

## Thirst

This month we will explore the metaphor of 'thirst'.

Some questions to reflect on:

What does your heart and soul thirst or long for?

What do you need that renews your spirit and soul?

How can we address the thirst for healing created by the distant between our pride and shame of Canadian history?



**MAY 7**

### Healing Waters

*Rev. Debra Thorne*

Recently returned from the Celtic waters of Scotland, Rev. Debra shares her insights and discoveries from her sabbatical journey.

**MAY 14**

### Unquenchable Spirit

*Rev. Debra Thorne and friends*

Lalleshwari was a thirteenth century Hindu mystic and poet, who lived a life of ecstatic freedom and devotion after fleeing a cruel marriage. Lalla inspired many in the Sufi tradition in Kashmir and is described as the supreme Mistress Mother of Yoga.

- The choir sings

**MAY 21**

### Thirst for Peace

"Peace is not the absence of war. It is the presence of justice and the absence of fear."

—Dr. Ursula Franklin, Quaker, scientist, peace advocate, feminist, educator.

This morning, Rob Hughes, an immigration and refugee lawyer, will be talking about his work with LGBTQI+ refugees who flee persecution in their home countries because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and what we can do to support them. *Rob represents LGBTQ and sero-positive refugee claimants as well as applicants in same-sex relationships immigrating to Canada or applying for visitor, work and study permits. In 2000 Rob co-founded the Rainbow Refugee Committee, a support group for queer refugee claimants in Vancouver. His practice, Out/Law Immigration Legal Services is located in New Westminster. Rob is a Quaker, a member of The Society of Friends.*

**MAY 28**

### Belonging: Unity in Diversity

*Rev Debra Thorne*

It has been one hundred and fifty years since the Canadian Confedera-

tion was formed. In light of the commitment to the process of Truth and Reconciliation, how can Unitarians celebrate the establishment of Canada and at the same time honour and respect Aboriginal history?

- There will be a new member ceremony this morning.
- The choir sings

Sunday worship services and religious exploration classes are held at the Sapperton Pensioners Hall, 318 Keary Street, New Westminster. Services start at 10:30 am. More info at [www.beaconunitarian.org](http://www.beaconunitarian.org).



**Beacon  
Unitarian  
Church**

## Minister's Message



Rev. Debra Thorne

I have just returned from three weeks in the land of my ancestors, Scotland, replenishing body and spirit. Remembering to breathe with my soul again. Spring was just beginning in Pitlochry when I arrived and the daffodils were everywhere, which was a good metaphor for this liminal time. The first two weeks were a quiet and deepening time, long walks along the Tay and Fascalloch, and up into the hills where the fields were full of lambs arriving all wobbly and joyful. Then it was over to the Isle of Iona where Saint Columba brought Christianity over from Ireland in 563 CE. And then straight north into the Orkneys where our Neolithic ancestors lived in peace and prosperity five thousand years ago. I look forward to sharing with you some of the insights and learning from this sabbatical. Warmly,

*Rev. Debra Thorne*



Ring of Brodgar

(Photo credit: megalithic.co.uk)



St. Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Scotland, April 2017



Stones at the Ring of Brodgar



*An l mo chridhe, l mo ghraidh.*  
(In Iona that is my heart's desire, Iona that is my love.)—Saint Columba



**Beacon  
Unitarian  
Church**

[www.beaconunitarian.org](http://www.beaconunitarian.org)  
[info@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:info@beaconunitarian.org)

**Mailing Address:**

#414, 552A Clarke Road,  
Coquitlam, BC V3J 0A3

**Consulting Minister:**

Rev. Debra Thorne  
[minister@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:minister@beaconunitarian.org)

**Lay Chaplain:**

Marilyn Medén, 604-469-6797,  
[m.j.meden@telus.net](mailto:m.j.meden@telus.net)

**Choir Director:**

Charlene Dubrule, 604-464-3992,  
[char4myc@shaw.ca](mailto:char4myc@shaw.ca)

**Board Executive:**

**Co-Presidents:** David Kristjanson  
and Donna Hamilton; **Treasurer:** Carol  
Woodworth; **Secretary:** Gail Thomson;  
**Members at Large:** Helen McVey, John  
Hagen, Rob Warner, Dan Theal, Janet  
Pivnick, Michael Scales

