

NOVEMBER'S SERVICE THEME:

Openness



NOV 3 **Holy as Mud**
Guest Speaker: *Rev. Dr. Barbara Wells ten Hove*

Service Leader: *Donna Hamilton*
The work of the church can be messy but it is powerfully meaningful and important. Our guest preacher, the Rev. Dr. Barbara Wells ten Hove, who has been a UU minister for 35 years, will share her thoughts on how congregational life empowers us to build a better world.

Children & Youth: This morning the children and youth begin preparing for the annual winter pageant. This year's theme is *The Grinch*, adapted as a no rehearsal pageant.

*Connecting,
Inspiring, Transforming!*

NOV 10 **Deepening Community Roots, Freeing Vision's Wings**

Rev. *Meg Roberts*
I had the privilege of meeting with five small groups of Beaconites to get a sense of what makes this Beacon community so important to them. I also heard inspiring ideas for giving Beacon's vision—Connect, Inspire, Transform—wings. I want to share some of what I've been learning as well as some ideas of my own. I look forward to hearing your ideas as well. On this Sunday closest to Remembrance Day, we'll hold a minute of silence to remember those who have died (Armed Forces and civilians) as well as others affected by wars. May we remember, and work towards a more peaceful and just world.

- Choir sings.

Children & Youth: will continue to prepare for the winter pageant.

NOV 17 **Dreaming a Future Together**
Guest Speaker: *Joan Carolyn, CUC Congregational Life Team Lead*
Service Leader: *Janet Pivnick*

As Beacon celebrates a new shared ministry relationship, Joan Carolyn invites us to a morning honoring who we are and where we might go. Imagine an enjoyable time, sitting well around a fire, like a hearth, openly sharing hospitality. As we gaze into the fire, what images of love and care experienced at Beacon come to mind? Where might we want to improve or move in some new directions? How do we remain open to other ways of knowing, seeing and experience? If we can learn to live well with the fires of relationship, we will grow to places beyond our dreams.

Children & Youth: Herbal Spirit Jam with Alex Dragan.

NOV 24 **Being Open to Joy**
Rev. Meg Roberts

In the midst of the suffering and anxiety of our lives, our dear ones, and our world, it can be very challenging to be open to joy. Joy can happen spontaneously in unexpected moments as well as through philosophical and spiritual practices. What brings you joy? What are you open to experiencing today?

- Choir sings.

Children & Youth: This morning the children and youth will continue to prepare for the winter pageant.

Musings by Meg

The theme for this month is openness.

My friend and colleague, Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins, is a songwriter and community minister. You may know the song in our teal hymnal she wrote, “We Give Thanks,” #1010. *Oh, we give thanks for this precious day, For all gather’d here, and those far away; For this time we share with love and care, Oh, we give thanks for this precious day.*

The second version switches out the word “time” for “food” and it becomes a meal blessing song.

Wendy has been leading groups for many years in what she calls “Soulful Singing”—using simple songs she’s written. By repeating them, you deepen your understanding of the words and allow the emotional connection to be made to the music and the rhythm. It’s a form of meditation, of prayer, of focus—depending on your own theological understanding. I am always so glad at ministers’ meetings when Wendy leads us in Soulful Singing as a spiritual practice before breakfast—it opens me up to the beauty of the day, to what I value about those I’m with, and also to what I value about my life.

This August during my study time, as I was preparing for working with you here at Beacon, I took a 4-day spiritual retreat. During one of my meditation walks in a forest, I was thinking about our coming year together. I was pondering how I wanted to approach our shared ministry together—what was my intention? Then one of Wendy’s songs came into my head. The lyrics are:

*Open my heart, open my heart
Listen deep, listen deep
What is my intention here?
Open my heart, listen deep.
Open, open
Listen, listen*

They are simple words—and when sung, they can be profound. If you’d like to hear the song, visit her website for her chants CD: <http://www.wendyluellaperkins.com/music.php>. It’s the first song on it. Or come to the November 24 service when I’ll be sharing it.

