

Celebration!

The theme this month is 'Celebration' because we've worked hard this past year and our spirits need to celebrate our achievements and our survival. At a time when the chaos of the world, its politics and the earth's future, presses on our hearts and minds, we must find moments to celebrate life.

**JUN
2**

Two services to choose from today:

1. Gifts from our

Grandmothers (Sapperton Hall)

Service Leader, Sue Sparlin

We celebrate our heritage with memories of our maternal ancestors. Bring something that reminds you of your mother or grandmother... a quilt, a card, a flower? We will share stories of what our grandmothers gave to us and sing songs that celebrate our connections to the past and our contributions to the future. An all-ages service (no separate Religious Exploration program today).

2. Travel Adventures

Sasamat Outdoor Centre (3302 Senkler Rd, Belcarra, BC V3H 4S3)

Service Leader: Calum Kwan (Youth from North Shore Unitarian Church)

Our guest speaker on Sunday will be long-time camper Gabi Harvey telling a few stories of her travelling life. Look forward to hearing bits about Ecuador, Italy and cruise ships.

**JUN
9**

Hey, That's Our Way to Say Goodbye:

A Celebration of Ministry

Service Leaders: Worship Services Team

As Reverend Debra prepares to depart across the Salish Sea to her new home in Nanaimo, today we take a moment to say "thank you" for a seven year ministry that has fit like a glove and has brought much growth and change and joy to the Beacon community.

- The service will be slightly longer than usual, and a sandwich lunch to follow.

Children & Youth: Youth are invited to remain upstairs for the service. Downstairs there will be a year end celebration and wrap up of the RE program.

**JUN
16**

Ending and Beginnings

Rev. Debra Thorne

Exactly seven years ago I arrived on your doorstep, an eager new minister excited to serve Beacon. That day I brought my suitcase and unpacked it, today I'll do the reverse. With your help I will pack my suitcase

with all the moments of experience and gifts that Beacon has given me. We will release the Covenant of our Ministry, and create a Covenant for the Future.

- Following the service there will be the annual congregational picnic at Sapperton Park. Hot dogs are provided, please bring fruit, veggies and sweets for sharing. (If it's raining we'll cook up the hotdogs in the parking lot!)

Children & Youth: Children and youth will help set up for the annual church picnic in the park (weather dependent).



Minister's Message

What a great joy it has been to serve you these last seven years. Exactly seven years ago, on Sunday June 17, 2012 I arrived at Beacon fresh from my internship in Washington State. I slipped over the border on a Sunday morning with my suitcase in hand to be welcomed by many of you. The service was called 'Endings and Beginnings'. I remember my nervousness rising when I looked out and saw Rev. Phillip Hewett in the congregation.

It was this same space but it looked cavernous. There were no colourful screens shaping the worship space, no screens on the stage. There was a draped table with the chalice and some artificial flowers. David Hamilton was at the piano.... and off we went.

So much has changed in this congregation since then. So much has changed in me. Each of you has had some part in my transformation into the minister I am today. You have cared for me and loved me, as I have cared for you and loved you. This is the wonderful crazy alchemy that is ministry. We now carry a little bit of each other in our hearts.

The care we have for each other is why it hurts to say goodbye. This is how it should be when you care for someone. And because it hurts, we often shy away from being present and open hearted in our goodbyes.

I hope we have a 'good goodbye'. I hope we can take this opportunity to practice how we take our leave of each other. We don't get a lot of opportunities to say goodbye well. We aren't necessarily well practiced at it. One example of a good practice of completing a relationship, for whatever reason, are these four statements. Perhaps you have heard of them already. They go: *I'm sorry. Thank you. I love you. Goodbye.*

I have used them when someone I know is dying. I am not dying, but my leaving is an ending. So here we go. *If I have ever said or done anything that hurt you, please accept my apology. I forgive you any word or action that I may have experienced as painful. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your care, for all the moments we worked together, talked together, sang together and created a worshipful experience together. I love you.*

**I'm sorry. Thank you.
I love you. Goodbye.**

My last day is Sunday, June 16th, when I will say a final good bye. I hope you are able to be at the service that day, but if you can't, then let's find a moment before then to say goodbye.

