

OCTOBER SERVICE THEME:

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

Following are the tentative topics for our October on-line meetings, using the Zoom platform. Please check the website closer to the date in case any changes have been necessary.

OCT 4 **Beacon Pledge Drive**
Join your pledge drive team this Sunday as we reveal our theme for this year and reflect on why Beacon is worth our time and treasure.

OCT 11 **Whole and Healing in our Beacon Community (Part 1)**

Rev. Meg Roberts

Here at Beacon, we are a whole and healing spiritual community—one that supports each other while also learning our areas for growth. When I start healing myself, I learn better how to be part of the healing of the world. Here at Beacon, I am in the excellent company of others in this wholeness and healing. Today, we'll also celebrate Beacon with the kick-off to our yearly pledge drive.

OCT 18 **Connecting with Compassion and Respect**
Judy Villet and

Laura Redmond

Service Coordinator: Susan White
Members of our Pastoral Support Team share why connecting with compassion and respect is so important to them in what they do, as well as to this community. Come join the conversation, enhanced with music

and the artistry from our Caring Quilts.

OCT 25 **Whole and Healing in our World Community (Part 2)**

Rev. Meg Roberts

Whole, broken and healing—our world is all these things.

When I see myself in relation to others in that healing work, I learn what is needed to do the work of racial justice, decolonization, and other anti-oppression work (including for the healing of our planet).



Musings by Meg

We live on a beautiful blue-green planet, part of a community of living beings, rich with biodiversity. What an amazing world this is. When I am feeling the wearying effects of this ongoing pandemic, I remember to connect with my other relations: watch a heron feeding down in the Fraser River, learn about the whales in a BBC Planet Earth film online. Then my heart is moved, and I remember I am part of this greater world of wonder.

Our world community is struggling—the earth, animals and humans alike. The wildfires south of the border affect humans and animals alike, and we feel the effects. The pandemic has thrown into even starker contrast those who have and those who have not. We know the need for economic justice and for racial justice.

This year we are invited, through Beacon's yearly theme, to not turn away from these issues, but to engage in them together—**“imagining a world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.”** As Unitarians and Universalists, grounded in our principles, we use our heads to think, hearts to feel, and hands to serve.

October is framed by our sixth principle (which is highlighted in the yearly theme): we affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Last month, we reflected how interdependent we humans are within the larger web of existence. This month, we consider how we respond, knowing this. How do we create a world community that fosters peace? One that offers liberty and freedom to people equitably. Where justice is given to people regardless of the colour of your skin, your income,

or your nationality. These issues can seem daunting when many of us feel we are already struggling day to day as people and as families. That's why we are not alone—we are part of this Beacon community, offering a place to come to grapple with these challenging issues. We listen to what is in each other's hearts and minds. We share ideas of what we are learning that can make a difference.

That's why we are not alone—we are part of this Beacon community, offering a place to come to grapple with these challenging issues.

When you listen to the news, what issues are you grappling with these days? What moves your heart? Where are your hands already engaged in service?

Here are some areas Beacon is engaging in the coming months. In this newsletter, you'll read about Beacon's Team in the global Eco Challenge—come join Teresa and me in this fun event. Starting in November, I'll be offering a course in building an inclusive community that works to create racial justice (more details coming soon). When we put our energies together, we can make changes in our world that reflect this principle we believe in and work towards creating the world we imagine.

My professor in eco-theology at seminary, Sallie McFague, would say to us that if she could do one thing each day to make the world a better place for the children who come after

us, she would sleep better. We are blessed to be part of a caring community that offers us support to do just that—one thing a day, caring and sharing as we go. As Margaret Mead writes, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it's the only thing that ever has.”