**Connections & Membership:**

Jean Donaldson, 604-461-0056,  
[donaldsj@telus.net](mailto:donaldsj@telus.net)

**Religious Exploration Director:**

Ashley Cole,  
[sundayschool@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:sundayschool@beaconunitarian.org)

**Beacon Newsletter:**

[newsletter@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:newsletter@beaconunitarian.org)  
Production: Laura Redmond  
Proofreader: Donna Hamilton  
Distribution: Tom & Uta Poiker

**Deadline for the June issue of  
The Beacon: May 15, 2017**

## Board Bitz



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

**W**elcome to the new Beacon Board! We are so sorry to see Audrey leave—she has been our rock on the board. She has kept us in line, focused and inspired, and will be greatly missed. As you can see, it will take two of us to replace her! She will be at the first meeting of the new board, to help us get started.

Welcome back to Debra, and a big thank you to the Worship Services Committee for keeping us inspired and making sure that services ran smoothly while she was away. Also, thanks to all the other individuals who took on some of the tasks usually

done by Debra—such as Soul Matters, Beacon This Week and Pastoral Care.

We have two people who have volunteered to be Beacon's representatives to the CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council) – a big thank you to Susan White and Michael Scales. Susan, Michael and Debra will be attending the CUC AGM in May, which this year will be held on-line. (CUC will now have the large gatherings every second year, instead of every year).

The CUC is wisely using modern technology to cut down on travel across this vast country. Recently, Susan White, David Kristjanson and Donna Hamilton attended the *2018 BC Regional Spring Gathering Brainstorming Session* via Zoom, an online conferencing tool. Representatives from many BC congregations met with our CUC regional representative, Joan Carolyn, to gather ideas for next year's BC Regional Spring Gathering. We will soon be looking for input on

topics that most interest Beacon folks, so stay tuned.

In other news, John Hagen and Rob Warner have been busy working on clearing out some of the vast quantity of Beacon "stuff" that has lived in Lundervilles' basement for years. They are currently working on getting some of the important files scanned for digital storage, and have been able to recycle a lot of paper-work that we are no longer required to keep.

Looking ahead: The Coordinating Council is made up of the chair of each committee, task force or group (or designate), the board president (or designate), and the minister. This council will meet May 30 to plan the next church year. More information to come soon in *Beacon This Week*. Committee chairs—watch for details from your Board liaison.

—Your co-presidents, David Kristjanson and Donna Hamilton

### BEACON'S VISION

**CONNECT**  
with Compassion & Respect  
**INSPIRE**  
learning & Spiritual Growth  
**TRANSFORM**  
through Joy & Justice

### BEACON'S MISSION

Our mission is to celebrate the worth and dignity of all people and to live in conscious relationship with the earth.

For inspiration, we draw on the world's great scientists, artists, humanists and theologians, as well as on our personal experiences.

So we are inspired to create greater equality, greater justice and greater hope for our world.

## Are you ready to become a member of Beacon Unitarian Church?

**F**or anyone who would like to become a member of Beacon, and sign the membership book on May 28th at our new member ceremony, please contact Rev. Debra at [minister@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:minister@beaconunitarian.org).



**Beacon  
Unitarian  
Church**

## Report from the Worship Services Committee

**W**e have welcomed Nancy Rupert, Janet Pivnick, and Susan White. It's wonderful to have them on board, learning the service leader role, and doing the tech. Nancy is particularly great at choosing and reading the stories for all ages. Janet is goddess/universe sent for preparing the order of service and service leading. Susan has had extensive experience in all areas of service preparation from her time with the Halifax congregation. We are very fortunate to be able to add them to our committee.

## Let's Connect



Joan Morris

I was at an exquisite art and textile show at the Silk Purse Gallery in West Vancouver this month and discovered that our own Katie Stein Sather had

an entry in the juried *Cherry Blossom* show. Did you know Katie has a website with examples of her art projects?



### Quilting my Life Blog

Katie has had a blog/website since 2004 where she has posted spiritual writings when she served as minister at Beacon from 2003-2011, explored her canoeing adventures, and shared her stories of preparing for a special trip to the Honduras, in 2009; and more recently, her work with fabric art.

