

**Service theme
for June:**

Living with Hope & Gratitude



Following are the tentative topics for this month's on-line Zoom meetings. Please check the website closer to the date in case any changes have been necessary. Services take place on Sunday at 10:30 am unless otherwise noted.

**JUN
6**

Living with Hope and Gratitude

Service Leader: Rev. Meg

Roberts

What gives you hope? What do you feel grateful for these days? This month, we will be exploring how we cultivate hope and gratitude in our lives, in our families and in our Beacon community. Hope you can join us! We'll also have a new member ceremony that day to officially welcome members into the Beacon congregation.

**JUN
13**

A Compassionate City

Guest Speaker: Kay Johnson,
a Founder of New West

Hospice Society

Service Leaders: Heather Brown and Susan White. Music by Michael Scales. Kay worked for 45 years in nursing and, noticing her gifts of acceptance, care and lack of fear in the presence of the dying, she gravitated towards hospice and palliative care. It was this work that inspired her to start New West Hospice Society. It isn't a building, but a network of community

based supports that show compassion for the dying and their loved ones. It's about neighbour helping neighbour, providing practical and emotional support.

[New West Hospice Society](https://www.compassionate-communitiesuk.co.uk/the-compassionate-city-charter): Our mission is to promote and affirm that dying, death and grief are part of life across the life span. Our vision: We will work to build a community where death is no longer hidden or whispered about; where people know what to say and do to be supportive; where residents can die with dignity; and family and friends can grieve well. It is a model of care based on the Compassionate City Charter (founder Allan Kellehear): "A compassionate city is a community that recognizes that care for one another at times of crisis and loss is not simply a task solely for health and social services but is everyone's responsibility." For more information visit: <https://www.compassionate-communitiesuk.co.uk/the-compassionate-city-charter>.

**JUN
20**

All-Ages Flower Celebration

Co-leaders: Ashley Cole and Rev. Meg Roberts

Join us for a participatory, all-ages flower celebration reflecting on what we are grateful for and what brings us hope. You are invited to bring a flower with you and you will have time in small groups to share on how our various flowers represent our hopes and gratitude from this past year and how they (virtually) come together to make a beautiful bouquet! As we close out this church year, let us celebrate each other and the gift that Beacon is in our lives.

Musings by Meg

There is a song written by Unitarian Universalist Rev. John Corrado whose words are:
*Voice still and small, deep inside all,
I hear you call, singing.
In storm and rain, sorrow and pain,
Still we'll remain singing.
Calming my fears, quenching my tears,
Through all the years, singing.*
(from *Singing the Living Tradition*, #391)

Often, I'm brought to tears when I sing it. Sometimes those tears are for pain I may be feeling in my life at that time (or because I know someone close to me who in pain). Sometimes they are tears of gratitude for being part of community where I can be who I am (most of the time). That's part of the power of singing. Singing in a community (even in the unusual way we are doing that on Zoom these days) is good for our well-being—individually and collectively. Singing builds community.

Community is also created through being compassionate and caring:

- where we learn as we go (and acknowledge when we stumble in our learning)
- where we practice offering each other our thanks
- where we encourage each other to feel hope
- where we practice becoming more intentionally inclusive (so people can be more of who they are, more of the time)

June's theme is "Living with Hope and Gratitude." Amidst all that is storming around us—the sorrow, the pain, the fears—how do we cultivate hope? How do we practice gratitude? Amidst a busy life, sometimes I need to go to a quiet place to hear that "voice, still and small" inside me, to realize how I'm feeling, what I'm thinking. It might be in a nearby park or on my balcony. It happens some-

times when I'm washing dishes or even just sitting in my car, waiting for a light to change. I hope you'll make some time to do that for yourself as well—even if it just means stepping outside on a clear night and looking up at the stars.

This month, I look forward to exploring how we live with hope and gratitude. I'll kick off the theme at the June 6th Sunday service. If there are ways you develop hope, let me know (if you're willing). Even start a conversation with someone you're close to about it. If you are finding yourself feeling grateful for someone—what they did or said—let them know. Life is too precious (and the amount of time we have on this earth is unknown for most of us) not to share our gratitude with those around us. We are fortunate to be living on this beautiful blue-green planet Earth.

If you want to share your thoughts/feelings/practices about hope and gratitude with me, please contact me: minister@beaconunitarian.org, cell 778-870-9015.

I'm also going to try something new for a monthly theme. The Pastoral Care Team used a virtual Pinup cork board for sharing joys and sorrows on May 16th, when we had the national Canadian Unitarian Council service (and we didn't hold a separate Beacon service). So, I'm offering a new Pinup board for people to share their thoughts/feelings/practices about hope and gratitude: <https://pinup.com/nXlDdWCjR>. Feel free to add a post-it note and write on it something you hope for or something you feel grateful for this month. (I'll put directions on the online Pinup



Rev. Meg Roberts

How to reach me:

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

- Mondays and Tuesdays are my regular days off.
- **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.
- **On weekends when I lead Beacon's Sunday service, I also work Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays (this month those are June 4–6 and June 18–20)** — focusing on service preparation those days as well as other work. I will respond to emails and phone calls on those days as well.
- I can be reached via email: minister@beaconunitarian.org and on my cell at 778-870-9015. (If it's an emergency, please leave a message on my phone.) I will respond as soon as I'm able.
- Balancing off some overtime hours earlier this year, **I will be taking off time from June 21–30.** So, June 20 will be my last day before my holidays during the month of July.
- If you need assistance during times when I'm unavailable, please email board@beaconunitarian.org or if you would like pastoral care support, please email pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org.

