

Services in June

JUN 4 There will be two services today in two locations:

**Sasamat Outdoor Centre,
302 Senkler Rd,
Belcarra, BC V3H 4S3:**

Flying High!

Co-ordinated by Laura Redmond and Rev. Debra Thorne

Community singing will be led by Patti Powell

Welcome summer and join with campers, families and friends at the annual pilgrimage to Camp Sasamat. We gather under the trees, on the shores of Lake Sasamat to sing, play and worship together.

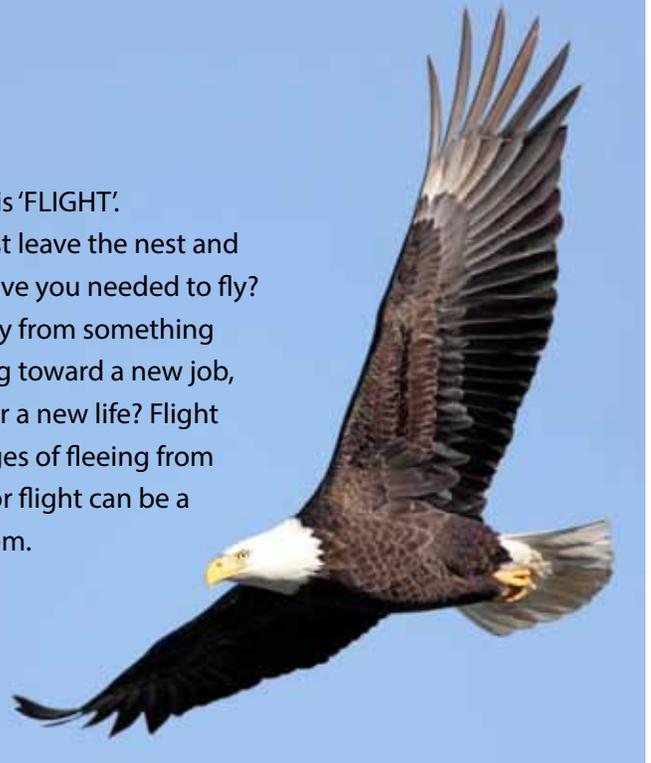
Patti Powell is a community choir leader in the Ubuntu Choir Network. Ubuntu choirs aim to be inclusive, community-focused, non-auditioned and socially-engaged. Patti leads four community choirs and is an apprentice conductor with Brian Tate and the City Soul Choir.

**Sapperton Pensioner's Hall,
318 Keary Street, New West:
'Roots hold me close.
Wings set me free.'**

Coordinated by Sue Sparlin and friends
Before we dare great things we need to know there is a safe place to land. We will share stories of our roots, our safety nets, and how having them has made it possible to try something new or daring. We will sing and laugh and soar to great heights, then land softly and share food together. This is an all-ages service. There is no separate RE program for the children. An art table

Flight

The theme for June is 'FLIGHT'. Every baby bird must leave the nest and learn to fly. When have you needed to fly? Were you flying away from something or someone, or flying toward a new job, a new relationship or a new life? Flight can conjure up images of fleeing from a difficult situation or flight can be a metaphor for freedom.



will be provided at the back of the room. Cookies and juice will be available to share upstairs after the service. The food bank collection will be next Sunday, on June 11th.

JUN 11 **Living in Whiteness**
Rev. Debra Thorne

There is a difficult and necessary conversation taking place right now across Canadian and American Unitarian Universalist communities. In the past month there have been 690 congregations offering services and teach-ins on the issues of 'white supremacy'. The institutions are being challenged as are the congregations to face with courage and love that which is so hard to see. I will share my understanding of what white suprem-

acy means and bring Beacon into this crucial conversation.

JUN 18 **Up Up and Away!**
Rev. Debra Thorne and DRE Ashley Cole

This our last service together before the summer months take us off in many directions. It is a time to celebrate each and everyone in the Beacon community. Young and old and in between, we will weave together our dreams and hopes for future days in a colourful tapestry of love and gratitude.

