



*Photo via Pixabay.com*

## **Leavings and Longings: Fire Communion 2020**

*Mary Bennett, Patrick Dubois, & Wendy Bryan*

[Live streamed](#) from the UCV Sanctuary – **December 27, 2020**



**Sunday, December 27, 2020**

**Leavings and Longings: Fire Communion 2020**

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In between the closing of the old year and the unfurling of the new, we come together in a ritual of reflection, letting go, and looking forward.

Fire Communion is an opportunity to cast the emotional baggage of the old year into the flames and, lighter in spirit, set our intentions for the year to come.

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



**Winter COVID-19 Updates**

Following the provincial health order on November 7, 2020, we have cancelled or postponed all social events on the UCV campus for the time being. For more information and ongoing updates on our COVID policies, please visit: <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/covid-19-update/>.

**\*\*UCV HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURE \*\***

Dear congregants and friends, please note that the UCV office will be closed from the end-of-day on Thursday, December 17, and will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2021. The staff team is arranging coverage so that we can respond to time-sensitive matters.

# Parents, Children, and Youth

How to continue feeling connected and renewed in this virtual pandemic time? The Children and Youth Religious Exploration team has programs and ideas in the works—The list below is all of our regular drop-in virtual connections with Zoom ongoing this Fall.

Please contact Director of Religious Exploration, Kiersten Moore, to be notified about in-person outdoor meetups and special programs: [dre@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:dre@vancouverunitarians.ca)

## Holding connection space for kids and youth requires adult support!

Please visit the website to learn how you can be an adult member of our Family Ministry team. There are both large and small roles to fill: <https://vancouverunitarians.ca/cyre-volunteer/>  
Fill out the form to “line up outside Kiersten’s door”: [ucv.im/RE-volunteer](https://ucv.im/RE-volunteer)

## Online Connection Spaces

**Coffee Hour Breakout rooms: Sundays 12:00—1:00 pm** [ucv.im/coffee](https://ucv.im/coffee)

Weekly all-ages breakout room for kid-centered space led by member volunteers: see friends, check-in and play games. Or join any other conversation group!

**Children’s activity and check-in: Sundays 10:20—10:50 am** [ucv.im/kids-zoom](https://ucv.im/kids-zoom)

Beginning September 13<sup>th</sup>, Nan and Mairy co-host this time specifically for children ages 5-9 (any age welcome). Activity or story ties in to our Soul Matters theme of the month. See each other, share a story and a simple activity or craft that we can do together at home.

**Tween’s Ukelele Social: Sundays 3:30 – 4:30 pm** [ucv.im/tween-zoom](https://ucv.im/tween-zoom)

Kids in grades 5-7 (ages 10-12), learn to play ukulele (instruments loaned from UCV), hang-out together with games and activities based on our monthly Soul Matters Theme. Drop in any Sunday and get a registration link.

**Youth Group! Sundays 3:00—5:00 pm** [ucv.im/youth-zoom](https://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.

**Youth Dungeons and Dragons: Wednesdays 7:00—9:00 pm** [ucv.im/youthDnD](https://ucv.im/youthDnD)

Exactly what you might think; an ongoing D&D campaign led by one of our youth, supported by adult advisors who are also in on the campaign. Youth-centered, multi-gen, role-playing fun. Contact [Olivia Hall](#) for more information, new characters are welcome to join.

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: December 27, 2020

<b>Prelude</b>		Patrick Dubois
<b>Opening Words/Greeting Our Neighbours</b>		Juliet Andrien
<b>Calling the Four Directions</b>		Mary Bennett
<b>Kindling the Chalice Flame</b>		Mary Bennett
<b>Opening Hymn</b>	<b>#1074: <i>Turn the World Around</i></b>	Chalice Choir Leads
<b>Time for All Ages</b>		Musings About Fire Mary Bennett & Patrick Dubois
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		Diane Brown
<b>Community Candle Lighting</b>		Juliet Andrien

## **Fire Communion**

*Lighting the Cauldron of Transformation (artist: Louise Bunn)*  
Wendy Bryan

## **A Litany of Leavings**

*We will share messages from our congregation about losses and endings over the past year as we add sprigs of rosemary to the cauldron to transform our losses.*

At home, please share aloud or written your own losses and leavings from 2020

## **A Litany of Longings**

*We will share your messages of what you are longing for as we look forward to 2021.*

At home, please share what you are longing for in the new year.

