

JANUARY'S SERVICE THEME:

Threshold



**JAN
5**

Out of the Flames,

a whole-church service

Guest Minister: Rev. Samaya

Oakley; Coordinator: Janet Pivnick
Rev. Samaya Oakley joins us for our annual Fire Communion service. Out of the flames of 2019 we rise. We rise for courage and conviction knowing that being on the side of love and justice is who we are. Out of the flames we rise with hope in our hearts to help heal a broken world. Out of the flames we rise with love in our hearts that celebrates our shared humanity. This is an all ages service—there is no separate Religious Exploration program scheduled for today.

**JAN
12**

The Thresholds of Spiritual Life

Rev. Meg Roberts

Humans go through various stages of life: infant, child, youth, young adult, adult, mature adult, and older adult. How does spiritual growth arise from or influence these life stages? As adults, how can we cross these thresholds in a mindful way?

Religious Exploration Program: The children will 'travel' to Boston where they will learn about Unitarian Universalism while the youth continue to study the intersections of social justice and Unitarian Universalism.

• Choir sings

**JAN
19**

What is a family?

With Sue Sparlin, Beacon member and Lay Chaplain

Service Leader: Marilyn Meden

In her role as Lay Chaplain, Sue has been asked to perform a ceremony of union for a polyamorous family: two identified woman and one identified man. This made her question our Beacon definitions of family. What wording do our administrative forms use? Do they say "mom" and "dad" or "parent one" and "parent two"? What about "parent three"? What about families where there are no children at all. What makes someone you know "family" instead of "good friend"? Sue will share what she discovered and open a conversation about how this might affect our congregational life.

Religious Exploration Program: The children will 'travel' to Utah to learn about Mormonism while the youth continue to study the intersections of social justice and Unitarianism.

**JAN
26**

We Need Not Think Alike To Love Alike

Rev. Meg Roberts

The title of this service is inspired by words of Francis David, Transylvanian minister, in one of the first Unitarian movements in the world, in 16th century Europe. Come and hear why he crossed over the threshold from one set of beliefs into another and, by doing so, became a heretic. Why does freedom of religion, the use of reason in religion, and the need for compassion, come out as the gold of Unitarianism? We'll consider how our Unitarian ancestor's life is relevant for us today at Beacon as we learn from each other's beliefs, ideas and lives.

Religious Exploration Program:

The children will 'travel' to Ireland to learn about Paganism while the youth continue to study the intersections of social justice and Unitarian Universalism.

• Choir sings

Choir Calling!!

Please come and join the choir!
We need you! You will be treated like a long, lost friend!
Even if you think you are not a strong singer—you'll learn. We are a fun loving, sociable group.
Email Sylvia McDonald, Choir Director at choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org



Musings by Meg

The theme for this month is “threshold.”

January is the threshold to a new year in our western calendar. 2020 is also the start of a new decade. What will it hold—for each of us as well as for our world? Having grown up on the prairies, I imagine this new beginning like a fresh blanket of snow, sparking in the sunlight, untouched, brimming with promise.

Some people make New Year’s resolutions. What I find works most effectively for me is to focus my intentions on what I want to be doing that year. I make time to step back from my day-to-day living and formulate my plans. Some things I have some control over—like plans I make with family and friends; self-care actions (sleeping, eating, getting exercise); and how to be of service in the communities of which I am part. Some I have less control over—such as unexpected health crises. Generally, I’m

healthy and yet I know various people who are challenged by ill health. In these and other circumstances, how do we make use of the options we do have and make decisions that will promote our well-being and those around us?

Who could I turn to for support, for ideas, for a listening ear?

Whatever your circumstances, I invite you to set aside some time and take a step back from your life and consider:

- What areas of my life do I think are going well? What do I want to continue doing to support these?
- What areas of my life am I feeling

challenged by? What can I do in response to that?

- Who could I turn to for support, for ideas, for a listening ear, so I can check in with them during this year about my plans in response to the two questions above?