After the service we will head out to the park for our annual family picnic. Please bring the whole family and a contribution for the potluck lunch.

Minister's Message



Rev. Debra Thorne

The last month of our 2016–17 church year is already upon us. What a year it has been! This time last year many of us were standing in the international arrivals area at the airport waiting excitedly to greet the Al Rbaai family. The work done by the Refugee Taskforce in preparation for that day was huge. The learning was just beginning. In the past twelve months the community has learned how challenging it is to communicate across the barriers of language and culture. We have also had to grapple with our hope and expectations when faced with the realities of homesickness and family separation, the strangeness of a regular school schedule, unexpected and anticipated medical needs and the red tape of bureaucracy. There has also been the satisfaction that each day the challenges for the Al Rbaai's have gotten a little easier, a little less confusing, a little less overwhelming. Please read the article on page five by April Hope, who has collected sage wisdom from helping Unitarian congregations from across Canada sponsor refugee families.

In this past year we saw a new group launched at Beacon. The Writer's Group arose out of a conversation between Janet Pivnick and Marilyn Medén, and typifies what I admire about the Beacon community—they just make it happen!

It has been a year of stresses and strains for some of our leadership. Yet Beacon is nothing if not resilient in the face of loss and change. I commend the hard working board for the work done this year. I could name every person not only on the Board but in all the committees who have made invaluable contributions to the week to week responsibilities that keep the community afloat. I want to especially thank Audrey Taylor for her leadership as Beacon's Board President this past year. Audrey along with the executive—Carol Woodworth (Treasurer), John Hagen

(Vice-President) and David Kristjanson (Secretary)—have worked hard in the background to make good decisions on behalf of everyone. And I am so pleased to greet the new board elected in April and I look forward to working with them.

I sincerely thank Marilyn Medén for the four years that she chaired the Worship Committee. Thank you Marilyn for your enthusiasm and creative leadership. I'm glad you'll stay working with the Worship Committee as the new chairs Janet Pivnick and Joan Morris will benefit from your experience.

A very special thank you to Jean Donaldson who for many years has chaired the Connecting and Membership Committee. Despite many physical challenges this past year Jean has rallied to pick up her leadership again. I am very grateful for her commitment and determination!

Thank you. Thank you to each person ("Yes, You!") who has contributed to Beacon in all the many, many ways that sustain the community throughout the year.

I hope everyone reading this newsletter will be able to attend the last Sunday service of this church year, June 18th, and join us afterwards for a family picnic.

May your summer be filled with love, laughter and deep connections.

Warmly,
Rev. Debra Thorne

BEACON'S VISION

CONNECT with Compassion & Respect

INSPIRE learning & Spiritual Growth

TRANSFORM through Joy & Justice

*Connecting, Inspiring,
Transforming!*



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

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and Donna Hamilton; **Treasurer:** Carol
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Members at Large: Helen McVey, John
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**Deadline for the summer issue of
The Beacon: June 15, 2017**

Board Bitz



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead

At this time last year, Beacon was anxiously waiting for “a refugee family from Syria”. People that we did not know. It seemed that they would never get here—hold up after hold up. And now, a year later we celebrate the one year anniversary of our friends, the Al Rbaai family, arriving in Canada. The family is settling in, the children are going to school and all are learning to speak English. Time flies.

Now another small group of thoughtful, committed people from Beacon are working to change the world again by bringing more of the family to Canada. More information to come as this all progresses.

Planning has now started for the

2018 BC Regional Spring Gatherings. The CUC is looking at having three gatherings, probably in May, with one in the Lower Mainland, one on Vancouver Island and one in the Interior. As part of this planning we held a sticker vote after Church on Sunday May 14th on possible theme ideas. *Love and Justice* received 4 votes, *Environment* received 8 votes, *Truth Healing and Reconciliation* received 12 votes, *Congregation Size Concerns* received 3 votes and *Doing Church Differently* received 11 votes. The board will pass these results on to the CUC so they can add them to the information received from other BC congregations. We should be hearing more about the 2018 Spring Regional

Gatherings over the next few months.