She describes herself as “an adventurous spirit and, so far, a willing and able body to go along with it”.

Here is a sampling from her blog: Monday December 8, 2008: Raising funds for the Honduras school building projects has been an education for me in more than one way. It is true, I have learned something about the conditions rural Hondurans face in attending school. I have learned something about how they construct buildings there. I expect that I will learn much more once I get there. But I have also learned a lot more about generosity. Both other people's and my own.

My definition of spirituality is this: “spirituality is an individual's hunger for truth and her willingness to step forward in faith. This personal quest can be informed by a variety of things but principally by (1) the individual's conscience, (2) our response to the natural world and (3) the wisdom traditions or revelation”.

Take a moment and check out Katie's website at: <http://quiltingmy-life.blogspot.ca>.

### Circle Dinners

Circle Dinners continue to be popular with Beacon folks. There were 6 very successful dinners last month, held on April 1st with about 40 people attending. There was a gathering in a local restaurant and the Young Adults met together for their own potluck dinner. One of the hosts tried something a little different! A Raclette dinner!

Much fun and hilarity ensued, and the host says she's never used so many of her bowls/serving dishes all at the same time!

Here's a sample of what the Raclette oven looks like that heats a special Swiss “Raclette cheese” to spread on various veggies and meats.



Circle Dinners will be held again in the fall. Do plan to hold your own impromptu gatherings between now and then to continue our Beacon Connections.

—Joan Morris



April 1st Circle dinner.

## Settlement 2 Update



Peggy Lunderville



Gail Thomson

**Next Meeting: Sunday, May 7 at 12:30 at the Lunderville residence**

**O**n behalf of Peggy Lunderville and the Settlement 2 task force, I am inviting you to the next meeting of the group. We are enormously grateful for the support given at the Beacon AGM. We can now move forward with the next steps and further develop a plan for bringing over more members of the Al Rbaai family.

We greatly appreciate your interest and willingness to share your time and thoughts. Please let us know if you will be able to join us. Please share this invitation with other supporters you know who may wish to join us as we develop the next steps.

Bring a bag lunch (if you wish) to 8892 Armstrong Ave., Burnaby. We will supply tea and coffee. You can contact Peggy at prlunder@gmail.com or phone 604-812-5939.

—Gail Thomson

## Religious Explorations



Ashley Cole

**H**ello all and happy (early) Mothers Day to all you moms out there! I hope you have a lovely month and a lovely mom's day! This month in R.E we have some exciting things on the go. *The Seekers* will be learning about Truth, Healing and Reconciliation using a Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) pilot program as our guide. The program will run Sunday mornings in May and will look at Indigenous/Settler relations through the pillars of context, understanding, truth-telling, and healing. *The Children's Community* will shift gears from our principles and start exploring our UU sources including science, poetry, personal experience, and spiritual teachings.

### Ribbons and Weaving Looms Needed!

Also, as I mentioned last month, R.E. will be hosting a multi-generational service in June and in preparation for it we are putting a call out for portable weaving looms and ribbon (for ribbon preferably light colours, satin ribbon, 3/4" or 7/8" width). If you can help us out please send an email to me (Ashley) at akcole1@gmail.com or come speak to me any Sunday morning.

—Ashley Cole, Director of R.E

## Day Workshops at Unitarian Family Camp

**Sasamat Outdoor Centre, Port Moody, June 3 & 4, 2017**

### Sing for Joy! Music Workshop with Patti Powell

**Saturday, June 3rd, 10–11:30 am, 1:30–3:30 pm**

*Singing together is SO. MUCH. FUN!* If you've never tried it, it's time. If you're a seasoned singer, you will love the lively, interactive and joyful atmosphere for learning great songs for group singing. From gospel to rounds, to fun interlocking song mash-ups, Patti will get you steeped in the world of playful connection that singing together provides! Patti Powell is a community choir leader in the Ubuntu Choir Network. Ubuntu choirs aim to be inclusive, community-focused, non-auditioned and socially-engaged.

Patti leads four community choirs and is an apprentice conductor with Brian Tate and the City Soul Choir ([www.citysoulchoir.com](http://www.citysoulchoir.com)). Patti welcomes ANY and ALL voices to raise up their voice together. Come and sing for joy!