I look forward to connecting with you.

board for how to do that.)

I look forward to hearing from you and also for you to hear from each other this month.

In the spirit of life,

—Rev. Meg Roberts

Board Bitz

Change is in the air! Spring plants growing and beginning to blossom. The COVID vaccines are arriving quickly. The CUC is proposing a new principle. The new Beacon Board has met for the first time. Jane Day, Joyce Gudaitis, Peg Hinkley and interim treasurer Carol Woodworth are the four new board members and we are so pleased to have them join existing members Susan Tarras, Regina Ogmundson, Karen Greenland and Amalia Mamani.

The big change arrived last March when COVID arrived and life turned into something we had never experienced before. Beacon quickly found its footing and moved online. It's a testament to the strength and commitment of the Beacon community that we have kept our connections during this difficult time. We've met through online Sunday services, small groups, committees and even dance activities. We now see hope in another

change—a move into the loosening of restrictions as COVID vaccinations let us move back into a more normal life.

Our COVID task force is keeping abreast of this change and working with the board and committees to chart a path towards beginning in-person Sunday services and small group meetings once provincial regulations allow. Although we have enjoyed seeing and talking to each other online, it will be truly wonderful to meet in person again. If we are allowed hugs, it will be delightful! I have certainly missed the hugs.

Change also arrived with a CUC proposal of an additional principle. Beacon has a diversity of intellectual thought, and a history of robust and energetic discussion on many issues, and this proposal is no exception. At the open Zoom meeting on May 22nd the board began ensuring opportunities are available for all who are interested to engage on this topic while



Susan Tarras
Co-President



Regina Ogmundson
Co-President

using our Covenant of Right Relations to guide us through the process. Honoring the diversity of opinions in the congregation is not always an easy task but by bringing our goodwill, and hearing through our hearts, it is possible.

Taken together, the changes referred to above are substantial, and change is often challenging. While we maneuver through, may we all keep Beacon's vision firmly in mind: "Connect with compassion and respect; Inspire learning and spiritual growth; Transform through joy and justice"

We will work to keep Beacon the wonderful, caring community that it is.

—Susan Tarras, Co-President

Symbiocene, an invitation to a different future!

A few years ago, I and a few Beaconites created buttons reading 'I talk about Climate Change' for the CUC Conference in Vancouver. If asked, I would reply that Climate Change is our opportunity to forge a new relationship with the planet.

Recently I heard the term symbiocene in the context of environmental discussions and realized that it is a term I have been looking for!

'Symbiocene' is fashioned after anthropocene. The Anthropocene is a proposed geological epoch dating from the commencement of significant human impact on Earth's geology and ecosystems, including, but not limited to, anthropogenic climate change.

Symbiocene indicates an era characterized by a symbiotic relationship with nature. Symbiocene is the era of companionship, of the 'living together', when life on Earth isn't destroyed, but instead nurtured, by humans. It is a statement of hope and optimism, proposing that we can alter our future to leave behind the anthropocene and strike a new balance in our lives on this planet.

As found on the Symbioscene website (<https://symbioscene.com>), their vision is 'Shaping a new mindset towards a sustainable human-nature relationship and thus opening up new perspectives for a liveable future.' A particular focus of this non-profit is

the re-integration of arts and sciences through new models of interaction.

There is also a youth connection, through Gen (s). 'We are the resistance to the anthropocene, the storytellers of the symbiocene! We are gen (s)!' <https://www.generationsymbiocene.gr>

I find the implications fascinating and will be exploring Symbiocene further!



Teresa Morton

—Teresa Morton

lessplasticnewwest@gmail.com

Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE)

Around this time last year, Beacon had hastily (and successfully) shifted to online services and programming, and was taking it week by week keeping an eye on the public health response to the global pandemic. Here we are a year later and a lot has happened. I find my perception of time has shifted a bit, defining the activities within Beacon as “before” and “after” the March 2020 shut down. As vaccine rollout continues to move ahead and restrictions begin to be rolled back, we are faced once again with a new shifting reality. If my experiences over the last year have taught me anything, they have taught me this: that we can be responsive to the needs of our community and respond appropriately.

In September 2020, when we gathered back online from a short summer hiatus I remember my goal for families was to build a sense of connection. And I am proud to say that we accomplished that. In small, but meaningful ways we remained adaptive to the needs of families. With the support of Rev. Meg Roberts and

the worship service team we crafted monthly program newsletter kits based on the monthly themes with ideas to engage the mind, heart and hands. These served as guides and prompts to help families navigate their own religious explorations at home.