The board is currently reviewing Beacon’s Safe Congregation Plan and updating our list of congregation members who have first aid training. If you have first aid training, please email David at davidhardy@telus.net. Let us know what kind of training you have and we will add you to the list. Thank you in advance for helping us keep this information current.

And finally, check out the bulletin boards at Sapperton Hall to see the new Beacon posters designed by Laura Redmond. We think they are beautiful. Let us know what you think.

Happy Summer!

—Your co-presidents, David Kristjanson and Donna Hamilton

Summer Services

We are already planning summer services, and are delighted to say that there will be a Poetry, Prose, Music service on July 9th, 11 am, at the Astoria Retirement Home, Denis Probst’s home, 2245 Kelly Ave. Port Coquitlam. Marylke Nieuwenhuis will play the recorder and Michael Jenkins will be one of the speakers. The theme will be Leadership Versus Finding Your Own Path, but as usual, you are invited, encouraged, to read what you choose, from your own writing or that of others. Please let Marilyn Medén know what you plan to read, so she can plan “the arc” of the service (m.j.meden@telus.net 604 469 6797).

There will also be a Service In The Park, lead by Rev. Debra, on August 20th, and the Music Service on August 27th at Lundervilles.

Worship Services Committee Update:

Marilyn Medén, noticing the addition to the committee of two keen and capable people, has stepped down as chairperson. Co-chairing are Joan Morris and Janet Pivnick. Secretary is now Susan White. It is wonderful to have the opportunity for new and strong leadership.

—Marilyn Medén, on behalf of the Worship Services Committee

Religious Explorations



Ashley Cole

How is it June already? What a difference a year can make! I want to extend a big thank you to all the volunteers and R.E Committee members who have made this such a great year at Beacon! Looking ahead, June is a short month but with a lot going on! To start we will not have Sunday school program June 4th as that is the weekend of Camp Sasamat, June

11th we will have a joint class with some hands-on activities, and then June 18th the folks in R.E will be hosting an all ages morning service followed by a picnic lunch!

Looms & Ribbons

As I have requested in the past we are still in need of some looms and ribbon for the all ages service. If you have any supplies or know of someone who does, please reach out to me (Ashley) either by email akcole1@gmail.com, by phone (778) 829-1550, or in person on Sunday mornings. What I am still seeking is a few weaving looms and some ribbon (preferably light colours, satin ribbon, 3/4" or 7/8" width). Thank you in advance for your help!!

—Ashley Cole, Director of R.E



Celebrate a Year in Canada with Us!

Come to a potluck dinner to celebrate the Al Rbaai's first year in Canada.

Date: Friday, June 30, 2017

Time: 6:30 pm

Place: Tom and Peggy Lunderville's house, 8892 Armstrong Ave., Burnaby

RSVP: Bette Goode, bjgoode@hotmail.com, 604-462-7919 or 778-874-9203

Please RSVP with what you would like to bring—appetizer, main dish, salad/vegetable dish or dessert. Also, choose between “everyday” Canadian fare (e.g. potato salad, deviled eggs, etc.) or the cooking style of the Al Rbaai family who choose to follow their religion's guidelines for cooking and eating.

The family prefers Halal meat, from animals which are killed in a certain way, and butchered according to strict guidelines. No gelatin or alcohol can be used, including flavourings. Peggy has some vanilla paste which she has volunteered to share for baking. The family doesn't eat dairy due to food sensitivity.

Vegan recipes would work well as would vegetable dishes and salads.