So, now that the year together has started, I can share with you what I do when I’m driving to Beacon meetings. Whether it’s with the Board, Sunday services, Worship Services Committee, Pastoral Support Team, Connecting and Membership (to name a few), I try to remember to sing that song. Why? Because it opens me up to those things that are important to me: Being present to those I’m with; Being open to what is being said and listening deeply to what is felt and shared and meant; Trying not to just bring what I want to say or what I think, and instead seeing what comes up between us as a group; Sharing the ministry: being grounded in our principles and, out of them, serving each other and those beyond our community.

What helps you stay open to those around you? Are there songs that open your heart? Your mind? Your spirit? I look forward to hearing your responses when I see you—or drop me a line.

Because I’m working ½-time, here’s how best to reach me:

- My regular Beacon days are Wednesdays and Thursdays. On 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesdays between 2–6 pm, I’ll be in the Beacon office, located at 8892 Armstrong Avenue in Burnaby. (I am available to arrange appointments at other times as well). (1st Wednesday afternoons, I’m with the Soul Matters Circle.)
- I work Fridays and Saturdays of

those weekends when I lead the Sunday service—focusing on service preparation those days as well as other work.

- Monday is my regular day off and I also have one or two weekends off a month.
- I can be reached via email: minister@BeaconUnitarian.org and on my cell at 778-870-9015. I will respond as soon as I’m able.

I wish you moments of openness this month—perhaps yielding unexpected experiences with pleasant surprises!

—*In the spirit of life,*
Rev. Meg Roberts



Rev. Meg Roberts

Like short-term projects that support the Beacon community?

Have fun with others who like to organize and create positive, welcoming experiences at Beacon! We are creating an event planning team that will help organize one-off events, like the Nov.16 congregational workshop. This group of 3–4 will:

- Book space and liaise with location providers
- Organize food and refreshments
- Get set-up and clean-up crew
- Help promote event in the Beacon Community

If you are interested in being part of the first “test case” event for Nov.16, please contact Rev. Meg Roberts by Nov. 3: minister@beaconunitarian.org, 778-870-9015

Thank you for your contributions of time and skill in support of Beacon.

Board Bitz

October brought back the wind and the rain and all those wonderful fall things. It almost felt like 'back to normal', but things were far from normal. Since Sapperton Pensioner's Hall was not available on the first Sunday of the month, many of us attended services at local **Christian Churches** that day. We went to many different denominations and came away with a greater knowledge of one of the Six Sources of our **Unitarian Universalist Faith**. It looks like this will probably be an annual event since Sapperton Hall will not be available one Sunday in October each year. We will be looking for another adventure next year, so let us know if you have any ideas.

The second service of the month the lower level of the hall was not available because of advance polling for the federal election. This meant that everyone stayed upstairs for a **Whole Church Spirit Jam**, led by **Rev. Meg Roberts** and **Ashley Cole**. We even had coffee time upstairs!

The third service brought us comedian **Ryan Guenther** to talk to us about the **Selfish Act of Giving**, and the fourth Sunday was **A Jolt of Currency**, with **Rev. Meg Roberts**, to start off our annual pledge drive.

Besides the wonderful October Sunday services, there were two **Meet with Meg** sessions, which gave many of us a chance to get to know our new minister a little better.

Because of our topsy-turvy October, our **Annual Pledge Drive**, which is usually the last three Sundays of October, didn't start until the last Sunday of the month. Many thanks to **Worship Services** and the **Pledge Drive Team** for arranging and rearranging the whole month to make all of this happen. The Pledge Drive Sundays this year are October

27th, November 3rd, and November 10th. The **Congregational Budget Meeting** will be on December 8th. The theme this year is **Roots hold me Close, Wings set me Free**, taken from the hymn **Spirit of Life**. In this time of transition, with so many volunteers working hard to keep things running smoothly, it is easy to forget that we also need to keep our financial house in order. If you haven't already made your pledge for 2020, we urge you to think of how much our wonderful community means to you and, as always, give as generously as you can.