—*In the spirit, Rev. Meg Roberts*



Rev. Meg Roberts

How to reach me:

Because I'm working 1/2-time from home, here's how best to reach me:

- My regular Beacon days for meetings are Wednesdays and Thursdays. To support emotional connection and physical distancing, I'm available for appointments via Zoom or phone. (If you would like an in-person pastoral visit, we can discuss what is possible within both the BC Health Officer's guidelines and Beacon's meeting guidelines for the fall.)
- I also work Fridays and Saturdays of those weekends when I lead the Sunday service—focusing on service preparation those days as well as other work. I will respond to emails and phone calls on those days as well. (This month, that is Oct.9-11 and Oct.23-25.)
- Mondays and Tuesdays are my regular days off.
- 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. If it's an emergency, please leave a message on my phone.

I look forward to connecting with you.

Board Bitz

Welcome to October. September was a real mixed bag of weather, some sun, some rain, some hot days, some cool days, and lots and lots of smoke. These shorter, cooler days kind of feel like we are getting back to normal.

We started the new church year with our **Start-up Gathering** on September 5th. We had 23 people show up online to explore Beacon's purpose for the upcoming year. We looked at Beacon's Vision Statement, '**Connect with Compassion & Respect; Inspire Learning & Spiritual Growth; Transform Through Joy & Justice**' and decided that in this time of COVID-19, Beacon's top priority should be to *Connect with Compassion and Respect*. With this in mind we brainstormed ways to meet this purpose in programs, fun family events, and committee-sponsored gatherings. We talked of many things, came up with many ideas, and had lots of fun.

With all of this in mind, our **Director of Religious Exploration, Ashley Cole and the RE Committee** have been working very hard to help families and children stay connected to each other and to Beacon. Since we are not meeting in person at this time, they are coming up with fun and interesting things to do at home and on line. Thank you to everyone on the RE committee for all the work that you are doing, and an extra special thank you to **Amber Strocel** who, after many years of dedication to the children and youth of Beacon, is having to step down at this time because of other commitments. We are always looking for new people with fun and creative ideas to join this group, so if you would be interested in participating in this important part of our community please email Ashley at dre@beaconunitarian.org.

Another exciting and fun event coming up in October is the People's Eco Challenge. Thank you to **Teresa Morton** for bringing this to Beacon. **The People's Eco Challenge** will run for three weeks from October 7–28. Check out Teresa's write up in this newsletter for more information.

The Covid 19 Task Force continues to meet on a regular basis to make sure that we are up to date on all of our safety measures. We extended the Summer Guidelines until September 30th and will soon be sending out updated guidelines for the fall. The COVID-19 task force also meets with the **Coordinating Council** on a regular basis to get more input and ideas. Thanks to all who show up to participate. It is so reassuring to know that we have so many dedicated people helping us stay safe.

Along with all the wonderful Sunday services and other fun and exciting things happening in October, the main event will be our 2021 Pledge Drive. Beacon Unitarian is completely funded by the generous donations of our members and friends. With input from all of our committees our treasurer, **Heather**

Brown, has been working hard to calculate what it will cost us to operate from January to December in 2021. We will be asking you to let us know how much you are able to pledge, (promise to contribute), in the coming year. Most of you are familiar with this process, but for those of you who are not, we will be explaining it all in our October 4th Sunday service (also, see page 5 for more information.) Sunday, October 11th will be our official kickoff and we will hopefully know by the end of the month what we will have to work with in 2021. Most Beaconites have already set up pre-authorized debits (PADs) so that their pledges are automatically deposited into Beacon's account on a monthly basis, but we have many other ways for you to make your pledge. **We urge you to give generously, as you always do, so that this beloved community remains stable during these difficult times and continues to Connect, Inspire and Transform.**

— David Kristjanson, President



David Kristjanson

Share Food Bank

During COVID, donations to the food bank need to be mailed to John Hagan for forwarding to *Share*, or mailed directly to *Share Family and Community Services* at number 104 - 3020 Lincoln Avenue Coquitlam BC V3B 6B4. For further information their phone number is 604-540-9161. Thank you for supporting neighbours in our community through your donations to our local foodbank.