Al Rbaai Family

The family, among many other things, is improving their English. Nader is enjoying his English lessons three evenings a week. Taghreed was hesitant about learning, but enjoys visits from Meghan and Marylke. Her comprehension has increased, in fact, she doesn't hesitate to try English now, and this is a big step for her. Raneem is learning grammar and vocabulary. In her latest English lesson she wrote about foods in Syria and Jordan, reviewed items found in her kitchen, played a game matching opposites, and answered questions that reviewed prepositions (between, across from, and around the corner from). New words are “delicious” and “neighbours”. She has just begun to learn the names of continents and countries. Raneem is learning, not just English, but to be responsible for doing some homework. Mohammad, after a difficult beginning, now enjoys kindergarten, has made considerable progress, and stays at school until dismissal at 2:53 pm.

Submitted by Marilyn Méden

Refugee Sponsorship

Beacon's Refugee Sponsorship Taskforce (#1) is preparing to celebrate the Al Rbaai family's first year in Canada, and the Taskforce's two years of preparation and support. The following article was posted by April Hope who is the CUC contact and co-ordinator for Unitarian Sponsorship's in Canada. It was thought that this overview was realistic and helpful and in some ways reflective of some of the challenges that Beacon's Sponsorship has had.



April Hope, CUC
Social Responsibility
Coordinator

Refugee sponsorship is not always a piece of cake, a bed of roses, or even what we had hoped it might be. Sponsorship is kind of like raising a child from 0–20 years

of age, in 12 months flat! Except that you are dealing with someone who speaks another language, comes from a different culture, and is not in fact a child at all.

A good sponsor, like a good parent, needs to teach a newcomer to be self-sufficient and thrive without them. Before a newcomer arrives, we hope, we pray, we believe they will settle and be successful in our community. We have a list from the government that tells us how they can be successful: learn French or English, manage bank accounts, pay taxes, find employment, attend school and more. We dream, surely, “my newcomer” will do all of these things and more!

Then reality hits...they aren't picking up the language, they want to move to a different city, they want to go back home, they don't understand the importance of following Canadian laws, they want to do everything or nothing on their own, they resent not supporting themselves, they are scared. We think, how will we ever help them become self-sufficient?

We may need to manage our own expectations. For a family having dealt with very severe trauma or living with daunting health issues, even

learning a new language in one year may only be a dream. Sometimes, you will have to set aside the list of things that “should” be done and simply help them through a difficult day.

Alternatively, the newcomer who expects to find work or start a business within weeks or months after arrival may feel disappointed and frustrated because they are not able to provide the same lifestyle they were accustomed to in their home country.

We may need to manage our own expectations. For a family having dealt with very severe trauma or living with daunting health issues, even learning a new language in one year may only be a dream.

They may feel like they are failing, and all you can do is support them in their disappointment and point out their achievements.

When the person(s) we have sponsored is not meeting expectations, ours or their own, it may be difficult to know what to do. Knowing when to step back is just as important as being willing to step up and help.

A healthy sponsorship is messy... you are taking a traumatized family and connecting them with a group of volunteers who “just want to help”. And, sometimes the best way to help is to do nothing at all.

Well-meaning volunteers can sometimes cause more harm than good when they disagree about what the next best steps may be. It can cause a great deal of stress when everyone has their own idea about what is best for the newcomer. If an individual acts on their own without consulting the rest of the group, it can cause a lot of friction and often confusion for the newcomer. Just like in parenting, a unified voice is always the best course of action.

Sometimes volunteers act in their own interests instead of the family's by creating dependency of the newcomer. Doing everything for another person instead of helping them learn to do things for themselves is not helping them at all. It may seem easier to just “do it for them”, but remember there is only a short 12 months to get them standing on their own.

We navigate these challenges to the best of our ability, connecting newcomers with professional help when needed. We share our experience and knowledge, encourage them to try things on their own, and then at some point, we let go.

Just like parenting, we won't do it perfectly, it's going to get messy, AND it's going to be OK.

If you have faced the challenges of gathering a group of people together to help another group of people learn to live in Canada, you have succeeded.

