



Image credit: Darius Foroux

Ask Me (Almost) Anything

Rev. Steven Epperson

[Live streamed](#) from the UCV Sanctuary – **May 31, 2020**



Sunday, May 31, 2020

Ask Me (Almost) Anything

Rev. Steven Epperson

And now, for something completely different! Rev. Epperson's nineteen-year ministry with UCV is drawing nearly to an end. In this worship service, he will answer (almost) any question you'd like to pose to him. Questions could range from theology to thoughts about Canada, his ministry at UCV and the future of our congregation to matters of a more personal nature. You can send in your questions in advance to rev@vancouverunitarians.ca or relay them directly at the time of the service to our volunteer tech crew. Who knows what we'll hear as Steven prepares to wrap things up at 49th and Oak?

Live stream link: <https://ucv.im/live>

COVID-19 and UCV: Ongoing Updates

The UCV campus will remain closed for all of June. The Emergency Response Team and Board are reviewing all provincial guidelines and developing our UCV Go-Slowly-Forward Plan.

Given the greater reliance on technology to keep us connected during the pandemic, the Board of Directors has been relying very heavily on our communications team with Marie Witt at its helm, as its chairperson. In recognition of Marie's greatly increased hours of volunteer work and her strong skills, the Board approved the hiring of Marie from May 1st – June 30th of 2020. Marie's overall goal will be to develop clear, concise communications strategies with buy-in from UCV's Emergency Team, Communications Team and Board of Directors.

Should you have questions concerning communication please contact Marie at communications@vancouverunitarians.ca (noting that Marie's contract will terminate at the end of June).

For ongoing weekly updates on how UCV is responding to the COVID-19 situation, please visit <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/covid-19-update/>.

Parents, Children, and Youth

We have weekly [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) Email Kiersten for the password or to be on our family update list: dre@vancouverunitarians.ca



After the service there is a **Families breakout room during coffee-hour** for kids and parents to see and talk with each other. ucv.im/coffee-hour at Noon Sunday, type “family chat” into the chat when you join the meeting; or join any other conversation group!

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 1:00—2:15 pm ucv.im/tween-zoom

Crossing Paths Tweens (ages 10-12) this space and time is for you! Check-in with each other, continue our explorations of World Religions—Quakerism, then Hinduism, and wherever your questions and wonderings lead us.

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

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

Steven's tea-time drop-in Wednesdays 3:00—4:00 pm ucv.im/steven-tea

A social gathering time hosted by Rev. Steven Epperson. It is a soul-fulfilling thing to see each other's faces in this time of physical distancing and isolation. Come check-in with each other, bring your joys, your challenges, your questions and insights, your whole selves.

Friday Coffee Break with Kiersten 11:30—12:30 am ucv.im/coffee-break

Being home deserves a coffee break--and we all deserve to see each other! Family-centered drop-in time for Parents. If kids can login on a separate device from parents, we can do break-out rooms!

If you would like resources for Unitarian-centered family time and activities to do with your children let me know using this form: <https://vancouver.breezechms.com/form/Sabbath-at-Home>

Celebration of Worship: May 31, 2020

Prelude *Venetian Boat Song op.19** Mendelssohn
E. Dainow, piano

Opening Words/Announcements/Greeting Our Neighbours Rev. Steven Epperson

Kindling the Chalice Flame Rev. Steven Epperson

Opening Hymn *#1010: We Give Thanks*

Story for All Ages Told by Rev. Steven Epperson

Celebrations & Concerns

If you have a special celebration or concern to share, please email or call Rev. Steven Epperson (604-261-7204, ext. 223, rev@vancouverunitarians.ca). We'll collect them in the office and share them with you as appropriate.

Offering: *We deeply appreciate your presence here, your offerings and the gifts you share.* *Sweet Remembrance op.19* Mendelssohn
E. Dainow, piano

We continue to support the work of this congregation and our outreach opportunities recipient through an online offering. You may use **text-to-give** now (Simply text an amount to 778-771-1707 to get started today, or visit <http://ucv.im/give> for more information!) or **donate online** through our private and secure Breeze interface.

