newsletter](http://www.vancouverunitarians.ca/newsletter).