—John Hagen, Food Bank Liaison



Join Beacon's Team in the People's Ecochallenge October 7th to 28th!

Beacon is forming a team for the People's Ecochallenge! It is an annual event that invites team members to take actions and earn points for our team—it is an excellent opportunity to put our principles in action. Challenges range from fact-finding to habit-forming and each team member decides which challenge(s) they want to take on. For instance, in the area of plastics, challenges include signing petitions, picking up plastic litter, forgoing plastic straws, and replacing single-use utensils with reusable utensils.

As Reverend Meg explains it is “a really good way to build community, get educated, and make a difference!” And the kids and youth participated because it is action oriented.

This year's Ecochallenge has a featured focus of [Justice for the Whole Community](#). It touches on environmental justice, power security, barriers to voting, food sovereignty, seeing systems, and the sharing economy.

And from the Ecochallenge site; Together, we learn about and take action for peace, justice, and sustainability.

Please connect with Teresa to join the Beacon Team by October 5th! We already have 12 Beaconites who are joining. Visit our [ecochallenge program page](#) on Beacon's web site for more information and to sign up directly.









Teresa Morton

—Teresa Morton

Teresa.a.morton@gmail.com

or 778.855.1704

 action track: justice for the whole community 198 PARTICIPANTS	 action track: healing and renewal 198 PARTICIPANTS	 waste 418 PARTICIPANTS
 food 240 PARTICIPANTS	 health 255 PARTICIPANTS	 transportation 148 PARTICIPANTS

A sampling of eco-challenge categories from <https://peoples.ecochallenge.org/challenges>. Be a part of the Beacon team and contribute points—contact Teresa by Monday, October 5th and/or visit our [ecochallenge program page](#) on Beacon's web site.

Our World is One World, How we share affects us all!

Beacon's Pledge Drive Explained

The month of October is Pledge Drive Month for Beacon. The Board needs to prepare the Budget for 2021. Just like our own personal budgets, this is a considered forecast of the costs expected to run Beacon from January 2021 to December 2021 and the income Beacon expects to receive in 2021. Beacon's income is entirely the donations it receives from supporters. The fall pledge drive is the time Beaconites fill out a pledge card (digital this year) indicating what you plan to donate to Beacon in 2021 and how you plan to give it. We don't need the money until 2021, we just need to learn this month (October 2020), the amount you plan to give during 2021 (your 2021 pledge), then the Board can prepare a budget in time for 2021.

Many of Beacon's supporters have ongoing monthly

PADs. We want to know if you will be continuing this support in 2021 and any changes you wish to make. Some Beacon supporters give by cheque, or e-transfer, and some by donation of securities, some people even like to pay it in the current year for tax purposes. Whatever way works for you will be joyfully accommodated! Just ask a Pledge Drive Team member and we will make it work for you!

By October 8, we will email you the Board's estimate of anticipated operating costs, our pledge drive goal, and a fillable Pledge form. (If you don't have email we will send you a paper copy.) Information will also be put in the Support Us section of Beacon's website.

—Your Pledge Drive Team: Carol Woodworth, Heather Brown, Nancy Rupert, David Kristjanson, Karen Hamilton

Beacon
Unitarian
Church



Religious Exploration (RE)

Hello everyone. As you probably suspected, things are going to look and feel a little different this year. In the winter and spring of last year we were challenged to quickly adapt to an online forum, a virtual community. As we ease into our 'new normal' we look for new ways to engage and connect. And that's exactly what we are doing at Beacon as well. Moving forward, our intention for the Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE) programs this year is to foster connection. Connection for children, connection for youth, connection for families. One way we aim to connect is by providing flexible opportunities for families to engage with CYRE program ideas—to the level of their comfort, from their homes and on their own time. The Religious Exploration Committee (REC) has decided to

create monthly program kits that will be distributed to families. In addition we are planning a couple of seasonal activities so definitely stay tuned to hear more details about those!