Meditation – Spoken, then Silent Rev. Steven Epperson

Musical Response *Confidence op. 19* Mendelssohn
E. Dainow, piano

Ask Me (Almost) Anything

Rev. Steven Epperson

Closing Hymn *#131: Love Will Guide Us*

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

** This time the number 19 represents not the virus, but the length of Steven's ministry with us – Elliott*

A LIVING LIST OF ESSENTIAL LINKS: The following is a condensed list of UCV community links:

- <https://ucv.im/live>: Live stream link for Sunday church services (active at 10:55am each Sunday morning)
- <https://ucv.im/order-of-service>: View an online version of the current Order of Service
- <https://ucv.im/coffee-hour>: Virtual coffee hour – every Sunday immediately following the service
- <https://ucv.im/give>: Instructions on how to make a donation/gift
- <https://ucv.im/steven-tea>: Steven’s Tea Time Drop-In: Every Wednesday from 3 – 4pm
- <https://ucv.im/coffee-break>: Friday Coffee Break with Kiersten, every Friday at 11:30 am.
- <https://ucv.im/events>: The most frequently updated list of UCV events
- <https://ucv.im/sermons>: A text-based archive of past services/sermons
- <https://ucv.im/core-documents>: An online repository for important UCV documents such as board minutes, annual reports, and so forth.

UCV COMMUNITY EVENTS

Many of our community gatherings have moved online. For a complete list of upcoming events, please visit <https://ucv.im/events>. If you would like to add your zoom event to the list please contact Marie Witt findmariewitt@gmail.com.

PLEASE JOIN THE UCV BOARD OF TRUSTEES on Sunday, June 14, at 12:30 pm for an important forum covering:

- Report on proposed budget 2020/21 (Keith Wilkinson)
- Report from the Interim Ministry Committee (Leslie Hill)
- Report on Redevelopment and next steps (Michael Clague)
- Report on Financial Sustainability Task Force (Keith Wilkinson)

The Board is revamping the bylaws to allow for electronic voting at our EGM in the fall. The meeting will be held online and will be accessible via <http://ucv.im/forum>.

ZOOM GATHERINGS FROM CONNECT & ENGAGE CONTINUE! This coming week (the first week of the month) has two of the monthly calls. There are usually 6 to 10 people – a friendly bunch!

- **Tuesday at 7:15 pm:** Neighbourhood chat – we say "hello" and then form tiny groups of 2-3 people in breakout rooms. This month we invite you to share an object or photo that says something about your connection to your neighbourhood: ucv.im/neighbourhoods
- **Wednesday at 7:15 pm:** join some of us in the Genders & Sexualities Alliance to discuss films. This time we'll be talking about Jeffrey Marsh and Hannah Gadsby. Watch in advance or just join us to decide if you want to. Any and all genders and sexual orientations welcome: ucv.im/gsa

Zoom hosts and co-hosts needed. Training available every Thursday 2-3pm ucv.im/zoom-practice
We need to expand our team of hosts and co-hosts in order to continue. Even when we're back at the 49th & Oak site, Zoom gatherings will continue.

All the gatherings listed at vancouverunitarians.ca/zoom-gatherings are coordinated by the Connect and Engage team and open to all members, friends and visitors. Mary Bennett: ucvconnect@gmail.com:

- Virtual coffee hour; Sundays at 12 pm: <https://ucv.im/coffee-hour>
- Online theatre sharing; Mondays at 4 pm: <https://ucv.im/book-poem>
- Neighbourhood group connections; 1st Tuesdays at 7:15 pm: <https://ucv.im/neighbourhoods>
- Zoom practice sessions; Thursdays at 2 pm: <https://www.ucv.im/zoom-practice>
- GSA monthly film discussion; 1st Wednesdays at 7:15 pm: <https://www.ucv.im/gsa>
- Zoom hosting practice; on request

STEVEN'S TEA-TIME DROP-IN: Every Wednesday, 3 – 4 pm. Drop-in for a social gathering time hosted by Rev. Steven Epperson. It is a soul-fulfilling thing to see each other's faces in this time of physical distancing and isolation. Come check-in with each other, bring your joys, your challenges, your questions and insights, your whole selves. Visit <https://ucv.im/steven-tea> to join.

