



Why People Hate Religion

Rev. Steven Epperson

January 26, 2020



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

ANNUAL APPLE WASSAIL: Our children and youth invite you to our Annual Apple Wassail after the service! Honour the gifts of our apple trees and wake them up for the growing season. The children will greet you outside after the service, please join them in the apple orchard for a Wassail toast and a song, as you are willing and able. It's a short, jolly ceremony to hail the approaching spring!

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!

BUMBLE BERRY SUNDAE: After the service today, enjoy Bumbleberry Sundaes courtesy of the New U Committee. Every berry lovingly handpicked last summer!

FORUM: In June of 2020, UCV members will be asked to decide whether or not to approve the campus redevelopment. Over the past three years, the Site Redevelopment Team has investigated and advised the board and the congregation on details of the potential development, but do we have a clear enough picture of what might happen if we don't approve redevelopment? The forum on January 26 will include a look at projections for UCV finances over the coming decades, possible capital improvements needed for our three buildings, and strategies needed to ensure adequate revenues. We will also try to envision what an alternative future might look like for us without development. Come with your questions and ideas. Facilitators: Mairy Beam, Keith Wilkinson and Sheila Resels.

UCV GROUP ART SHOW: An exhibition of artwork by UCV members is on display in the Sanctuary and Fireside until February 29. Come and enjoy some beautiful artwork created by your friends and colleagues!

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 (excepting the first Sunday of each month, which is an all-ages service).

- 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!

Celebration of Worship: January 26, 2020

Prelude	<i>Instrumental Music</i>	Members of 'Ducksback'*	
Opening Words/Greeting Our Neighbours		Rev. Steven Epperson	
Kindling the Chalice Flame		Rev. Steven Epperson	
Opening Hymn	<i>#347: Gather the Spirit</i>		
New Member Recognition			
Ann Beveridge	Glenn Deefholts	Karen Hamilton	Tanya Lewis
Ingrid Luters	Carrie Mac	Jodie Miller	Andrea Nicki
Fred Sexsmith	Jean Whitred	Marie Witt	
Litany of Welcome and Affirmation			
<p><i>The Congregation:</i> We welcome you as new members to our religious community. We will gladly walk with you in a common journey to deepen our spiritual and ethical lives. May that journey together be a fulfilling experience for all of us. May it bring the aims and ideals we share more fully to realization in our lives.</p>			
<p><i>New Members:</i> We thank you for welcoming us this day as we embark on membership in the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. We seek to learn explore, serve, and celebrate in this community. We promise to join with you to achieve the mission and vision of this congregation.</p>			
<p><i>All:</i> The Unitarian Church of Vancouver celebrates the diversity and shared values of its members. We cherish our freedom and openness to truth. We will support each other in our quest for meaning and justice. We will support each other in times of joy, sorrow, and need. Together may we deepen and celebrate our life in community, and help flourish the quality of life for all.</p>			
Story for all Ages		Rev. Steven Epperson	
Children's Recessional	Let's sing the children out... "Go now in peace..."		
Announcements		John Taylor	
Reading from the Book of Celebrations & Concerns		John Taylor	
Offering: <i>We deeply appreciate your presence here, your offerings and the gifts you share.</i>	<i>Instrumental Music</i>	Members of 'Ducksback'	

Text-to-Give! You know that you can now donate to UCV via text message! Simply text an amount to 778-771-1707 to get started today, or visit <http://bit.ly/2VFEWDS> for more information!

Meditation, Spoken then Silent

Musical Response

Instrumental Music

Members of 'Ducksback'

Why People Hate Religion

Rev. Steven Epperson

Closing Hymn

#289: Creating Love, Our Thanks We Give

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*

** Spencer Schoening (piano) and Andromeda Monk (horn) are members of a group which plays improvisational music, but that is not to say uncomposed music: "Our aim is to take advantage of the possibilities of instrumental music to express what can not easily enough be put into words. The topic of religion surely touches a nerve with us and I hope we can express some of our feelings on the matter in our own way." I am indebted to Simon Marmorek for suggesting them. – Elliott*

UCV COMMUNITY EVENTS

RECONCILIATION WORKING GROUP: Wednesday, January 29th 10:30 am to noon in the Family Room. We'll be discussing the new "Red Paper" published by the Yellowhead Institute in Oct '19. All are welcome. For info and to RSVP, please contact Lynn Armstrong lynnbea@gmail.com or 778-835-2546.

POTLUCK BOOK AND LUNCH CLUB: First last Thursday of the New Year coming right up! I'll bet you got some good books for Christmas. Come tell us about them in the Fireside Room. 11:00am - 1:00pm Thursday January 30. We have lunch together so bring something to share. Stimulating book chat; friendly conversation; excellent eats. Drop ins more than welcome. Questions? Nan Gregory: nangregory@shaw.ca

IMBOLC EARTH SPIRIT CELEBRATION: 7 – 9pm January 30. We will celebrate Imbolc/Candlemas and perhaps even Groundhog Day! We'll welcome the Celtic goddess Brigid into our space and our lives. Mary Bennett and Mairy Beam are coordinating this ritual, so there will likely be a circle dance or two or three.

FIRESIDE ROOM CHAT: Friday, January 31, 7:00 pm – 8:30pm – Life is like yours's and my collages. Contact: RandallMackinnon@yahoo.ca

BREEZE TRAINING: The next Breeze (database) training for Small group and team leaders is on Saturday, Feb 1, 3-5pm with Janni Kretlow from the North Shore church. Please RSVP to ucvconnect@gmail.com.

