



Wolf Kahn Early Blooming Fruit Tree

In Praise of Boredom (!?)

Rev. Steven Epperson

March 29, 2020

Livestreamed from the UCV Sanctuary



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We hope the likes of this will never come again: socially distanced, self-isolated, and worried about family, colleagues, and finances in this virus-haunted, dear world of ours. As well, we may have discovered that we (and our children!)—being cooped up, not going to work and school—have more time on our hands than we ever dreamed possible. That may be a good thing, or/and we may be going just about nuts with boredom. (I’ve heard this from a number of people.) Is there anything good about boredom? Are we finding novel, meaningful, and even fun ways to deal with it? Let’s find out.

Join us for *week three* of our livestreamed Sunday worship services. We’ll sing, light a chalice, “greet” one another, share a story and see if there’s an upside to being bored.

“The best way out is always through.” – Robert Frost

Livestream link: <https://ucv.im/live>



March 2020 update from Rev. Steven Epperson & Board President Diane Brown

During this COVID-19 period, all face-to-face meetings on the UCV campus (and worship services in our church Sanctuary) are cancelled. The Sunday worship services will be livestreamed for the foreseeable future on the [UCV YouTube channel](#). Rev. Steven Epperson, Elliott Dainow, and our Worship Committee will continue to provide quality worship services that you can view at home. The UCV Board and other committees and working groups will continue to do their good work via Zoom meetings, email, and phone, and DRE Kiersten Moore and the religious education team are working on options to continue connection and support for families, children, and youth. The office staff continues to do their work during regular business hours (Monday to Thursday, 9:30 am to 2 pm; Friday, 9 am – 1 pm).

Parents, Children, and Youth

We are putting in place some online connection times for children, tweens, youth, and parents. These times will stay consistent each week—drop-in any week to see familiar faces and new, connect and support each other in Unitarian fashion. (FUUN)

Children's RE drop-in: Sundays 10:20—10:50 am ucv.im/kids-zoom

Mairy and Nan host children's time before the Sunday service live-stream. See each other, share a story and a simple activity or craft that we can do together at home. (Target age is 5-9)



Crossing Paths RE: Mondays 10:00—11:00 am ucv.im/tween-zoom

Crossing Paths Tweens (ages 10-12) this space and time is for you! Check-in with each other, try out the **virtual whiteboard**, continue our explorations of World Religions and wherever your questions and wonderings lead us.

Youth Group! Sundays 3:00—5:00 pm ucv.im/youth-zoom

Youth in grades 8-12 meet to share, explore, come up with distant game time, and generally connect. Drop-in any Sunday—from near and far.

If you haven't been in touch yet—please take a few brief moments with this online form to let your RE team know how we can best serve you at this time: <https://vancouver.breezechms.com/form/family-connections>

[Mystery Pals for All UCV Members](#)

Mystery Pals is on and kids are ready to start exchanging emails!

What better way to allay fears, stay connected, and make new friends than through letter exchange? You can make a meaningful cross-generation friendship even during this time of physical separation.

Sign-up to be a Pal to someone older or younger than yourself—though focused on adult-child relationships, we will match any pair from different generations (roughly 15-20 years apart). Once you are matched you will receive instructions from Kiersten. Simply send your letter to her via email or post and it will be delivered without identifying signatures.

Use our online Breeze form to sign-up today: <https://vancouver.breezechms.com/form/pals2020>

Our traditional reveal party at the end of four weeks of mail exchange will be facilitated in whatever way is deemed safe at the time.



Everybody should be quiet
near a little stream and listen

UCV COMMUNITY EVENTS

CONNECTING VIA ZOOM: A great deal of work is being done by the folks from the Connect and Engage Committee and Communications Team to help facilitate connection and continuity throughout these trying times by way of Zoom, a web/tele-conferencing service. Zoom is free to try for meetings of up to 40 minutes – otherwise, UCV has registered for a pro Zoom account that can be used by small groups, committees, and so forth. If you are interested in booking a block of time, please contact:

- Mary (ucvconnect@gmail.com) for neighborhood groups, men's and women's groups, covenant groups, book groups etc.
- Kiersten (dre@vancouverunitarians.ca) for RE/Children/Youth
- Marcus (marcus@vancouverunitarians.ca) or Aurora (ca@vancouverunitarians.ca) for committee meetings and logistics

CANADIAN UNITARIAN COUNCIL 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The decision has been regretfully made to cancel the National Conference in May in Halifax. In light of the rapidly evolving situation, the CUC, together with the UU Church of Halifax Host Team, feel that holding a gathering in these times represents a potential risk to our members, staff and community and we fully support the recent recommendation from the Nova Scotia government to limit gatherings to 150 people. The cancellation of the in-person conference presents an opportunity for us to explore national online connections instead. For the latest information, please visit <https://cuc.ca/annual-general-meeting-conference/>.