THE UCV SECOND SUNDAY BOOK CLUB will meet on June 14 during the Zoom coffee hour after the Sunday service to discuss *Sweetland*, an unforgettable novel by Michael Crummey. By turns darkly comic and heartbreakingly sad, *Sweetland* is a deeply suspenseful story about one man's struggles against the forces of nature and the ruins of memory. The inhabitants of a remote island in Newfoundland are facing resettlement, but everyone has to go; the government won't be responsible for one crazy coot who chooses to stay alone on an island. That coot is Moses Sweetland. This story by the award-winning, bestselling author of *Galore*, is an engrossing tale steeped in the history and language of Newfoundland. All are welcome.

UCV'S FOURTH COMPASSION CIRCLE – 2020: Do you want to communicate with more compassion and connection? Join UCV's Fourth Compassion Circle (practicing Compassionate Communication, CC) using the Compassion Course Online 2020 by Thom Bond, (receiving 52 weekly emails covering CC concepts we then practice in the Circle). Registration is required to the online course by May 31, 2020; <https://www.compassioncourse.org/> The 2020 Circle's 1st session will be an introduction by Zoom in June, date TBA. Please contact Cindy Cashin at cindy_returns@yahoo.com to sign up or for more info.

UCV COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGREGATIONAL TRIBUTE FOR STEVEN: Board President Diane Brown is inviting everyone to email her a brief written contribution for a Congregational Tribute that will be given to Steven Epperson, after his last sermon. Also please email her one photo of Steven if you have one. We cannot all gather together at this time, but we can all honour our beloved Steven with our own words and sentiments as he leaves the Sanctuary for the last time on June 21st. A formal large gathering celebrating his incredible tenure at UCV will take place sometime in the future. Please submit your tribute online at <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/tribute/>.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! For services to continue to be virtual, we need to train some more members to learn how to produce and broadcast Sunday services and support our current incredible, overworked team. Anyone interested in helping with technology, send your details here: <https://ucv.im/offer-help>

UCV CAMPUS REDEVELOPMENT PLANNING UPDATE: The board has authorized the planning committee to meet with the Community Land Trust to discuss a potential partnership to complete the business plan and to bring a recommendation on redevelopment to the membership. Approval to proceed to redevelopment will require 75% support. This next phase of the work is to be done at no cost to UCV. The June 14 board forum will include an update on the current business plan along with reports on ministerial search and the new budget. Gordon Gram (gordongram@me.com) Michael Clague (mclague@telus.net). Information about the current business plan is available on the UCV Website.

DID YOU JOIN UCV WITHIN THE PAST FIVE YEARS? You will have received an email inviting you to chat with your Connect & Engage team by phone, email or zoom. If you have any suggestions on how we can help you get connected during these challenging times, please feel free to contact C&E Chair Mary Bennett ucvconnect@gmail.com

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF VANCOUVER has just joined an alliance of nearly 240 organizations that have come together to develop key principles for a “Just Recovery for All” from the COVID-19 pandemic. As governments begin to make plans for recovery, organizations are joining together to send a message that we cannot return to the old “normal”. Now is the time to imagine a better future. The principles below were informed by a month of consultations with over 200 groups and individuals across Canada:

- Put People’s Health and Wellbeing First, No Exceptions
- Strengthen The Social Safety Net And Provide Relief Directly To People
- Prioritize the Needs of Workers and Communities
- Build Resilience to Prevent Future Crises
- Build Solidarity and Equity Across Communities, Generations and Borders
- Uphold Indigenous Rights And Work In Partnership With Indigenous Peoples

You can see the full text and sign on to the principles here: <https://forms.gle/TYrkQtzVkGcYETVb8>

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: June 7, 2020

The Power of Play

Rev. Steven Epperson

THANK YOU TO THE SUPPORT TEAM TODAY:

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

Galen Elfert, Christian Malcolm
Vivian Davidson



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

RE STAFF

Doug Ennenberg, Jannika Nyberg

YOUTH COORDINATOR

Olivia Hall

CONGREGATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Aurora Eyolfson

OFFICE ASSISTANT/ ORDER OF SERVICE

Marcus Hynes

BOOKKEEPER

Gordon Lowe

LAY CHAPLAINS

Laureen Stokes, Cheryl Amundsen,
Louise Bunn

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