On that last Sunday we will release the covenant that we have held through our ministry. We will then create a new covenant that shapes our future relationship when I am no longer your minister.

This new covenant will make clear that after I leave Beacon there may not be intentional contact between us for two years. This includes face to face contact, phone calls, texting, email, and Face Book. This is a practice also followed by therapists and social workers. I know it seems like a very long time, yet it is necessary for good reasons. The first is so that we can both let go of the shared ministry relationship that we have together now and then you can look forward and re-imagine a brand new ministry with the next minister. Secondly, when you get your new minister, they need this time to establish relationships with you, and you with them. And thirdly it allows me to look forward as well,

and establish new relationships with the FUFON congregation.

Finally, I have a personal request of you. I know many of you have family and friends on Vancouver Island and may find yourself travelling through Nanaimo. I would appreciate that you steer clear of the Nanaimo Fellowship on the Sundays when I am conducting the service, for these two years, because this is when I will be building the new relationships there.

Thank you for understanding and entering into the spirit of this new covenant with me. I want you to know though, that I will be thinking of you often, and I take with me a little piece of each of you in my heart.

With great affection and respect,

Rev. Debra



Summer services...

can take a variety of forms—a discussion, sharing of stories, poems and readings, community singing.

Summer services...

are informal, taking place in living rooms, in parks or any place that allows a dozen or so people to gather.

If you have an idea and would like to create and coordinate a simple service, contact Janet Pivnick, Worship Services Committee Chair by **June 10th:** janpivnick@gmail.com.

Board Bitz



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

The Beacon Board of Trustees, with new members Karen Greenland and Heather Brown, had its first meeting on May 5th. Heather is quickly learning all the responsibilities of being treasurer with help from our outgoing treasurer Carol Woodworth; and Karen brings a wealth of knowledge to the board from being on other community boards as well as being a previous member of the Beacon board. As the end of the Beacon Church year draws near, the board will be busy winding things down for the summer, and the personnel committee will be doing employee reviews and renewing contracts for September.

Our search for a new minister continues. We have had some well qualified people apply, and are in final stages of interviewing candidates. If all goes well, we WILL have a new minister in place for the fall. There will be more information as things move forward.

The Settlement 2 team has been working very hard to bring more members of the Al Rbaai family to Canada and it is sounding like they may be arriving soon. This could happen without very much notice, and when it does, there will be a need for volunteers to help settle the new family members.

Contact Peggy Lunderville prlunder@gmail.com, or Terry McComas terry_mccomas@yahoo.ca for further details or if you wish to help.

The Beacon Coordinating Council meets on Saturday June 8th from noon until 4 pm at the Lundervilles' home. There will be a potluck lunch from noon until 1 pm, then we get down to business. This is an opportunity for all of Beacon's Leadership to share updates, successes and challenges in

committees and task forces from this past year and to look ahead and create the 2019/20 calendar. Please come prepared with dates for Board meetings, Soup Lunches, special events, Pledge Drive, Humanist Group, and for social groups such as Book Club, etc. All are welcome.

And now for the sad part. As you all know, Rev. Debra will be leaving us when the church year ends in June. We hope that you will all make a special point of coming every Sunday this month to be with her for her final few services. Let's turn this sad occasion into a celebration of her past seven years with us.

And to Debra, thank you for being such an important part of our Beacon community. Your spiritual and practical leadership has been our guiding light, our beacon, for the past seven years. You have inspired us and moved us in so many ways and will be missed terribly. We wish you all the happiness in the world.

— David Kristjanson and
Donna Hamilton, Co-Presidents
board@beaconunitarian.org

Beacon's new Lay Chaplain, Sue Sparlin



Sue Sparlin is welcomed as Beacon's new lay chaplain by board co-president, David Kristjanson.

At the AGM in April, the members voted to affirm Sue Sparlin as Beacon's Lay Chaplain. Sue held this position six years ago and is eligible to hold the position once more. Sue has been a member of Beacon for more than 15 years and has served on the board and several committees. Lay Chaplaincy offers her the opportunity to grow spiritually and serve the greater community. She has performed weddings inside prisons, in back yards, and in churches, in English and in French and Spanish. She is an experienced actor and singer and currently leads the congregational singing on Sunday mornings, and performs in local community theatre.