I also wanted to let you know that we have received notice from Amber Strocel that she is stepping down from the Religious Exploration Committee this year. On behalf of the committee, we want to thank Amber for all her years of service and excellent leadership and vision. As a result, our current RE committee consists of the chair, Bette Goode, and staff member, Ashley Cole. As we work towards the goal of connection, I am hoping we can grow our small but mighty religious exploration committee membership in the coming months.

In order to have connected and integrated programming, it is essential to have support and buy-in from

the congregation more broadly. Participation on the committee can take many shapes and approaches: brainstorming and feedback on CYRE programming; representing the CYRE committee on other groups such as the COVID-19 task force; connecting with families on Sunday mornings; and representing the needs of families across Beacon more broadly. If you are interested in learning more, feel free to reach out to Ashley Cole (dre@beaconunitarians.org) for more information.



Ashley Cole

Wishing you all the best,
—Ashley Cole (she/her pronouns),
Director of Religious Exploration,
dre@beaconunitarian.org

Beacon Programs

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

The Humanist Discussion Group (Online) likes to think about and discuss our common humanity, and our place as individuals and collectives in this dance of life. We are a group who welcome different points of view and discuss a wide range of ideas. We meet the last Sundays of the month, via Zoom.

Sunday, October 25, 7 PM: Is Canada a Parliamentary Democracy—Fact or Fiction? Join the humanists online for their October 25th meeting when John Hagen will present a controversial argument suggesting our electoral system makes a fiction out of our belief in democracy.

If you are interested, but have not been receiving emails about the Humanist Group, please contact Marilyn Medén by email (m.j.meden@telus.net) or by phone at 604-469-6797 for information and Zoom link.

Theology Pub (Online) meets the third Sunday of the month at 1 pm via Zoom. Our themes will complement those of the monthly service themes. Please contact Franci for more information or to be added to the email list: theologypub@beaconunitarian.org.

Book Club (Online) meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 7 pm. For Zoom details contact John Hagen, ajhagen@telus.net.

Thursday, Oct. 22: Educated by Tara Westover. *Facilitator: Carol Woodworth*. See box on page 7 for more information.

Lunch Bunch (Online) meets every Thursday at noon, year-round, currently via Zoom. Bring your own

lunch and share in lively and topical conversation. Contact Anne MacLeod at 604-528-8489 for the Zoom link.

Groove Dance (Online) is a simple and fun way to move your body. You don't need to have any dance experience. You don't need to have a particular fitness level or body type. Groove dance is for EVERYBODY. A facilitator guides you through a few simple moves, helps you to connect to yourself and the music, and the rest is up to you. There's no wrong way to groove. Simply explore and enjoy the pleasure of moving to music your way. See the 3 minute informational video—<https://www.bodygroove.com>. Join other Beaconites in this fun form of community dance. Classes will be held Mondays at 5:30 on Zoom. Please contact Janet Pivnick janpivnick@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link or for more information.

Join the Beacon Choir for musical fun and skill development. Contact choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org for more info. *Note: Choir practices have been suspended until further notice.*

Pastoral Support Team
Beacon's Pastoral Support Team encourages members and friends to reach out and let us know if you, or someone you know, has a specific need. For example: wanting emotional or physical support of some kind; illness at home or in hospital; in self-isolation and needing help with errands. We can do our best to be of use in ways that meet recommendations around social contact from BC's Provincial Health Officer. —Rev. Meg Roberts (778-870-9015), Laura Redmond and Judy Villett pastoral-care@beaconunitarian.org



Online Beacon Film Club

Join us for a fun night! Similar to the book club, the procedure is to view the film in advance, and then come to a Zoom meeting to chat about it.

The films selected are all available from YouTube for a rental fee (from \$0 to \$6.99). They may also be available for streaming from other internet sources, so if you have a subscription to a streaming service, do check there first. To rent a film from YouTube, search for the title in YouTube and look for the video that has a blue “Buy or Rent” box beside it.