<b>Closing Hymn</b>	<b>#1028: <i>Fire of Commitment</i></b>	Chalice Choir Leads
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**Offering:** *We deeply appreciate your presence here, your offerings and the gifts you share.*

<p>We continue to support the work of this congregation and our outreach opportunities recipient through an online offering. You may use <b>text-to-give</b> now (Simply text an amount to 778-771-1707 to get started today, or visit <a href="http://ucv.im/give">http://ucv.im/give</a> for more information!) or <a href="#">donate online</a> through our secure Breeze interface.</p>
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<b>Affirmation of Gratitude</b>		Juliet Andrien
<b>Closing Words</b>		Mary Bennett
<b>Releasing the Four Directions</b>		Mary Bennett
<b>Extinguishing the Chalice Flame</b>		Wendy Bryan



## Valediction

*Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again*

*Carry the flame of peace and love, until we meet again*

## UCV COMMUNITY EVENTS

**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>: Virtual coffee hour – every Sunday immediately following the service
- <https://ucv.im/give>: Instructions on how to make a donation/gift
- <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.

*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 at [communications@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:communications@vancouverunitarians.ca)*

**UCV ONLINE HISTORY WALL:** The Wall is building! What is your story? What brought you to UCV? What keeps you here? What is important to you? Go to [padlet.com/vancouverunitarian/stories](https://padlet.com/vancouverunitarian/stories) to add your reflections, pictures and videos.

**SEWISTS, KNITTERS, MENDERS, CRAFTERS:** The UCV mending hour is back on Zoom for the Winter! We are planning to meet twice per month (one daytime and one evening). We can show-and-tell what we're working on, dream up workshops that might be possible over zoom, watch tutorials, and generally share a social hour of craftyness to get us through the isolation. Everyone and all skill levels welcome. Dates and Zoom link: <https://ucv.im/mending>

**RECURRING ZOOM GATHERINGS:** All the gatherings listed at [vancouverunitarians.ca/zoom-gatherings](https://vancouverunitarians.ca/zoom-gatherings).

- Virtual coffee hour; Sundays at 12 pm: <https://ucv.im/coffee>
- Neighbourhood group connections; 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays at 7:30 pm: <https://ucv.im/neighbourhoods>
- Zoom practice sessions; 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays from 4 – 5 pm: <https://www.ucv.im/zoom>

## UCV COMMUNITY ACCOUNCEMENTS

**UCV STAFF UPDATE:** On Tuesday the Board approved a revised position description for the Congregational Administrator. The HR committee will post it on the UCV website and elsewhere shortly. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please notify them. Please note that the Board has decided that the position is not open to UCV members. We look forward to filling this position with someone who will bring to UCV a wealth of skills, knowledge and good will. Contact [mairyelesbea@gmail.com](mailto:mairyelesbea@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**WELCOME NEWCOMERS:** Would you like to learn more about UCV and Unitarians? Join us in the breakout room at Coffee Hour after the service (<https://ucv.im/coffee>) First and Third Sundays. See you there!

**THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE** is pleased to announce that seven new benches have been installed on the UCV campus to honour the following past and present members: Joan and Noel Armstrong, Virginia Crabill, Ann Foster, Wolfgang and Hilde Gerson, Tony Roper, Barbara and John Taylor, Lesia and John Voth. Many thanks to all the donating families who have chosen this way to both honour their loved ones and to enhance the UCV grounds. We can all look forward to sitting on these beautiful benches once we are able to gather in person again.



**A NOTE FROM CARE & CONCERN:** Some of life's challenges are pretty manageable. Others leave us feeling very alone and overwhelmed, or demand great contemplation. Our Care and Concern volunteers work closely with our minister to support members and friends who are in times of transition and need. We are here if you need a tender heart in a moment of sorrow, happy cheer in a moment of joy; a meal or a ride in a moment of need; or personal support in difficult circumstances such as: grief, illness, marital changes, isolation, etc. Contact Care & Concern ([careandconcern@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:careandconcern@vancouverunitarians.ca)) or Rev. Lara Cowtan (604-261-7204, x.223 / [rev.lara@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:rev.lara@vancouverunitarians.ca))

**OUR LIBRARY IS AVAILABLE!** The door to the library is still locked for now but our librarian, David Buchanan, will arrange loans for members/adherents by either snail mail or pick-up at our 49th & Oak location. Just email David <[davidfbuchanan@gmail.com](mailto:davidfbuchanan@gmail.com)> to let him know what you would like to borrow and he'll work out the details with you. Please note there is an "f" between David and Buchanan in the address. Happy reading!