Living with Less Plastic – New Westminster

New Westminster's Environment Advisory Committee wants to hear from us!

As a result of the letters that Beacon sent to Mayor Côté, our group, "Living with Less Plastic New West," has been invited to speak to the City's Environment Committee in June! So, thank you to everyone that sent a letter; it is great to have such a good result in record time.

Allison G., Living with Less Plastic (LWLP) New West member, has been working on reducing her family's 'plastic footprint' at the grocery store. As you can see in the accompanying photo, there are some modifications to the usual checkout line. All the vegetables are purchased 'as is', without using plastic produce bags. The brown paper bag is being used for a bulk purchase and is marked with the



bin number; Allison uses the paper bags provided for mushrooms. The reusable turquoise & white pouch is being used for sliced deli meats and has been labelled with the sticker that normally goes on the plastic bag used for deli items. Allison observes that 'Plastic is pretty hard to avoid for dairy products.'

—Teresa Morton

teresa.a.morton@gmail.com

Religious Explorations

We have finally hit June. With that, our regular structured programming comes to an end until September. I want to give a big thank you to all those



Ashley Cole

who supported RE this year. The RE program, just like the rest of Beacon's activities, cannot function without your support and input. If you are looking to provide more input and get more involved considering joining our Religious Exploration committee. We meet monthly and discuss the RE curriculum and programs. We will take a break for the summer but consider joining us in August, where you can provide input on the direction the RE will take for the coming year. For more information ask Ashley.

—Ashley Cole (she/her pronouns)
Director of Religious Exploration,
dre@beaconunitarian.org



Settlement 2 Update

On May 2, members of Beacon met with the Al Rbaai family to plan for the imminent arrival of four more members of their family—two sons, daughter-in-law and grandson. The meeting was called as the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) staff member Samia had alerted the Task Force that arrival would be "soon". The family members currently in Jordan as Syrian refugees had passed their interview and medical examinations. They will also be checked for criminal records. (The latest news [May 29] is that permanent resident visas have just been issued and the new family members are expected probably within 4 to 10 weeks. We will be given two weeks notice of their arrival.)

Housing: On arrival they can stay without charge at the Lunderville home and will likely spend their days at the Al Rbaai home, cooking and eating there. Kusai will likely live at the Al Rbaai home. Their hope in the long run is to have a home large enough for the eight of them, in New Westminster or Burnaby.

English: They are encouraged to attend English classes and develop some proficiency prior to full time employment.

It was a pleasure to meet with the family and Beacon members. There is excitement at finally having fulfilment of our dream so close at hand.

—Peggy Lunderville

Farewell to Rev. Debra

It is with mixed feelings that the Connecting and Membership committee bids farewell to Rev. Debra. She has attended all of our meetings since her arrival at Beacon, seven years ago, providing leadership, support and guidance as we endeavour to fulfil our mandate: to work to encourage, support and grow the membership of the Beacon community.

Each of us have particular and appreciated memories of her time with us.

Jean, who was chair for the majority of Debra's time at Beacon writes: *As we often use a sailing/ship metaphor for Beacon, I think of Debra's role as the indispensable rudder for Connecting and Membership. She kept us on course, sensed the wind and weather, looked to the skies, was a true navigator for our group. As well, she kept the log for each of our monthly journeys and shared the record of our travels so we could plan for future sails. She was a treasured and respected member of the crew upon whom all of us depended; in the crow's nest, on the deck, always carrying more than*

her share of the weight, lightening the load with her kindness, sensitivity and humour.

Joyce Gudaitis writes: *The ceremonies of chalice lighting and opening words and Debra's insights and gentle reminders throughout the meeting helped us keep our Unitarian values front and centre. I especially valued her genuine care and concern for each of us at our check-ins. Not only that, she took great minutes and sent them out that very day – a rare accomplishment indeed! Thank you Debra for everything – we will miss you.*

Susan Tarras: *I have appreciated Debra's focus on the importance of welcoming newcomers. It's also been lovely to have her keep us grounded with opening and closing words at our committee meetings.*

Phil Campbell adds: *Debra provided us with inspiration in the chalice lightings and extinguishings, amazing detail about people attending and needing help or a nudge of some sort, and so frequently wrote the notes for the meeting. She also had a way of pulling things together and directing us towards action.*

Joan Morris: *And I, as current chair of the committee, have valued Debra's willingness to take on so much more than mentor and support at meetings. Her wise leadership and caring perspective lent a valuable and deeper spiritual focus to our monthly meetings. She kept us on track with the broader goal of our work, reminding us to always endeavour to create a welcoming environment at church. Keeping our minutes at each meeting was definitely above and beyond her "job description"!*

All the best on the next part of your journey, Debra. We wish you success with your new church in Nanaimo, and for a more settled life with your beloved partner, Theo. We will miss you!