—Posted on April 23, 2017 by
April Hope,

CUC Social Responsibility Coordinator

Beacon Welcomes Three New Members on May 28th

Judith McLean



Judith McLean is a newly single, recent transplant to Lougheed Town Centre area, semi-retired college instructor, with Masters

degrees in Social Work and Education, occasionally teaching Job Search and Essential Skills at Vancouver Community College. She delivers wellness seminars (and admits to being a burned out caregiver), guides displaced or downsized executives and those struggling through transitions. She has chosen Beacon Unitarian to deepen her now local tribe of catalysts, change agents and kind people. Judith admits being hearing impaired. Let her see your face when you talk so she can read you as she listens.

Vrindy Spencer



Vrindy Spencer is a vegan, avid swing-dancer, and constant community-seeker and creator. She moved to New

Westminster last year after 4 years at a liberal arts school in Squamish studying “What conditions optimize a sense of belonging?” and looking into ways to facilitate “group intimacy.” Beacon presented itself as a space for both. Never having found a spiritual home, she looks forward to the opportunity to be part of a community to explore and express various spiritual avenues.

Tyler Ewasiuk



Growing up, I was not a religious person. However, as I became older I realized I needed to find a community where I could

safely and comfortably explore my spiritual and emotional needs. I am forever grateful that Beacon has welcomed me so openly and completely, and I am excited to be a part of its future.’

Regina Ogmundson

Was introduced in the December newsletter but due to illness wasn't able to sign the membership book last year. Regina will join Vrindy, Judith and Tyler on May 28th.

Creative Arts Eliot 2017 Camp in Seabeck, Washington

August 12–16, 2017

CAE 2017 promises to be a relaxing time for exploring your creativity! This smaller Eliot camp includes many of the Eliot activities we know and love—in-gathering, small groups, daily worship, evening activities, and waterfront swimming, with the added bonus of a morning workshop with an artist! Children are welcome at Creative Arts Eliot. The morning children's program generally includes a balance of active play and exploration with arts, crafts, and/or science offerings during the camp. The children's program is not solely arts focused.

More info at www.eliotinstitute.org

Adult Workshops:

Writing through “The Woods” with Shannon Applegate

Name, frame, and shape personal narratives in the form of vivid vignettes that lantern life's chapters.

Intro to Puppetry with Rob D'Arc

Puppeteer Rob D'Arc shares his love for the ancient art of puppetry with you, in this delightful hands on program where you will make fun puppets, and learn some of the secrets of puppet manipulation and performance!

Storytelling with Will Hornyak

All good storytelling feels like a

natural conversation between teller and audience. But how do we find the right place to start and end that conversation?

Painting & Collage with Sue Jensen

This class will focus on preparing collage papers primarily using printing methods and painting. We will design and make our own stencils and stamps for this out of foam plates, cardboard, and acetate.

Beginning Ukulele with Nancy Stevens

We will learn 10 chords, four strumming patterns, and perhaps a simple finger picking pattern. I will provide handouts. We will also learn to play a

few familiar tunes by ear.

Colorful Creations II with Jilly Watson

Jilly will be teaching the basic elements of composition, colour and value, while exploring the diversity of acrylic paints. Each morning the group will explore a different technique and composition that will help them produce a joy-filled colourful painting.

Photography with Martin Waugh

This is a course on the art, science, and imagination of photography. We will cover some of the technical issues, composition, applications, and practice of photography.

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. Part personal sharing, part spiritual deepening, the groups meet monthly either at 1 pm or 7 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Meetings will resume in September. Email 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, June 25th: The Humanist Group has not solidified plans for the June meeting, but has a theme, Consciousness, for the meetings beginning in September. Contact Marilyn Medén m.j.meden@telus.net 604 469 6797 for more information.

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. Choir practise will resume in September.

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.

Upcoming Books:

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

July: *A Town Like Alice* by Neville Shute

The Beacon Writers' Group will meet on Saturday, June 17th at Marilyn Medén's in Port Moody. The theme for the month is Flight. 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. Contact Marilyn Medén or Janet Pivnick for more details. m.j.meden@telus.net 604 469 6797, or janpivnick@gmail.com

Food Bank Sunday will be June 11th.