Beacon is a place for support, for learning, for sharing. I hope this year you include activities in this community that focus your passions, interests and skills in ways that serve others and are life-giving to you as well as expand your horizons.

I wish you good health and well-being in this coming year.

Rev. Meg Roberts



Rev. Meg Roberts



Inspire and Transform — Skill Building Workshops

Facilitated by Rev. Meg Roberts. Choose to participate in one or both of these workshops:

Worship Services 101: Learning the Basics of Sunday Service Coordinating and Leading

Saturday, January 25, 2020, 9:30 am–12 noon
To offer high quality services on Sunday, the Worship Services Committee is offering this opportunity for more people to learn how to coordinate and lead a Sunday service. This includes learning how to plan the order of service, find resources, work with guest presenters, and lead a service effectively. Both experienced and brand new people are welcome!

Share Your Story: A Sermon Writing Workshop

Sat. Jan. 25, 2020, 1:00–5:00 pm

Is there something you would like to share at Beacon’s Sunday service but have never written a reflection before (aka sermon or homily)? Or perhaps you have experience and want to develop your skills? Rev. Meg Roberts will show you a process to support your creative expression and share various resources. To help integrate your learning, **one 1-hour online group coaching session** will follow. This will encourage you to work on your reflection, offer support for any roadblocks you hit, and provide feedback to polish your creation.

To register for one or both workshops, please fill in this online form: <https://forms.gle/VGuFi2u93Bf725u4A>

Or contact Meg: minister@beaconunitarian.org or 778-870-9015

Registration Deadline: January 15

Board Bitz

Welcome to 2020. We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year. There were definitely lots of fun and interesting things happening at Beacon in the last month of 2019. We held our annual **Congregational Budget Meeting** on December 8th and after lots of lively discussion, the 2020 budget was passed. Many thanks to Peggy Lunderville, Bette Goode and all those who put together the fantastic soup lunch. Many thanks as well to Ian Brown, who presented the budget, and to Sue Sparlin for being Parliamentarian. Ian was there because our treasurer, Heather Brown, was in England. Last but not least we would like to thank everyone who showed up to vote and practice our 5th principle.

While all of the December services were engaging and inspiring, there were a few that really stood out. On the 15th we had a **'No Rehearsal Holiday Pageant'**, where the children and youth, (and some brave adults), told us all about 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'. Once again, we were amazed that such a fun event could happen without a single rehearsal. Thanks to all those who participated and especially to Ashley Cole and Alex Dragan for organising this all ages service. On the 24th we held a

beautiful **Christmas Eve Service**, led by Rev. Meg Roberts, where we sang songs of the season, heard inspiring stories, and by celebrating every birth we were reminded of why these new beginnings are such a holy time.

On January 5th Rev. Samaya Oakley will join us for the **All Ages Fire Communion Service**. "Out of the flames of 2019 we rise. Out of the flames we rise with hope in our hearts to help heal a broken world". Make sure that you don't miss this wonderful start to the new year.

The start of the New Year is also a great time to think about making new friends and one of the best ways to do that at Beacon is to get involved. We have choir for those who like to sing, as well as Soul Matters, Theology Pub, and Book Club for those who like to read and discuss. Another way to get involved at Beacon is to become a volunteer. Being a greeter or hosting coffee hour are great ways to meet new people, and since we are basically 'Church in a Box', we have a dedicated group of people who show up every Sunday morning to turn an empty hall into a sacred space. If you would like to see how this all happens, just show up at 9:30 on any Sunday morning and lend a hand. It is always lots of fun. If just showing up is not your style, you can email us at



David Kristjanson



Donna Hamilton

info@beaconunitarian.org and we will make sure you get connected with the right people.

Coming up on Sunday January 12th there will be a **Coordinating Council Meeting** at the Beacon office to plan and schedule the rest of the church year, so please keep that date open and keep checking 'Beacon This Week' for more information.