—Your Connecting and Membership Committee: Joan Morris, Phil Campbell, Joyce Gudaitis, Susan Tarras.



Joan Morris

Circle Dinners

May 4th had three Circle Dinners in members' homes. Nancy Rupert, Heather Brown and Satya and John Doerksen held dinners. Games and garden tours provided enjoyable evenings for everyone. For more information on Circle Dinners, contact Donna Hamilton (donna-h@telus.net) or Joan Morris (joanmorris@telus.net).



Dinner with the Doerksens, May 4, 2019..

Beacon greets three new members

We welcomed with delight, three new members to our Beacon congregation on May 5th. Amalia Mamani, Teresa Morton and Kay Thompson received welcoming words from our Board co-chairs, David Kristjanson and Donna Hamilton and from Rev. Debra. During the Joining Ceremony, they were told that membership in this church is both simple and difficult. It is simple because all that is required is to sign our membership book and make a financial pledge of note. But difficult because it means you have linked yourself with a diverse community of individuals who covenant to search for truth and meanings and practice living in loving and respectful relationship with each other.

The congregation read the Covenant of Right Relations together which reminds us all about how best to live in a healthy relationship with each other.

The new members received a red rose, a little book about Unitarianism, and a handshake and hug of welcome.

Please reach out and get to know our new members, helping them feel welcomed and supported in our Beacon community.

Amalia Mamani

I was born in Cusco, Peru and immigrated to Canada in 1991. I am married with three kids (two teenagers and a nine-year-old) and I work for the New Westminster school district.

I learned that the Unitarian church was accepting of everyone, regardless of their background. I am attracted to the church's embrace of science, encouragement of spiritual growth, and awareness of our mutual connection to our world and each other. The



Left to right: Teresa Morton, Kay Thompson, Amalia Mamani

Unitarian values/principles are closely aligned with mine and this church is a place I feel good about bringing my children to.

Teresa Morton

Born on Vancouver Island, I was raised in a Unitarian Fellowship, and was a member at the Vancouver Church for many years.

Currently I work as the coordinator for My Artist's Corner, MAC, an art program for adult artists living with mental health issues, and this year's happy recipient of Beacon's *Sharing the Plate* project.

I've been an environmentalist all my life and along with other Beacon members, I helped present 'Climate Change Changes Me', a climate change curriculum, and now am working with the 'Living with Less Plastic' project.

Kay Thompson

My husband Bob and I are new residents in Coquitlam, having moved from Kamloops to be closer to our daughters.

Over the years, I became uncomfortable with standard Christianity and, being open to new ideas, I

found a home and a family feeling at the Kamloops Unitarian Fellowship where I was a member for 22 years. After all our years of moving so frequently, I know the value of being part of a larger fellowship when in a new community, so when we moved to Coquitlam I looked for a Unitarian Church and found Beacon.

Beacon Pastoral Care Team

The Beacon Pastoral Care team consists of Judy Villett, Beth Connelly, Stacy Finch, and Laura Redmond. If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care please let one of these people know.

How do you make a community hall into a sacred space?

Every Sunday morning, we make Sapperton Hall into a space that welcomes the community and invites worship. Would you like to be part of the team that infuses our space with warmth and touches of beauty? Contact David Kristjanson: davidhardy@telus.net.

Beacon Programs

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

The Humanist Discussion Group meets the last Sunday of the month, 7:30 pm at *The Astoria Retirement Home* (2245 Kelly Avenue, Port Coquitlam) to discuss a wide range of current topics. Please contact Marilyn Medén if you would like any further details, m.j.meden@telus.net.