Besides our Pledge Drive and all the inspiring Sunday services planned for November, there will be a workshop on November 16th at the Justice Institute of BC, which will ask us **Where Do We Come From, Who Are We, Where are We Going?** This



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

workshop will be facilitated by **Joan Carolyn** from the **Canadian Unitarian Council** and **Rev. Meg Roberts**. If you attended our start-up workshop on September 1st, you already know how informative and fun these workshops are. If you did not attend the start-up workshop, make sure you don't miss this one. Please RSVP by Sunday, November 10: info@beaconunitarian.org

— *David Kristjanson and Donna Hamilton, Co-Presidents*

All are Welcome at Beacon's

Transition Workshop: Where Do We Come From, Who Are We, Where are We Going?



Saturday, November 16, 9:30 am–4:30 pm

At the Justice Institute of BC: 715 McBride Boulevard, New Westminster

Beacon has changed over the past 7 years: What have we learned from our past? What are the patterns we want to keep and what do we want to change? How can we cultivate resilience, sustainability, and collective care, so we have a healthy organizational and community culture?

Joan Carolyn (Canadian Unitarian Council's Congregational Life Staff Team's Regional Lead for Western & B.C.) and Rev. Meg Roberts (Beacon's contract minister) will co-facilitate some conversations and active exercises that can give us new ways to think about Beacon and our relationships with each other so we can feel re-engaged in what we are doing here. We will have time for quiet, songs, skits, fun, discussing and listening. Together, we can deepen our connections to each other and to this community.

Come join us!

Please RSVP by Sunday, November 10: info@beaconunitarian.org

Sponsored by Beacon's Board of Trustees.

Religious Exploration Program Update

Hello everyone, welcome to November! Thank you to everyone who participated in the Oct 13th Spirit Jam service (pictures on page 5). It was a very interactive opportunity to explore our various identities and how they are related to the work of reconciliation. Moving into November, the children and youth will begin rehearsing for our annual winter pageant. This year's theme is *The Grinch*, adapted as a no rehearsal pageant. Guided by the narrators, this theatre style allows

anyone in attendance to participate at their own choosing in the collaborative creation of the story. The date of this year's winter pageant is Dec 15th. If you are able to help out with set design or costumes please let me know.

Also please note I will be away November 15–22.

Thanks everyone!

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



Alex Dragan



Ashley Cole

Please bear with us: We are experiencing technical difficulties...

(A note from the Worship Services team)

As many of you will have noticed, we have been experiencing some technical difficulties with the sound system. We know how important it is to everyone present to be able to hear the service and how crucial the sound system is. We know that there are members of the congregation who cannot fully participate in the experience without a functioning sound system. We thank you for your patience as we sort out the problems, and we wanted to provide some information about what's going on and how we are addressing the problem.

There are many components to the sound system—multiple microphones, speakers and receivers. Some of these components are owned by Sapperton Hall and some by Beacon. Last spring, Sapperton Hall changed their sound system which means that the way that we amplify speakers and singers for you has changed. At times, the components have not worked together.

Our sound technician, Tyler Ewasiuk, is typically the first person to arrive on a Sunday morning and the last person to pack up. Tyler, or people who are filling in for him, spend 1½–2 hours at Sapperton Hall each Sunday, making the sound system work in addition to the time that you see them during the actual service. Before the service begins, there are sound checks done on every mic that is going to be used for the service that day. There is troubleshooting that takes place after the service, and the Worship Team troubleshoots systems and processes in our monthly meetings.