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED/POSTPONED, PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

- The March 28 Membership Team workshop, dinner, and social
- The March 29 Book Bash
- The April 4 New to Vancouver Unitarians workshop

NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS meet every Tuesday via Zoom, 7 – 8:30 pm. For more information, see <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/zoom-gatherings/>.

MENDERS, NOW ONLINE: We have moved our monthly mending workshop to an online format to provide some social activities during this time of self-isolation. Put on your kettle and join us for conversation and clothing repairs. This is a casual, drop-in style meetup over Zoom.

Email findmariewitt@gmail.com to join. March 28, 2020, 12 – 2 pm.

THE UCV SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB will meet ONLINE after the service on April 12, 2020 to discuss *The Alice Network*, by Kate Quin. *The Alice Network* is a fictional version of the little-known and inspirational real-life Alice Network, a group of women who worked as undercover spies, endangering their lives, and perhaps helping to win the wars against the Germans. It is a gripping story and we expect a lively discussion. We will not meet in person, but we **WILL MEET ONLINE** in a UCV Zoom conference. Sign in after 12 pm on April 12 at vancouverunitarians.ca and ask to join the Book Group breakout ‘room’. Join us if you are interested in this book and our conversation. Contact Rob Dainow at rdainow@gmail.com if you need more info.

SAVE THE DATE! A Farewell Soiree for Steven Epperson will take place at UCV the evening of Saturday June 20th. Mark your calendar!

UCV COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERS OF HELP: The UCV office has received several generous offers of help from volunteers who are willing to help out with grocery runs, housekeeping, etc. for those who may be in self-isolation or otherwise in need of some assistance. If interested, please contact Marcus at marcus@vancouverunitarians.ca to get connected.

CALL OUT FOR FASHION ACCESSORY DONATIONS: The Refugee Fundraising Committee is delighted to be hosting a fashion show by well-known fashion historian Ivan Sayers on the afternoon of October 17. To coincide with this event we plan to have an accessory sale – lightly used (or new) scarves, costume jewelry, hats, belts, purses, gloves, etc. When you are putting away your winter garb this Spring and bringing out your fair weather attire, please consider donating a few items you haven’t worn in a few years to this initiative. You can drop off your contribution at Julia Meyers’ table in the alcove of Hewett Hall before and after service on Sundays. Any items that are not sold will go to a worthy charity.

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE? We’re looking for someone with an interest in and working knowledge of human resources. Please contact Sheila Resels, chairperson of the Human Resources Committee, at sresels@gmail.com for further information.

MANAGING DOCUMENTS FOR UCV: To avoid wasting paper and to enhance communications between the Board and the congregation, as well as potential members in the public at large, most of our documents are kept on-line. We invite you to bookmark this site so that you can have ready access to research documents that may be of interest such as board minutes, committee chairs, policies and procedures and documents relating to the ministerial transition. Here’s the link to this directory: <http://bit.ly/394xgOO>

OUR OOF RECIPIENT is the Aboriginal Mother Centre (AMC) whose purpose-built facility offers accommodation for 16 at risk mothers and their children. It provides all the support, tools and resources a mother needs to rebuild her life and keep her children. Services include counselling, education, training, and spiritual and social support. AMC also organizes homelessness outreach and family wellness programs, licensed daycare and a community kitchen.

WEEKLY EMAIL WITH ORDER OF SERVICE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS: This now goes out through Breeze, our new database. You can sign up here: <https://vancouver.breezechms.com/form/thisweekemail> or go to <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/newsletter>

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: April 5, 2020

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:

**SOUND & LIVESTREAM TECH
CARETAKER(S)**

Galen Elfert, Christian Malcolm
Paul Nash/Sam Shenher



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.