*Saturday workshop with lunch:*

*\$67 (includes option to canoe/kayak after the workshop, 3:30–5 pm)*

### Climbing Wall or High Ropes Course

**Sunday, June 4th**

**Climbing Wall:**

**1–3 pm** Age 6 to adult.

**High Ropes Course:**

**3:30–5 pm** Age 8 to adult.

Challenge yourself and have some fun.

*One climbing workshop with lunch: \$49 (includes access to canoes and kayaks from 1–5 pm)*

Download a brochure/registration form at <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/camp/> or email [sasamat@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:sasamat@beaconunitarian.org) for more information.



Joan Morris, member of the Langley Community Chorus, cordially invites you to attend their spring concert:

## Langley Community Chorus Presents:

# Happy Birthd'eh



## Canada!!

### A Celebration of Canadian Music

**Saturday,  
May 6<sup>th</sup> 3pm**  
Willoughby Christian  
Reformed Church  
20525 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave,  
Langley

**Saturday,  
May 13<sup>th</sup> 7pm**  
St. Dunstan's  
Anglican Church  
3025 264 Street,  
Aldergrove

**Sunday,  
May 14<sup>th</sup> 3pm**  
United Churches  
of Langley  
21562 Old Yale Road,  
Langley

**Tickets: Adults \$18 | Students \$10 | Under 12 Free**

Available at the door 30 minutes before concert, from Chorus Members, at Long & McQuade (207-6339 200 St) and online through Brown Paper Tickets.

[www.facebook.com/langleycommunitychorus](http://www.facebook.com/langleycommunitychorus) | [www.langleychorus.org](http://www.langleychorus.org)



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ensemble pour tous.



Canada



This initiative is made possible by the Community Fund for Canada's 150th, a collaboration between the Government of Canada and extraordinary leaders from coast to coast to coast, alongside contributions from the Township of Langley.

### Beacon Events

**We invite you to explore these great ways to connect to the Beacon community and yourself!**

**Soul Matters Groups** delve into the monthly sermon themes—"Thirst" for May. Part personal sharing, part spiritual deepening, the groups meet monthly either at 1 pm or 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Email [minister@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:minister@beaconunitarian.org) for more information.

**The Humanist Discussion Group** meets the last Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm at *The Astoria Retirement Home* (2245 Kelly Avenue, Port Coquitlam) to discuss a wide range of current topics.

**Sunday, May 30th:** Al Sather will examine and introduce for discussion "Is Existentialism a Humanism?" He will introduce ideas from Kierkegaard, considered the first existentialist and a Unitarian Christian, questioning some of the basic beliefs of Christianity, to Sartre, who by removing God from his religious philosophy, inspired Nietzsche to write the "God is Dead" statement. Contact Marilyn Medén for more information: [m.j.meden@telus.net](mailto:m.j.meden@telus.net) or 604-469-6797.

**Join the Beacon Choir** for musical fun and skill development. Rehearsals are every Tuesday at 7:30 pm at Miller Park School in Coquitlam. Contact Charlene Dubrule, choir director, at 604-464-3992 or [char4myc@shaw.ca](mailto:char4myc@shaw.ca).

**Lunch Bunch** meets every Thursday at noon, year-round. Bring your own lunch and share in lively and topical conversation. Contact John Hagen 604-521-1335.

**Book Club** meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm. For meeting location details contact John Hagen [ajhagen@telus.net](mailto:ajhagen@telus.net).

**Upcoming Books:**

**May:** *Never Cry Wolf* by Farley Mowat

**June:** *The Time Travelers' Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger

**July:** *A Town Like Alice* by Neville Shute

**The Beacon Writers' Group** meets next from one until three on Saturday May 20th. By this time we will have had two services with the theme 'thirst'. What are your thoughts regarding thirst? Thirst for meaning, God, truth, water for the world? Our writing often, but not necessarily, reflects the theme of the month, and is more concerned with content, not critiquing [unless this is asked for]. Newcomers are welcome. Bring writing to share.

**Food Bank Sunday  
will be May 7th.**

Contact Marilyn Medén or Janet Pivnick for more details: [m.j.meden@telus.net](mailto:m.j.meden@telus.net) 604 469 6797, or [janpivnick@gmail.com](mailto:janpivnick@gmail.com).