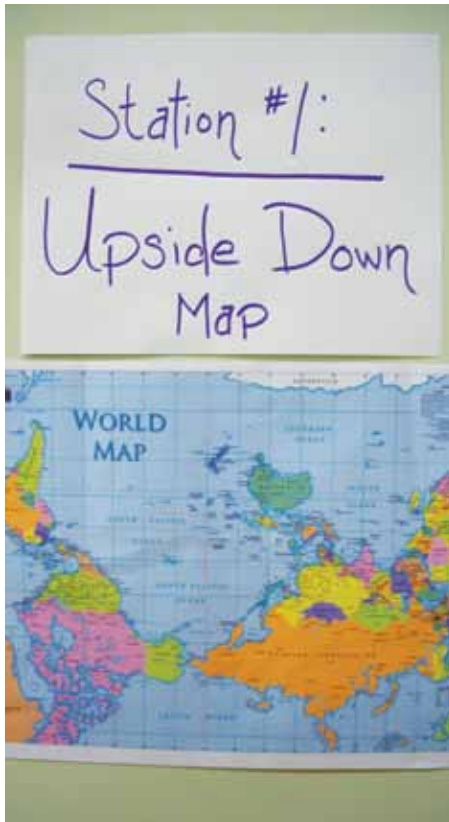
But sometimes there are still problems that occur. In that situation, the Worship Services Leader (whether that is Reverend Meg or a lay leader) and the Sound Technician will make a call on how to move forward with the problem that is occurring. Our goal is to provide you with a seamless, inspiring, meaningful service. We work hard to create a sacred space for the congregation so that the various

reasons that bring you to church will be met. With that goal in mind, we try to avoid disruptions that will interfere with the flow of the service.

If problems do arise during a service, we appreciate your cooperation in letting the Worship Services Team take care of whatever is arising. We are there to support your experience and our hope is that you will continue to engage with the service as best as you can.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Tom Lunderville for coming in on a Saturday to troubleshoot the sound system. As of this writing, we think that the sound system is running smoothly. Please bear with us if any further problems arise. If you have concerns about the sound or anything else that occurs in a worship service, please connect with one of the members of the Worship Services Team after the service: *Rev. Meg, Janet Pivnick, Heather Brown, Marilyn Meden, Tyler Ewasiuk, Susan White or Nancy Rupert.*

Station #1



Station #3: Grounding Ourselves in Unitarian Universalism



I am both the host and guest
I am both the knife and wound
I have done the harm
and received the benefit
I have felt enticed
and excluded

October 13th Spirit Jam service. “It was a very interactive opportunity to explore our various identities and how they are related to the work of reconciliation.”

Living with Less Plastic: Waiting—and not waiting

Waiting

In September the Single-use Disposable Products policy was endorsed by the BC Union of Municipalities. Watch for details on what products are included in the policy.

The BC Provincial Government is reviewing the results of its consultations on the 'Plastics Action Plan', with a new regulatory framework expected later this year or early 2020.

Not waiting

Meanwhile, Greenpeace has carried out their second brand audit of plastic pollution, with the following results.



Living with Less Plastic
NEW WEST



Teresa Morton

1st—Nestlé (Nestlé as the world's largest food company and producer of 1.7 million tonnes of plastic every year)

2nd -Tim Hortons

3rd—Starbucks

4th—McDonald's

5th—The Coca-Cola Company

Greenpeace says that these companies are feeling the pressure and are working on solutions such as "100% recyclable packaging", "made

with biodegradable plastic", and "sustainable paper packaging". These are all options that remain within the disposable container model. It is time that we started working on the reusable container system. We used to make it work for milk, can we learn from that??