A Common Read for Vancouver Unitarians: Transition Team members have been reading *In the Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations*. It's full of interesting stories about transitions, a wealth of information about the potential role of an Interim Minister and intriguing ideas for Vancouver Unitarians to consider. Extra copies are available for loan. Just email David Buchanan <[davidfbuchanan@gmail.com](mailto:davidfbuchanan@gmail.com)> to arrange the loan by mail or pick-up. Here's an excerpt:

*"Telling our stories is not an end in itself, but an attempt to release ourselves from them, to evolve and grow beyond them. We tell our stories to transform ourselves; to learn about our history and tell our experiences to transcend them; to use our stories to make a difference in our world; to broaden our perspective to see further than normal; to act beyond a story that may have imprisoned or enslaved us; to live more of our spiritual and earthly potential" (p 43).*

**UCV REFUGEE COMMITTEE NEWS:** The Refugee Committee would like to thank everyone who supported our recent greeting card fundraiser. This initiative brought in \$3,000 all of which will be used to assist refugees that UCV welcomes to Vancouver through the Canadian Government Private Sponsorship Program. Keep an eye open for other fundraising projects that our committee will be bringing to your attention in the coming year.

**SOUL MATTERS:** If you would like to receive the Soul Matters Chalice Home packets supporting creating a home altar and guidance on monthly home worship around our themes please fill out this Breeze form: <https://ucv.im/themes-home> or contact Kiersten Moore, [dre@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:dre@vancouverunitarians.ca)

**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR NEEDED!** The communications committee is looking for a new chair to work closely with staff and lay leaders. We need someone comfortable with technology who will bring leadership, creativity and energy! We promise to make sure this volunteer workload is an uplifting and manageable effort. Please contact Marie [communications@vancouverunitarians.ca](mailto:communications@vancouverunitarians.ca) if interested!

**OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES FUND:** The OOF recipient for this Sunday's collection is The Treehouse Vancouver Child and Youth Advocacy Centre which has formed a multi-disciplinary team to intervene in and prevent child abuse and violence. The team comprises staff from VPD and three child and youth care agencies. Its' programs and services build networks and community support systems that promote safe and sustainable environments for children, youth and their families. A critical goal of the centre is to raise awareness of child abuse in Vancouver.

## **OUTSIDE ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS**

**LOOKING FOR MEANINGFUL WORK?** The Memorial Society of BC (UCV Tenant) is hiring! We are looking for a compassionate, efficient person to help part or full time with office duties. Must be detail oriented and able to work independently. If you are a good communicator (phone and email) and comfortable talking about end of life planning, please get in touch for more information: [admin@memorialsocietybc.org](mailto:admin@memorialsocietybc.org)  
We look forward to hearing from you!

## **Upcoming Services**

**Sunday, Jan 3: Back to the Future!**

*Rev. Lara Cowtan*

**Sunday, Jan 10: You Might Be Wrong**

*Rev. Lara Cowtan*

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

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**SOUND & LIVE STREAM TECH  
CARETAKER(S)  
FLOWERS**

Christian Malcolm  
Paul Nash  
Chris Pearce, Diane Donaldson, Lorraine Calame



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**

**INTERIM PARISH MINISTER**  
**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**  
**CHOIR DIRECTOR**  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR**  
**CARETAKERS**

**YOUTH COORDINATOR**  
**OFFICE COORDINATOR/ ORDER OF SERVICE**  
**BOOKKEEPER**  
**LAY CHAPLAINS**

Rev. Lara Cowtan  
Kiersten Moore  
Donna Brown  
Elliott Dainow  
Ben Yeung, Paul Nash, Karen Hertz,  
Taka Shimojima, Vivian Davidson, Sam Shenher  
Olivia Hall  
Marcus Hynes  
Gordon Lowe  
Lauren Stokes, Cheryl Amundsen,  
Louise Bunn

**Regular Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday, 9:30 am to 2 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)

*There is a new monthly e-bulletin! If you've signed up for our newsletters previously, you will automatically receive the new e-bulletin, but if not please go to [vancouverunitarians.ca/e-bulletin/](http://vancouverunitarians.ca/e-bulletin/) to sign up or visit [ucv.im/newsletter](http://ucv.im/newsletter) to see the latest copy.*