**Attend a Circle Dinner** and connect with other Beaconites in a relaxed setting. For more information contact Joan Morris, [joanmorris@telus.net](mailto:joanmorris@telus.net). The next dinner will be held in the fall.

**Attend a 'Getting to Know U' session** to meet other newcomers and deepen your knowledge of how Beacon functions and what Unitarianism is. Please contact Rev. Debra (minister [@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:@beaconunitarian.org)) if you are interested in attending the next meeting on Thursday, May 11 at 7 pm.

**Youth Group:** The youth group (ages 13–18 yrs) is open to new members! Contact Lisa Girardi at [lisa.m.girardi@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.m.girardi@gmail.com).

**Help out on Sunday mornings as a Coffee Host** (contact Glenn Wootton, [wootongg@gmail.com](mailto:wootongg@gmail.com)), **or sign-up as a Sunday Morning Greeter** (contact Susan Tarras, [starras@telus.net](mailto:starras@telus.net)).

#### Sue Sparlin stars in "Glorious" until May 6th



Sue Sparlin will be starring as Florence Foster Jenkins on stage in White Rock. "Glorious" will be running at Coast Capital Theatre until May 6. Sue would love to see Beacon friends in the audience. This is a fun show and she sings three arias really badly. Such fun! Seniors tickets are \$19. <http://www.whiterockplayers.ca/tickets/>. Free parking.



#### Cookies!

Thank you to those who have purchased cookies from Charlotte! If you haven't purchased your box full of treats, she still has more available: \$5/box. 604-939-9310.



## Share Your Story: A Sermon Writing Workshop

Sat May 27, 12:30–5:30 pm

Is there something you would like to share in your congregation's Sunday service but you've never written a sermon before? Or perhaps you have experience and want to develop your skills and comfort? Or you might even not know what you would speak about, but want to learn the process anyway? Rev. Meg Roberts will show you a process to support your creative expression, share various resources, as well as provide tips on effective public speaking that touches the head and the heart.

To help integrate your learning, a follow-up 1½ hour group coaching session is included. This will encourage you to work on your sermon, offer

support for any roadblocks you hit, and provide feedback to polish your creation.

**Cost:** Early Bird special to April 30 is \$35 (May 1–18 is \$50)

Includes 1 follow-up group coaching session on either Wed. June 14, 7–8:30 pm OR Sat. June 24, 10:30 am–12 noon.

**Registration deadline:** May 18th. Maximum 24 participants so register early.

**For more information or to sign up, contact registrar:** Way Kent - 110395@telus.net or phone the UCV office (604-261-7204)



*Meg has been a Unitarian minister for the past 14 years. She has served congregations in Edmonton, Montreal, Calgary, and now is in her fifth year as the quarter-time consulting minister with Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship. Meg lives in Vancouver where she does a community ministry Spirit Arts – using our creativity in spiritual exploration. In March, she offered this workshop twice in Victoria with very positive, enthusiastic feedback.*

## Walk As One At One: World Labyrinth Day, May 6

Come and walk the two labyrinths at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver on Saturday, May 6 at 1 pm—knowing people all over the world are also walking labyrinths at that time. Mary Bennett will host and talk with anyone who comes about labyrinths in general and also labyrinths at various Unitarian congregations. The two outdoor labyrinths at UCV are available 24/7! **More info:** mary@marybennett.net



## Notice Board

### TIRES FOR SALE!

Set of four summer tires (only one season's wear). Perelli 195/60R15. Purchased new for \$340+tax. Will sell for half the cost (or less). Please call John Hagen, 604-521-1335.

### FREE Misc Furniture, Lawn Mower by Donation

Donna Hamilton has some items that need to find new homes. You might be interested in something!

1. Wooden desk with drawers—nice for a student
  2. Desk painted white, with deep drawers
  3. Computer desk with hatch
  4. Portable baby bed
  5. Wooden highchair (available after August 1)
  6. Cordless electric lawn mower
- Most of these items would be free—or by donation. If you would

like more information about any of these items, please contact Donna at donna-h@telus.net or 604-944-3113.