—Teresa Morton

Teresa.a.morton@gmail.com

Notes from our Lay Chaplain: A Difficult Memorial

Lay Chaplaincy has many gifts but may also give many challenges to the Lay Chaplain. I'm remembering a difficult memorial I was asked to officiate. These arise from time to time in Lay Chaplaincy and the CUC has a training module specifically for dealing with difficult ceremonies. What makes them difficult, in my experience, is the emotional impact they have on the Lay Chaplain. Let me tell you what I mean. I was asked to help deliver a memorial for the wife and mother of two local men. It was a pleasure to hear them reminisce about her life and their relationship to her and to meet the son's husband. Then, less than six months later, I got a call from the husband. He told me his spouse had died suddenly following rather

minor surgery and would I do the memorial. I was completely shocked—and angry. Why did that happen? It was wrong. I was completely flummoxed. I didn't think I could do the service. So I called our minister at the time, Rev. Debra. She reminded me that there would no doubt be others at the memorial who were also angry. Perhaps I could find a way to help both them and myself by creating a ceremony that actually addressed our rage. Fortunately, I was able to do so. I was able to speak of being angry and that there may be others who felt the same way. I reassured everyone present that whatever they were feeling at the moment was perfect, that we were here to remember and to celebrate the life of our friend, husband, uncle, son, and co-worker. I assured them that

all legal measures were being taken by the family to address the tragic circumstances of his passing. The ceremony went well. People shared, and some acknowledged their rage, others their sorrow. It's still difficult for me to remember, but I think the presence of a trained Lay Chaplain, who could help them through this troubling time with tenderness and humour and realism, was a great gift. I am honoured to be able to serve in this way.



Sue Sparlin

—Sue Sparlin,

Beacon Lay Chaplain

Let's Connect through the Beacon Website: beaconunitarian.org

Have you checked out the Beacon website recently?



Joan Morris

I know that many of our visitors have checked out our website and have decided to attend the service to see if Beacon is a fit. But how many of you who are longtime Beaconites have looked at the website. It's full of a variety of interesting bits: a welcoming message from our new minister, Rev. Meg Roberts; upcoming and archived services; our Beacon history and a fascinating list of famous Unitarians; a photo gallery of Beacon activities and groups; and the new all-church photo taken in June as the website header.

Did you know the you can find recordings of most past sermons in case you have missed a Sunday service or want to hear one again? All the groups and opportunities to connect with the Beacon Community are listed....

Our fabulous newsletter editor and website manager, Laura Redmond has been crafting and updating the website to produce a quality resource for both Beacon and the wider community for six years. Her background in graphic design is obvious in the high quality of the Beacon newsletter and website. We are so fortunate to have Laura as a member in our community. (Note: Laura appreciates referrals for paid graphic design business—please consider recommending her if the chance arises!)

Take a look at our website and see if you can learn something about Beacon you didn't know!!

—Joan Morris on behalf of your Beacon Connecting and Membership Team: Phil Campbell, Joyce Gudaitis, Susan Tarras, Sue Sparlin, Rev. Meg Roberts.

Beacon's "Getting to Know U!" gathering Sunday, November 24th after church (12:45–3:15)

If you are new to Beacon and want to know more about Unitarianism and Beacon, this is for you!!

We offer the *Getting to Know You* gathering twice a year for those new to Beacon to get to know our community a little better and discover more about Unitarianism.

It is a chance to meet others who are also new to Beacon and perhaps new to Unitarianism in a relaxed afternoon of conversation and questions. It is also an opportunity for you to get to know our minister, Rev. Meg Roberts a little better. We'll share a little about Unitarianism and our Beacon community, and spend some time getting to know each other. There'll be a few 'mature' Beaconites to share their stories with you as well.

Light lunch will be provided and child care is available.

Please join us after church on Sunday November 24th from 12:45-3:15 at the church office—8892 Armstrong Ave., New Westminster.

Please RSVP to Joan Morris at joanmorris@telus.net or Rev. Meg Roberts at minister@beaconunitarian.org

Upcoming Circle Dinner

Saturday, November 30

Plan to attend the first Circle Dinner of this church year, on Saturday, November 30! This is a wonderful way to meet other Beaconites in a casual, social setting. Circle dinners and lunches take place in homes of Beaconites—around 6 to 8 people at each. If you have attended a dinner before, you will receive an email invitation. You sign up for a dinner by responding to that email or sign up at church. If you haven't attended a dinner before, sign up at church or contact Donna or Joan for more information. Once you have signed up, you will be sent details of your dinner, by your host, about 10 days before the dinner. We always welcome volunteer hosts so if you would be willing to host this time, please let Donna or Joan know: donna-h@telus.net, or joanmorris@telus.net.