To end this message, we would like to thank all of you for being here, once again, in this New Year, to **Connect with Compassion & Respect, Inspire Learning & Growth, and Transform Through Joy & Justice.** We couldn't do it without you.

— David Kristjanson and
Donna Hamilton, Co-Presidents

Food Bank 2019

The Share Family and Community Services would like to thank all those Beaconites who contributed so generously to their three food banks during 2019. The total raised to date is \$1715.

And may I ask that you keep the food, and more especially cash and cheques, coming in the next year as unfortunately, the need is still there. Remember that all cash and cheque donations of \$20 and up are tax receiptable.

—John Hagen, Chair, Food Bank Committee



John Hagen

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.



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

Religious Exploration (RE) for January

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Winter Pageant, it was a major success! I particularly loved different people of all ages playing the Grinch.

Now, as we move into the new year, the children will resume the *Passport to Spirituality* curriculum where we will continue our journey of exploring other cultures and religions.

In January we will visit Boston to learn about Unitarian Universalism,

Utah to learn about Mormonism and parts of Ireland to learn about Paganism. Perhaps you'd be interested in sharing what aspects of spirituality or religion inspire you? Come along for the journey!

Speaking of joining us, there are still many opportunities to support the Religious Exploration program. We are still looking for committee members, snack makers, spirit jam leaders and more! If you are interested



Alex Dragan



Ashley Cole

contact Ashley Cole at dre@beaconunitarian.org

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

The Beacon Caring Quilt



Laura Redmond, Judy Villett and Rev. Meg Roberts hold up the Beacon Caring Quilt.

The Beacon Caring Quilt was created for members to use in times of sorrow or illness, as a reminder of the loving community that we are part of.

The Caring Quilt program was begun by Reverend Katie Stein Sather and stitched together by Sally Frith. Its first use was by Audrey Taylor in 2005. As the quilt is passed along, the recipients leave a note in the book that accompanies it. The quilt is laundered and stored after each use.

The Caring Quilt tradition was carried on by Reverend Debra Thorne and now by Reverend Meg Roberts.

The quilt has been signed by Beacon members and reminds the recipient of the individuals within our caring community. New members of Beacon are invited to sign the quilt with a permanent fabric marker. The Pastoral Support Team presented it for signing in November, 2019—if you missed that opportunity, please let us know and we will bring it to a Sunday service.

Please keep us informed of any person in need of the Caring Quilt (including yourself!)

—The Pastoral Care Team: Judy Villett,
Laura Redmond & Rev. Meg Roberts
Email: pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org

An 'Environment Bee' after the Service...

At the beginning of December, we had a spontaneous 'enviro-bee' downstairs after the service. We shared updates on products we've tried for switching to Living with Less Plastic, and even shared leads on things we wish others would try for us!

- Susan W. is pleased with a shampoo bar from Lush.
- Teresa M. is still using a deodorant, Dom's, that is packaged in a small glass jar—available from Pharmasave.
- Susan W. checked out the Refill Stop, 865 Carnarvon St. in New Westminster. At the moment they carry cleaning products and cosmetics.
- Joan M. needs more beeswax wraps.
- We wish someone would try Tru



Living with Less Plastic
NEW WEST

Earth Eco-strips for laundry soap (<https://www.tru.earth>). Let us know how it works! (lessplasticnewwest@gmail.com)

- And would someone like to check out Etee dish detergent? (<https://www.shopetee.com/pages/plastic-free-dish-soap-concentrate>) The concentrated soap is packaged in biodegradable 'pods'.

Watch for a monthly 'enviro-bee'—the next bee will be January 19th after the service, downstairs. Join Teresa with your coffee or tea, and share

tips, leads and requests!

And, by the way, the BC Government is asking citizens about Preparing for Climate Change. Check out the questionnaire at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/climate-ready-bc/>. This opportunity is open until January 10th, 2020. You can fill out the questionnaire as an individual or as a group. It takes 5–10 minutes to complete.