Cordless electric lawnmower



White desk



Wooden desk



Computer desk



highchair



Portable baby bed

## News from the Canadian Unitarian Council

### Enter to Win!

The CUC board is running two contests to promote and celebrate our new Vision Statement.

*Our national Vision Statement is:*

**As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we envision a world in which our interdependence calls us to love and justice.**

*These 5 Aspirations guide us in living out our faith:*

**As Canadian Unitarian Universalists, we are Deeply Connected, Radically Inclusive, Actively Engaged, Theologically Alive, and Spiritually Grounded.**

Full details of these contests is now on the CUC website at <http://cuc.ca/vision-and-mission/>. In brief, here's what they are:

#### A. Interconnected Faith Sermon Contest

1. Write a new sermon/homily of 1,800 to 2,500 words on any aspect of the Vision Statement and its five attached Aspirations.
2. Deliver that sermon to a Unitarian congregation sometime before the contest deadline of Feb. 2, 2018.

Participants can be ministers or lay people and must be connected to a Canadian UU congregation. The winner will receive a \$150 prize, plus an invitation to present their sermon during the CUC 2018 ACM held in Hamilton.

#### B. Canadian Unitarian Art Contest

1. Create a piece of art that celebrates our new Vision Statement—the statement itself, not the five attached Aspirations. The art can be in any medium—painting, sculpture, songs, videos, poems.
2. Participants should submit their original work or, if the work can't be mailed, send photographs of the work.

There will be three categories, based on the creator's age range: age 12 and under; age 13-17; and age 18 and older. Group projects, such as from an RE group, are welcome. Prizes of \$50 will go to the winning piece in each category. Deadline for submissions: Oct. 1, 2017. Participants must be connected to a Canadian UU congregation. The winning pieces will be shared online with Canadian Unitarian Universalists.

## Former Beaconite running for the Green Party

Two former Beacon members were Bill Marshall and Kate Smith. They had a son, James, who was one of the Beacon children for quite a few years.

When he became a teenager, he started drumming with the SFU pipe band, and several times he travelled with that band to Scotland, where the band won awards in international pipe band competitions. I remember once he drummed for us during a church service. Not only did he drum, but while he drummed he twirled his drumsticks in rapid intricate patterns. It was very impressive.

Now he is a grown man, and this year he is a Green candidate in the upcoming election. He is running in the Vancouver-West End constituency.

Here is what the Green website says about him: James Marshall has been working in the Vancouver tech sector for the past ten years as an animator, artist, and technical artist in Vancouver's vibrant video game and film industry.



James Marshall

He's also an avid musician, regularly performing in many of the city's live music venues, recording several self-financed albums, and is an alumnus of the multi-time world champion Simon Fraser University Pipe Band.

*Submitted by Jane Shoemaker*

### Beaconites in the Spotlight

Do you have an event or accomplishment that you would like to share with the Beacon congregation? Please submit your information for publication in *The Beacon* by the 15th day of the month, for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. We want to hear from you! Email: [newsletter@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:newsletter@beaconunitarian.org).

*Connecting,  
Transforming!  
Inspiring.*

## Beacon Calendar: May 2017

*Note: Calendar entries are truncated—view the complete entries on the Beacon web site calendar page.*

May 2017 (Pacific Time - Vancouver)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10:30am - Worship Service 1pm - Board meeting	1	2 7:30pm - Choir practice	3 9:30am - Worship	4 12pm - Lunch Bunch	5	6
7 Theme: Thirst 10:30am - Worship Service	8 7pm - Spirit of Life	9 7:30pm - Choir practice	10	11 12pm - Lunch Bunch 7pm - Getting to know U	12	13
14 10:30am - Worship Service	15	16 7:30pm - Choir practice	17 1pm - Soul Matters 7pm - Soul Matters Evening	18 12pm - Lunch Bunch 1pm - Connecting and	19	20 1pm - Beacon Writer's
21 10:30am - Worship Service	22	23 7:30pm - Choir practice	24	25 12pm - Lunch Bunch	26	27
28 10:30am - Worship Service 1pm - Board meeting 7:30pm - Humanist	29	30 1pm - Coordinating Council	31	1 12pm - Lunch Bunch	2 Sasamat Family Camp	3