Would you like to help with, and eventually take over, organizing these popular, valuable events? Talk to, or email, Donna or Joan for more details.



Circle dinner May, 2019..

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 at *The Astoria Retirement Home* (2245 Kelly Avenue, Port Coquitlam) to discuss a wide range of current topics. **On November 24th**, Al Sather will introduce the topic *Searching Contemporary Literature For Meaning In Life*. Since the beginning of human time, we have asked “What is the meaning of life?” Philosophers, theologians and other thinkers have clearly illustrated there is no single answer to the question, “What is the meaning of life?” The Absurdist’s even argue that to pose such a question is an absurdity and life has no meaning. So, I will rephrase this question and ask “What puts meaning into our lives?” as expressed in contemporary literature. Contact Marilyn Meden: m.j.meden@telus.net, 604 469 6797.

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 are on Monday evenings, at 7:30 pm, at Miller Park School. Contact choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org for more info. 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 Joyce Gudaitis (joyceg@asrsoft.com), **or sign-up as a Sunday Morning Greeter** (contact Susan Tarras, starras@telus.net).

Youth Group: Contact Alex Dragan, youth@beaconunitarian.org, for more information.

Settlement 2 Task Force is responsible for the settlement of four refugees who arrived as permanent residents of Canada in July 2019. Those wishing to

help as volunteers and/or donate to the settlement fund, please contact Peggy Lunderville, prlunder@gmail.com.

Sunday Nov. 10 Soup Lunch/ Final Sunday of the Pledge Drive



Soup lunches take place after the Sunday service in the downstairs hall. Please join us. Bette Goode (bjgoode@hotmail.com) will appreciate your contributions of soup, buns, veggies, and sweets.

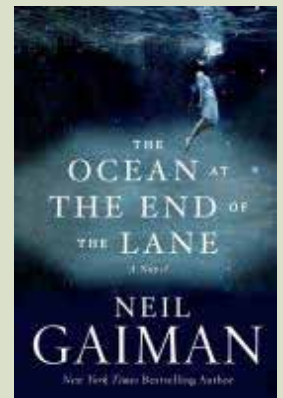
Book Club meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm. For meeting location details contact John Hagen, ajhagen@telus.net.

November 28, 2019

Facilitator: John Hagen

The Ocean at the End of the Lane by Neil Gaiman

It began for our narrator forty years ago when the family lodger stole their car and committed suicide in it, stirring up ancient powers best left undisturbed. Dark creatures from beyond the world are on the loose, and it will take everything our narrator has just to stay alive: there is primal horror here, and menace unleashed—within his family and from the forces that have gathered to destroy it. His only defense is three women, on a farm at the end of the lane. The youngest of them claims that her duck-pond is ocean. The oldest can remember the Big Bang. (Source: NWPL Catalogue)



Third Sundays for Theology Pub

On November 17th we shall continue our discussion of the Unitarian Principles. It seems, at time of printing, that we will be at #5. We may revisit any of the previous four if there is a desire to do so. Meet at 12:30 at the Sapperton District Taphouse, 421 E Columbia, just up the street. (Move your vehicle if you have one in ‘church parking’.)

Menu: <https://www.sappertondistricttaphouse.com/food>

—Franci Louann,
“Theology Pub (Lead) Facilitator”
604-837-7613,

Use this email: francilouann@gmail.com.

Celebrate the Sabbath Friday, November 22

“In a complex and unstable world, if we do not rest, if we do not surrender into some kind of Sabbath, how can we find our way, how can we hear the voices that tell us the right thing to do?”
(Wayne Muller, Sabbath, p.7)

On October 25, four Beaconites gathered to celebrate a Sabbath dinner together. In Judaism, the Sabbath (or Shabbat) is celebrated from Friday sundown to Saturday sundown. During this time, for observant Jews, no work is done, no money changes hands, cars aren't used, electrical appliances are turned off. Instead, people rest, turn attention to the spiritual aspect of life, celebrate creation, take pleasure in the simple blessings of life and spend time with loved ones, sharing stories and song, playing games, and sharing food. There is always food.