We will meet to talk about the film at 7 pm on Friday evenings via Zoom. Please email Marilyn Medén (m.j.meden@telus.net) for Zoom meeting details. Each week a new person will choose and “host” a film. Bring your popcorn and your opinions.

Film Line-up for October

- Oct. 2:** *First Reformed*, hosted by Nancy Rupert
- Oct. 9:** *Florence Foster Jenkins*, hosted Judy Villett
- Oct. 16:** *The Red Violin*, hosted by Donna Webb
- Oct. 23:** *The Big Sleep*, hosted by Karen Hamilton
- Oct. 30:** To be decided.

Getting to Know Beacon



Sat. Oct. 10, 10–11 am on Zoom

New to this community? Want to learn about our Sunday services and other programs? Join Rev. Meg Roberts and a member of the Connecting Committee for a one-hour short introduction. You can ask questions and meet other newcomers. RSVP by Tues. Oct. 6 to Meg: minister@BeaconUnitarian.org or 778-870-9015 so we can send you the Zoom link.

Getting to Know You

Thurs. Oct. 22, 7–8 pm on Zoom

If you've been to a few of our services and want to take the next steps, we look forward to getting to know you and you us. Join us to learn about Unitarianism and various ways to be part of this community. Join Rev. Meg Roberts and a member of the Connecting Committee. RSVP by Tues. Oct. 20 to Meg: minister@BeaconUnitarian.org or 778-870-9015 so we can send you the Zoom link.

Soul Matters Sharing Circles



Soul Matters is an inspiring deep-dive into the important themes of our lives. I have an opportunity to really listen to others' beliefs and experiences while also articulating my own. Rev. Meg's facilitating is masterful.

—Soul Matters Participant

Led by Rev. Meg Roberts. The next session is planned for Wednesday, October 7 on “The Interdependent Web” (September's theme). We have two groups:

- 1:00–3:00 pm
- 6:30–8:30 pm

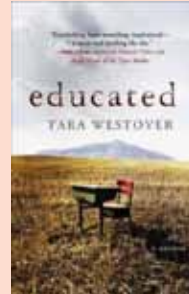
If you could like to come and try it out, please contact Rev. Meg Roberts for Zoom access information and [participant info packet](#) (minister@BeaconUnitarian.org, 778-870-9015). You can join via computer/smart phone/tablet or via regular phone. All are welcome.

Beacon Book Club Thurs. Oct. 22, 7 pm (Online)

Educated

by Tara Westover, Random House, c. 2018, 371pp.

Facilitator: Carol Woodworth



Tara Westover was seventeen the first time she set foot in a classroom. Born to survivalists in the mountains of Idaho, she prepared for the end of the world by stockpiling home-canned peaches and sleeping with her “head-for-the-hills bag.” In the summer she stewed herbs for her mother, a

midwife and healer, and in the winter she salvaged in her father's junkyard. The family was so isolated from mainstream society that there was no one to ensure the children received an education, and no one to intervene when one of Tara's older brothers became violent. As a way out, Tara began to educate herself, learning enough mathematics and grammar to be admitted to Brigham Young University. Her quest for knowledge would transform her, taking her over oceans and across continents, to Harvard and to Cambridge. Only then would she wonder if she'd traveled too far, if there was still a way home. With the acute insight that distinguishes all great writers, Tara Westover has crafted a universal coming-of-age story that gets to the heart of what an education offers: the perspective to see one's life through new eyes, and the will to change it. —*Provided by publisher.*

About the Author: Tara Westover (born September 27, 1986) is an American memoirist, essayist and historian. Her memoir *Educated* (2018) debuted at #1 on The New York Times bestseller list and was a finalist for a number of national awards, including the LA Times Book Prize, PEN America's Jean Stein Book Award, and two awards from the National Book Critics Circle Award. The New York Times ranked *Educated* as one of the 10 Best Books of 2018. Because of her book, Westover was chosen by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people of 2019. (*Source: Wikipedia*)

More info about the book club at: <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/book-club/>. For Zoom meeting details contact John Hagen, bookclub@beaconunitarian.org.