WEBSITE SUPPORT FOR TEAMS: Sat. Feb 1 1-4pm (Last hour is a practice session with coaching)
Luke Zukowski will be doing another workshop for committees and groups who want to use the website to get your news and events out to a broader group. Luke always throws in a few tips and tricks that even experienced folks didn't know about. It's ideal if at least 2 people from your team attend together. Bring a laptop if you can. Information from George Atherton. Details here: <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/events/website-for-teams2/>

TAKE THE JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY in 2020 with beginners Tarot and Astrology classes in the meditation room, no experience needed. 4 Week Intro to Tarot 2 - 4:30 pm Feb 2nd – March 1st, 6 Week Intro to Astrology 5 – 7 pm Feb 2nd – March 15th. See www.westcoastskies.com/pages/events for details and registration.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING: Sunday, February 2 9:45 to 10:45 am. If you are involved in greeting, welcoming, connect and engage team etc., you're invited to join us. The first half will be a check in from the various sub-teams, plans for a workshop/social. The second part will be an introduction to how we can use Breeze database to connect with visitors and invite them to events. (Interim) Membership Development Chair: Mary Bennett membership@vancouverunitarians.ca

PRACTICING INTERACTIVE THEATRE FOR LIVING: Everyone is welcome to join us at our monthly meeting. We practice techniques in interactive improvisation designed to create individual and community changes concerning challenging issues. Wear comfortable clothes and be prepared for fun and insight. Next practice: Sat. Feb.8, 9:30am - 12:30pm Hirschmanova. Please RSVP to host, Rev. Meg Roberts to confirm practice: 778- 870-9015 or mroberts@uuma.org.

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. We meet on the second Monday of each month in the Lindsey-Priestley Room from 6:30-8:30 pm. Please email Glenn Deefholts (glenn.deefholts@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining us.

SINGING GROUP: Do you like to sing? Join us every second Sunday of the month in the Lindsey-Priestley room at 12:30pm!

UCV COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOW WE ARE CHANGING THE WORLD: On a dark slushy January night, Tamiko Suzuki held her 60th birthday party at Hewett Hall. Over 50 friends and family showed up for an evening of games, folk dancing, food and sharing of stories. Because fundraising can be an act of solidarity with Indigenous groups, she had asked that instead of gifts, people donate to RAVEN Trust's PullTogether TMX campaign. Over \$2700 was raised through online, cheques and matching donations. An additional, \$430 was raised for Unistoten camp. Big thanks to the Environment Team who sponsored the event, helped with the food, organized setup and cleanup, and voted to match some of the funds!

A GIFT FOR STEVEN EPPERSON: To mark this, his final year as minister of the Unitarian Church of Vancouver, members of the congregation have created a book for Steven Epperson. It contains a selection of sermons from the more than 300 Steven has delivered over his 17 years at UCV. When one reads the book one quickly realizes it is as much a gift to us as it is to Steven. Ah, but there's even more to it. Think of that loved-one or friend who asked you what Unitarian Universalism was all about. Perhaps you gave them our famous 'bookmark'. Well "Life and Transcendence" is the book for the bookmark. The cost of a copy is \$20.00 and it is available from the library stall in Hewett Hall. The proceeds go to UCV.

THIS WEEK - BY BREEZE: We are converting our weekly this week message including the upcoming week's events, order of service and announcements from the googlegroup to our internal database Breeze. To receive (or continue to receive) the weekly message, please sign up here:

<https://vancouver.breezechms.com/form/thisweekemail> For our privacy policy, go to vancouverunitarians.ca/privacy Our PIPA (Personal Information Privacy Act) officers are board member, Michael O'Neill, mboneil@shaw.ca, and congregational administrator, Aurora Eyolfson, ca@vancouverunitarians.ca 604-261-7204

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF UCV is looking for a small group to head up the Interim Ministry Committee. This group of 6 people will be responsible for engaging UUA staff to initiate the search in early February, and also to gather congregational feedback as to what we're looking for. Interim ministers are hired/called by the IMC of the congregation in direct consultation with the UUA's Transitional Ministry staff. That is, the IMC functions as a "hiring" committee. The congregation does not vote on or hire the interim minister. If you are a church member and interested in joining this committee, please give your name to Carolyn Grant or Leslie Hill.

尋道會, XUNDAOHUI, "SEEKERS OF THE WAY": To reach out to the Chinese communities, regionally and globally, a Chinese language page has been added to the UCV website. It contains "who we are", vision, 7 principles and sources, history of Unitarianism, famous Unitarians, services and programs (with apology, "in English only"), rental and links - the same as the content in the paper brochures available in pews and all brochure racks. Explanation that the literal translation of UU - 一神普救教 "One God Universal Salvation" no longer represents our present day worldview, has been highlighted. – Membership and Development Committee

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 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.)

Next Sunday Service: February 2, 2020

Resilience

An All-Congregation Worship Service

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:

COFFEE SET UP AND SERVERS

Marilyn & John McVicar, Megumi Anderson
& Yumiko Yoshida

FLOWERS

Carolyn Innes

LUNCH

Bumbleberry Sundae

LIBRARY AND LITERATURE STALL

Kathleen MacKinnon, Hilda Wiebe

SOUND

Galen Elfert

GREETERS

John Smith, Greg Grant, Diane Brown, Ursula Litzcke, Pat MacBain, Denise Nereida

WELCOME AND INFORMATION TABLE

Carol Siebert, David Valentine

CARETAKER(S)

Paul Nash, 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	

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.