Teresa Morton

—Teresa Morton

Living with Less Plastic New West
Teresa.a.morton@gmail.com

Traveling Chalice Sign-up Open!

Looking for opportunities to incorporate UU rituals and reflections into your weekly routine? Now is your chance to sign up for the Travelling Chalice that comes complete with instructions for use, a chalice and LED candle, readings and reflections from other users, and much more! For more information or to sign up contact Ashley Cole at dre@beaconunitarian.org.



Let's Connect in 2020

*Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?*

*Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and old lang syne?*

I feel nostalgic as the year comes to a close and we move clear-eyed, into the new year, 2020. It's a time of reconnecting and remembering old friends made and often neglected through the year.

I am a member of an 80-member Langley-based choir, and performing our annual Christmas concert has always been a delight. One of the special aspects for me has been reacquainting with old friends who attend each year. After each of our three concerts, it's a delight to reconnect with friends from my working days, friends from my children's preschool days, community connections from my 40 plus years of living in Langley, and acquaintances through my Unitarian connections. And then I

remember all of the wonderful friendships made over my 35 years at Beacon.

As Ev and I work on our annual Christmas letter, I love the opportunity to connect and stay in contact with those "old acquaintance, never brought to mind" except at this time of year.

My resolution for 2020: To reconnect with old friends and stay in touch... for the sake of old times:

*For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.*

—Joan Morris on behalf of your Beacon

*Connecting and Membership Team:
Joyce Gudaitis, Phil Campbell, Susan Tarras, Sue Sparlin, Rev. Meg Roberts
and Elizabeth Campbell (board liaison)*



Joan Morris

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. For January 26th, Earl Morris will lead a discussion on: How to do social justice without ruining the church. Explored using the *six hat method*, a technique for balanced, constructive problem solving. For further information please contact Marilyn Medén m.j.meden@telus.net (604 469 6797) for more details.

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! (No choir rehearsal Dec. 30th.)

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 (joanmorris@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).

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

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.

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.

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).

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.

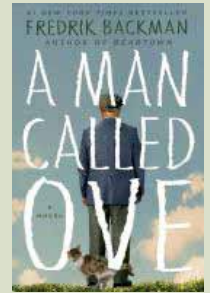
January 23, 2020

Facilitator: David Kristjanson

A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Read the New York Times bestseller that has taken the world by storm! In this “charming debut” (People) from one of Sweden’s most successful authors, a grumpy yet loveable man finds his solitary world turned on its head when a boisterous young family moves in next door.

Meet Ove. He’s a curmudgeon—the kind of man who points at people he dislikes as if they were burglars caught outside his bedroom window. He has staunch principles, strict routines, and a short fuse. People call him “the bitter neighbor from hell.” But must Ove be bitter just because he doesn’t walk around with a smile plastered to his face all the time? (Source: NWPL Catalogue) More info at: <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/book-club/>



Third Sundays for Theology Pub

Third Sunday, January 19, we’ll meet as usual at the Sapperton District Taphouse. It’s not far to 421 E Columbia—we move cars, if we have them. I hear some folks are convening there on other Sundays too. Menu is at <https://www.sappertondistricttaphouse.com/food>—see brunches.

January to June we’ll talk of our six Sources. That will fit nicely. Then we’ll make plans for July & August. BTW, some of us carry cards with our Unitarian Principles and Sources.

Remember, Third Sundays for Theology Pub.

—Franci Louann, “Theology Pub Coordinator”
Best email address: francilouann@gmail.com

604-837-7613

Soul Matters Sharing Circles

We meet once a month to deepen our exploration of Beacon's monthly theme, using the theme packet sent out via email at the beginning of each month. The packet includes a couple of options for a spiritual exercise as well as some questions—you choose one exercise to try out that month and one question to ponder.

Led by Rev. Meg Roberts, the next session is on Wednesday, January 8 on *Adventure/Play* (Decem-

ber's theme). We have two groups:

- 1:00–3:00 pm in Coquitlam
- 6:30–8:30 pm in Burnaby

If you would like to come and try it out, please contact

Rev. Meg Roberts (minister@BeaconUnitarian.org, 778-870-9015). All are welcome.