Virtual Gatherings organized by the CUC

Plan to attend our National and Regional Fall Gathering November 13–15

Our team is hard at work coordinating events for our upcoming virtual National Fall Gathering in mid-November. We have a full slate of workshops and events. The weekend features regional gatherings on the Friday evening. On Saturday, workshops include topics on creating spaces for youth and young adults, anti-racism and social justice, resilient leadership, and options for children and families. After a break, there will be a conversation on our future hosted by the CUC Board of Trustees, followed by a Coffeehouse with music and storytelling. The weekend wraps up with a national Sunday service. There's something for everyone!

On November 14, as part of this event, our social justice team will be offering two workshops aimed at developing awareness and strategies to address racism. The first will focus on how systemic racism impacts us all, even in our congregations and beloved communities, and the second workshop offers resources and reflection on anti-racist education.

As part of the CUC's Fall Gathering weekend and led by a group of ministers, the National Service on Sunday muses on our experiences during this unusual time with music, meditation, a story, and reflections. Join us at 10 am PT.

THR – Reconciliation Through Film: Season 4, 2020–2021

Engage with themes of colonization and Indigenous resilience through film with our online national film screenings.

The National Film Board of Canada generously offers these films for our annual viewing. To help sustain the creation, administration, and facilitation of these reflection groups and the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation program, we suggest a contribution of \$10 for each reflection group you wish to participate in. We offer a sliding scale as well, to accommodate your personal situation.

How it works: Participants have 2 weeks to view a film, read supporting materials, and then come together for a scheduled video conference call to debrief.

The Whale and the Raven – [Registration](#) (ends Friday, October 2)

Watch the film and read the materials: October 3 – October 17, 2020

Reflection Group: Saturday, October 17, 2020, 9:30–11:00 am PT

Director Mirjam Leuze's *The Whale and the Raven* illuminates the many issues that have drawn whale researchers, the Gitga'at First Nation, and the Government of British Columbia into a complex conflict. As the people in the Great Bear Rainforest struggle to protect their territory against the pressure and promise of the gas industry, caught in between are the countless beings that call this place home.

Note that this film was not Indigenous-directed, however it was one of the very first to sign onto the Indigenous Production Protocols for producing with Indigenous communities and on the territory.

Internalized Racism: How do we recognize and dismantle it?

Oct. 21, 4:00–5:30 pm PT (please note the new date for this event)

Part of the CUC's ongoing series on anti-racism, this session of guided reflection and small group discussion is designed primarily for white people who want to better understand internalized racism towards People of the Global Majority (People of Color). Together we will explore how racism reveals itself in our lives, how to acknowledge it without shame, and how to confront and neutralize it. As preparation for this conversation, please review [these resources](#).



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

www.beaconunitarian.org
info@beaconunitarian.org
Phone: 778-791-7952

Mailing Address:

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

Contract Minister:

Rev. Meg Roberts
minister@beaconunitarian.org,
778-870-9015

Lay Chaplain:

Sue Sparlin, 778 319 7827
ceremonies@
beaconunitarian.org

Choir Director:

Sylvia McDonald

choirdirector@
beaconunitarian.org

Board Executive:

President:
David Kristjanson;
Vice-President:
Susan Tarras;
Treasurer: Heather Brown;
Members at Large:
Karen Greenland,

Regina Ogmundson,
Amalia Mamani,
and Rob Warner.

Connections &

Membership:
Sue Sparlin

**Religious Exploration
Director:**

Ashley Cole, dre@beaconunitarian.org

Beacon Newsletter:

newsletter@
beaconunitarian.org
Production: Laura Redmond
Proofreading: Jean
Donaldson

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