Lunch Bunch meets every Thursday at noon, year-round. Bring your own lunch and share in lively and topical conversation. Contact Anne MacLeod at 604-524-2434.

Join the Beacon Choir for musical fun and skill development. Choir rehearsals will resume in September on Monday evenings, at 7:30 pm, at Miller Park School. Contact choir-director@beaconunitarian.org. All voices welcome!

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 Joan Morris (joan.morris@telus.net) if you are interested in attending the next meeting.

Attend a Circle Dinner and connect with other Beaconites in a relaxed setting. For more information contact Donna Hamilton (donna-h@telus.net) or Joan Morris (joanmorris@telus.net).

Help out on Sunday mornings as a Coffee Host (contact Joan Morris, joanmorris@telus.net), **or sign-up as a Sunday Morning Greeter** (contact Susan Tarras, starras@telus.net).

Youth Group: Contact Ashley Cole, dre@beaconunitarian.org, for more information.

Settlement 2: The Settlement 2 task force is organizing the sponsorship of four further members of the Al Rbaai family. Please contact Peggy Lunderville for meeting times and dates: prlunder@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Co-ordinating Council meeting: June 8th

The Co-ordinating Council is made up of one (or two) representative from each committee, task force, group, as well as the board presidents, some board members, and the minister. Join us on June 8th, from noon to 4 pm, at the Lundervilles' house.

Sunday June 9 Sandwich Lunch

Lunch takes place after the Sunday service in the downstairs hall. Please join us. Bette Goode (bjgoode@hotmail.com) will appreciate your food contributions.

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.

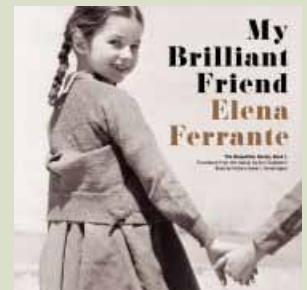
Next Meeting: Thursday, June 27 at 7 pm

My Brilliant Friend

by Elena Ferrante

Discussion Leader: Gail Thomson

Beginning in the 1950s Elena and Lila grow up in Naples, Italy, mirroring two different aspects of their nation. (Publisher)



BEACON THEOLOGY PUB (June 23, the 4th Sunday this month)

We've been meeting on third Sundays, but will change to the 4th Sunday in June. We meet in the Back Room of the District Taphouse at 421 E Columbia, just a few blocks east of Keary St. We start at 12:30, hoping to have orders in and discussion begun by 1 pm. The meeting room has one small step at the entry. Menu (with very reasonable options) can be found at <https://www.sappertondistricttaphouse.com/>.

Talks have been based on our Beacon themes for each month. On June 23 the topic will be "Celebration". Invite anyone you think might be interested. Contact Franci Louann at flouann@telus.net or 604-837-7613 to express interest.

July and August could be different, when Beacon won't have regular services. Maybe we'll decide to meet in a different location, maybe weekly, depending on interest and other planned Beacon activities. Happy Summer!

Sharing the Plate 2019–20 Recipient says *Thank you!*

My Artists Corner (MAC)

MAC is a group of artists who live with mental health issues. The MAC vision is to: Make art, Be well. The MAC mission is to empower individuals to explore their artistic potential on their journey to mental health and wellness. MAC provides a safe and welcoming environment, high quality instruction and promotes artists' work in the community at large. Here are two testimonials from members of MAC:

Shelley: "My artists corner" is a community based, member-run art program that brought me from a broken woman to a thriving and healthy person through the power of creativity and artistic pursuit. I am empowered by my own creative spirit, which may not have developed without the passion of the program directors at MAC and ECHO.

Anna: MAC is what I need—quietness, safety, regularity and order. It lets my brain go into discovery mode, and my eyes and hands love everything about paint, and I get power in me. ... I let my feelings travel by paint to paper, and I think about someone having a painting in their home/office that I created—how can I describe this feeling?



A giant among us: John Hagen



John Hagen with his sons, April 2019. (Photo: L. Ramsay)

A celebration of the living life of John Hagen, a founding member of Beacon, was held on April 14th. Beacon is proud to have such a compassionate member, who is active in social justice issues. Much thanks to Marilyn Medén and the Pastoral Care committee for organizing this tribute. The cake was absolutely delicious!