Virtual Gatherings c/o the CUC

Connect and Deepen— Virtual Gathering

2nd Sunday of the month:

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.

What's In a Name?

Saturday, February 22, 2020,
10:00 – 11:30 p.m. PT. Free!

A recent discussion on the CUC Leaders list focused on the language we use to describe our Unitarian Universalist communities. A summary of the conversation was compiled and distributed. This Roundtable is an opportunity for us to consider the summary, to review some additional materials and then to share our questions about when renaming would be appropriate and to then learn a bit about what the renaming process might entail.

Gathered Here is now more focused on getting to know each other

***Gathered Here* is back!** The monthly online gathering for young adults (ages 18–35) restarted on November 4th. It is picking up on the same schedule as last year, with gatherings **the second Monday evening of each month: January 13, February 10, March 9, April 13, June 8, July 13 and August 10.** Gatherings begin at 5 p.m. Pacific, 6 p.m. Mountain, 7 p.m. Central, 8 p.m. Eastern, and 9 p.m. Atlantic time, and last for 75 minutes.

This year we are focusing on getting to know each other. It can be challenging to build trust quickly when there is a different group every month, due to the drop-in nature of *Gathered Here*. To address this, we will be spending more time on each call doing activities that will help us learn about each other. This change is in response to the feedback of young adults who attended *Gathered Here* over the past year.

The feedback we received also confirmed the three main reasons young adults are coming to *Gathered Here*:

- For connection with YA community (to see old friends and meet new people)
- For spiritual grounding (rest and reflection)
- To share what's going on in my life, be witnessed and held

Gathered Here also provides an avenue for connecting with the Young Adult Pastoral Care Team, staying in the loop about CUC young adult events and opportunities, and for sharing wisdom with each other based on our life experiences. It is particularly important for young adults who are not connected with a local Unitarian community.

We hope that you'll invite the young adults in your life to join an upcoming *Gathered Here* call. Together, we will find connection and create the opportunity to share what's on our hearts in a spiritually grounded and loving community. Please visit <https://cuc.ca/events/gathered-here-2020/1575921600/1575927000/>

—Casey Stainsby, Youth and Young Adult Program
and Events Coordinator



Out in Harmony presents the 100 Mile concert

Most people have heard of the idea of the 100 mile diet, in which one eats only food that was produced locally. Well, we're taking up the challenge of singing an entire concert of music that was written locally! 100 miles from Vancouver includes Victoria, Nanaimo, Courtenay, Powell River, Hope, Squamish, Whistler, Bellingham, Everett, and the San Juan islands. We are very fortunate to live in an area that has a prolific and vibrant music scene in a wide variety of genres. We've included some familiar popular music names like Michael Bublé, Sarah McLachlan, and Carly Rae Jepsen. We'll visit Vancouver's checkered past with Stephen Chatman's "The Grand Hotel" and sing our favourites from renowned choral musicians Stephen Smith and Brian Tate. We've also discovered new music from local singer-songwriters like Leah Abramson and Hilary Grist. We hope you will join us as we "Sing Local"!

WHEN: 7:30 pm Saturday, January 25, 2020. Doors open at 7:00 pm. There will be raffle prizes drawn during the concert and a reception afterwards.

WHERE: Unitarian Church of Vancouver, 949 West 49th Ave (corner of 49th & Oak).

TICKETS: \$15 tickets may be pre-purchased from choir members or via credit card online at <https://Oih-100Mile.eventbrite.com> (processing fee applies). Tickets at door are \$20 or pay what you can; no one turned away for lack of funds.



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

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info@beaconunitarian.org

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ceremonies@beaconunitarian.org

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Sylvia McDonald

choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org

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Religious Exploration

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Proofreading: Donna
Hamilton

Deadline for article

submissions is the 15th of the
month, for inclusion in the
following month's newsletter.