Attend a Circle Dinner and connect with other Beaconites in a relaxed setting. For more information contact Joan Morris, 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) if you are interested in attending the next meeting.

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

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



June 1st deadline for Beacon Directory Updates

Your dedicated Connecting and Membership Committee has a dream – to publish a Beacon Directory by the end of the church year in June.

Your help is needed.

If your information in the last directory is correct, all is well. Otherwise — please act quickly if:

- You aren't yet in the directory and wish to be
- Your current listing needs revising in any way
- Your membership status has changed recently

Please contact Jean Donaldson, 604-461-0056, donaldsj@telus.net, or Joan Morris, 604-513-1526, joanmorris@telus.net by June 1st.



Jean Donaldson



Joan Morris

Fulgence Ndagijimana visits Vancouver, June 4–5



Fulgence Ndagijimana was a Unitarian minister in Burundi and is now a political refugee in Canada. He is currently a ministerial intern at the Unitarian Church of Saskatoon. He will be preaching at UCV on Sunday, June 4 at 11:00 am and at South Fraser at 1:30 pm. There will be a potluck dinner and discussion on Monday June 5 at 5:30 pm at UCV. RSVP, or for more information, email Mary Lage marylage@shaw.ca.

Go Canada! Laura Ramsay and Gerry Poulton Win Gold at the World Masters Games



Gerry Poulton and Laura Ramsay with their gold medals at the World Masters Games in New Zealand. Laura won for women's over 65 squash. Gerry Poulton won for men's over 70 squash.

OUT IN HARMONY presents
Listen to the Music
Nicola Hamilton
DIRECTOR
Dan Lauterbach
ACCOMPANIST
24 JUNE 2017
SATURDAY, 7:30 PM
Unitarian Church of Vancouver
949 W 49th AVE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE
This is a semi-free concert! Let us be mindful of those who may have issues with sights or performers. Thank you!
OUT IN HARMONY
Tickets: Scan QR code or go to <http://tiny.cc/listen2music>
Visit: OUTINHARMONY.ORG for more information.

Vancouver's Gay, Bi, Trans, Queer, Lesbian & Friends Choir,
Out in Harmony presents "Listen to the Music"
on June 24th, at 7:30 pm at UCV

For more information see Susan White or Donna Hamilton,
or visit: outinharmony.org.

The World Masters Games

The World Masters Games is an international multi-sport event held every four years which, in terms of competitor numbers, has developed into the largest of its kind. Auckland, New Zealand hosted the event's ninth edition from 21 to 30 April 2017. The first World Masters Games was held in Toronto, Ontario in 1985. The International Masters Games Association is the worldwide representative body for Masters sport. It promotes the sport-for-all philosophy of the Olympic Charter by encouraging all people beyond young adulthood to play sport and to participate in Masters Games with the awareness that competitive sport can continue throughout life and improve personal fitness. (Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Masters_Games)

—Submitted by Jane Shoemaker

Beacon Calendar: June 2017

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

Beacon Calendar							Jun 2017 (Pacific Time - Vancouver)		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	1	2	3
28 10:30am - Worship Service 1pm - Board meeting 7:30pm - Humanist	29	30 10:30am - Coordinating	31	1 12pm - Lunch Bunch	2 Sasamat Family Camp	3			
4 Sasamat Family Camp Theme: Flight 10:30am - Worship Service	5 7pm - Spirit of Life	6	7 9:30am - Worship	8 12pm - Lunch Bunch	9	10			
11 10:30am - Worship Service	12	13	14	15 12pm - Lunch Bunch	16	17			
18 10:30am - Worship Service 12pm - End of Year Picnic	19	20	21	22 12pm - Lunch Bunch	23	24			
25 1pm - Board meeting 7:30pm - Humanist	26	27	28	29 12pm - Lunch Bunch	30	1			