First-Friday Community Talent Nights

This family-oriented monthly gathering highlights a variety of talented local entertainers and performing artists!

WHEN:

March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7, Oct 4, Nov 1, Dec 6, 2019
at 7 pm

WHERE:

Sunnyside United, 15639 - 24 Avenue, Surrey

www.surreyunitarians.ca

SOUTH FRASER
UNITARIANS

Fun, upcoming musical workshop: Save the date!

Building Community Through Song: a weekend with Rev. Jason Shelton

September 27, 28 & 29, 2019
Unitarian Church of Vancouver



Open to anyone who loves to sing! More information coming soon. Please check the UCV website (vancouverunitarians.ca) or email Donna Brown to be put on the mailing list (quinnbrown44@gmail.com).

The Rev. Jason Shelton is a Unitarian Universalist minister, musician, and consultant. He served as Associate Minister for Music at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville from 1998–2017. In addition to

Jason's work as a composer (*The Fire of Commitment*, *Answering the Call of Love*, *Life Calls Us On*, and many more!), he is an active choral conductor and worship leader, and an advocate for using music as a means of creating community in multi-faith, multi-cultural environments. Formerly a Franciscan brother, Jason received an MDiv from Vanderbilt Divinity School in 2003 and was ordained to the Unitarian Universalist ministry in 2004.

Passing the Baton!



Photo: Luc Beaudoin

Carol Woodworth introduces new treasurer Heather Brown to the Beacon spreadsheets! Thank you both!

Summer Self-care

Laura Redmond is studying energy healing techniques and is offering free treatments to gain experience and deepen in her knowledge of this field. Contact lauraredmond2@telus.net to set up a free treatment or for more information. Take care of yourself, in order to take care of others!

Potluck and Out in Harmony Concert: June 29th, 6 pm

Presented by Unitarian Church of Vancouver Genders and Sexualities Alliance (GSA) June 29th: Potluck 6:00–7:15 pm; Concert 7:30 pm. Tickets available at the door. For potluck RSVP gsaucv@gmail.com so we can plan space.





Serving with Spirit: Nurturing UU Leaders, 3-day Retreat

Do you wish that you experienced your participation in your congregation as an expression of ministry, not primarily an obligation to do your part?

We invite you to a weekend to explore where you find the “springs” which fill your life’s well of energy, and how you can live out of that rich resource. There will be opportunities to connect with and be informed by other UUs, time to engage with others as we learn new and hone familiar strategies, and space to do deep reflection, identifying and strengthening the rich practice potential in your own life.

Time: Friday, August 9 to Sunday, August 11

Place: Providence Renewal Centre, Edmonton

Registration deadline: Thursday, July 10, 2019

Leaders: Rev. Christopher Wulff and Rev. Anne Barker

Cost: \$400 (includes program supplies, accommodation, and meals (Friday dinner through Sunday lunch))

For more information and to register:
<https://cuc.ca/events/serving-with-spirit-west-2019/1565355600/1565528400/>



To inquire about Beacon financial support, contact: board@beaconunitarian.org



Gathered Here is a new monthly online check-in for Canadian Unitarian Universalist young adults.

Join other UU 18–35 year-olds on Zoom (a video-conferencing platform) for sharing of joys and concerns, deeper check-ins, prayerful reflections, and an opportunity to process current events with a spiritually grounded community.

Young adulthood can be a time of upheaval and transition and many of us struggle to maintain and build connections in the places we find ourselves physically.

While there is no substitute for in-person community, we hope that the opportunity to connect online with other young UUs will be a reminder to you that you’re not alone. It’s also a chance to reconnect with friends who live far away, and witness and celebrate the ups and downs of our lives alongside each other.

These are drop-in style gatherings, so you don’t need to sign up in advance. On the days you want to attend, just get comfy with your internet box, sign in at the scheduled time, and bring your whole self for the hour and a quarter.

Gathered Here will generally take place on the second Monday evening of each month at 5 pm PT; 6 pm MT; 7 pm CT; 8 pm ET; and 9 pm AT

Spring: June 10

Summer: July 8 and August 12

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1894212357364432/>



Beacon Unitarian Church

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Deadline for article submissions is the 15th of the month, for inclusion in the following month’s newsletter.