The Shabbat dinner—on Friday evening—demarcates the time between work and rest, and is a time



Friday, October 25: Celebration of the Sabbath, hosted by Janet Pivnick.

of great joy and celebration.

Guest Laura Redmond notes, “Last Friday evening we were given permission to rest. The dinner table was beautifully decorated with candles, flowers and handcrafted dinnerware. We paused before eating—to hear traditional Jewish blessings of the wine, the candles, and the challah bread—and then we enjoyed a pot-

luck feast. We lingered over dessert and tea, sharing our stories with each other.”

Beaconites and friends are invited to the next potluck Shabbat dinner on Friday, November 22, 5:30 p.m. at Janet Pivnick's house in New Westminster. Please contact Janet if you'd like to attend. Space is limited: janpivnick@gmail.com.

Soul Matters Sharing Circles

The Soul Matters Circles are small groups that meet once a month to explore how the congregation's monthly theme can be woven into our lives. These groups are a place to:

- Explore theme-based spiritual practices.
- Encounter the complexity of living a moral life.
- Wrestle with life's many contradictions.
- Practice intentional and guided spiritual and philosophical reflection.
- Mine the moments of your life for wisdom, courage, hope and love.
- Cultivate conversations that open the heart and soul to our common humanity.
- Swim beneath the surface of daily life and engage in conversations that matter.

- Meet human longing by cultivating connections and a sense of belonging.

One group meets first Wednesdays of the month from 1–3 pm in Coquitlam. The second group meets first Wednesdays of the month from 6:30–8:30 pm in Burnaby (at Beacon's office). This month, these groups meet on Wednesday, November 6. Both groups are open to new people joining us.

If you are interested in coming to experience a Soul Matters Circle, please contact me and I can send you more information: Rev. Meg Roberts (mroberts@uuma.org, 778-870-9015).





[Worship as a Beacon for Congregational Growth—Part 2](#)
November 9, 9:30–11:30 am PT

Learn how to create and sustain a strong worship program for both clergy and lay led congregations in this online event. Our presenter is the Rev. Dr. Barbara Wells ten Hove. Registration deadline: October 31.

[Connect and Deepen—Virtual Gathering](#)

2nd Sunday of the month: Nov. 10, Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 8, 1–2:30 pm PT

Join us for the opportunity to discuss matters of spiritual and theological significance in small groups and connect with people across the country.

[Serving With Spirit: Stronger Together, Planning for Partnership](#)

Nov. 23, 8:30 am–1:30 pm PT

Explore our potential for meaningful, creative congregational networking and partnerships. Together, develop strategies to support and sustain the growing number of small



congregations. Rev. Joan Becelaere is the presenter for this event. Registration deadline: November 12.

[Rethinking UU Governance](#),
Saturday, December 7, 2019, 12:30–2:00 p.m. ET

Many Canadian UU congregations struggle to find ways in which our very governance, style of organization, will reflect our values and resonate with the lives of those who engage within our communities. Join us for a conversation, beginning with two powerful stories and opening for all participants to share their ideas, experiments and questions. Our two presenters will be Mr. Sanford Osler, North Shore Unitarian Church and Rev. Jessica Rodela, Grand River Unitarian. Registration deadline: November 28.



Sunday, October 27: Special presentation to Rev. Meg Roberts from the Canadian Unitarian Council's Truth, Healing & Reconciliation Resource Team, in gratitude for Meg's contributions to the team over the last five years. Left to right: Amber Dawn Bellemare, Rev. Samaya Oakley, Rev. Meg Roberts, and Leslie Kemp.



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.