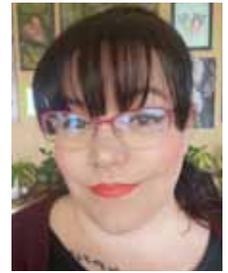
My goal for families was to build a sense of connection. And I am proud to say that we accomplished that.

We also held a handful of all-ages services, including the whole church winter pageant, the April Earth Day service *In Praise of Dirt* and this month we will host the final service of the church year, the flower communion. We also coordinated a couple of program activities including the night tree party and the postal service version of Mystery Buddies. Overall it was a thoughtful year, with much to learn and explore.

As I shared in the May program newsletter, what has really resonated with me this year is how vastly differently we all interpret and interact with our Unitarian Universalist principles. Exploring each as a monthly theme has really led to some deeper learning on who we are as a community, what we value, and how we demonstrate that in our lives.

As I shared at the top of this post, my goal this year was to create moments of connection for families, connection with each other and with Beacon. My hope for you all is that you have felt, and continue to feel, that connection and know that you are loved and seen by this community. Looking forward to what the fall may have in store!

Sending lots of love to each of you,
—Ashley Cole (*she/her pronouns*),
Director of Religious Exploration,
dre@beaconunitarian.org



Ashley Cole

Contribute Your Ideas to Worship Planning for the 2021–2022 Church Year

The worship services team will be holding our annual planning session on June 17, 6:45 – 8:45 p.m. During this time we decide on an overarching theme for next year’s worship services and choose monthly themes. All members of the Beacon community are invited to attend to provide your input about worship themes, topics and speakers. We would also like your feedback about what is working with Beacon’s worship services and what you would like to see done differently as we move back into a face to face environment. Look for the Zoom link in upcoming “Beacon This Week”s.

We are delighted to let the community know that we have two new members of the Worship Services Committee—Glenn Wooton and David Kristjanson. If you are interested in lending your ideas and creativity to this vibrant and caring team, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you for your support and participation as we navigated this last year of online services.

—Nancy Rupert and Janet Pivnick (*Worship Service Committee Co-Chairs*)



Beacon Meeting:

Discussion on the Canadian Unitarian Council's 8th Principle Process

Saturday, June 12, 10 am–12 noon



All are welcome to attend this congregation-level discussion on the process being undertaken by the CUC in regards to the proposed adoption of an 8th principle. The Zoom information will be in the *Beacon This Week*, or contact Rachael, our admin support, for the link: adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org.

The discussion will be on information coming from the CUC to its congregations in early June. **For background and context, please read the message below from the CUC** (from the CUC e-News May 25):

A Way Forward for the 8th Principle Process

At the CUC's AGM on May 8, there was a spontaneous motion from the floor to immediately adopt an 8th principle, which states: We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote: "Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions." Although this motion passed with a majority vote, a careful review of the proceedings and AGM transcript following the AGM revealed that in allowing the motion to proceed, the CUC did not properly follow the requirement of prior notice for motions, and as a result, we violated [our own bylaws](#) (refer to bylaw #3). The CUC bylaws supersede all other rules and procedures, thus making the motion invalid and, as such, it does not stand.

We want to be clear that this does not invalidate the passion or commitment we have for this issue. We know that there is hurt and confusion following this outcome. But we want to get this right. We want to ensure that there is never a question that Canadian Unitarian Universalists are deeply committed to upholding the principle of dismantling racism and other oppressions, and committed to the work it requires.

We propose a Special Meeting, to be held on Saturday, November 27, 2021. By holding it in late November, we aim to provide time for congregations to discuss the matter. This meeting will focus on the 8th principle and the process by which it was approved, discussion of the Dismantling Racism Study Group's findings and recommendations, proposed motions arising from the recommendations, plans from CUC Board and staff on implementation, and an overview of the CUC's bylaws, rules of order, and resolutions process.

In the meantime, the next [two leaders roundtables](#), taking place May 29 and June 26, will both be devoted to the topic of the 8th principle process, and we encourage everyone to bring their questions and ideas to these meetings.

We have also compiled '[A Way Forward for the 8th Principle Process](#)' document that aims to answer many of the questions people may have.

Thank you for reviewing the above information before our June 12th congregation-level meeting. We look forward to a thoughtful discussion.

Want to become a member of Beacon Unitarian Church?

We will be having a new member ceremony during the Sunday, June 6th online service. If you have attended the "Getting to Know You" session, talk to Meg by June 2nd about joining: Rev. Meg Roberts, minister@beaconunitarian.org, 778-870-9015.

If you've been a member of another Unitarian/Universalist congregation, you aren't required to attend that session, and instead talk to Meg about what being a member at Beacon means.

June is National Indigenous History Month

This is time for all Canadians—Indigenous, non-Indigenous and newcomers—to reflect upon and learn the history, sacrifices, cultures, contributions, and strength of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. There are many ways to do this safely, within the [present Provincial Health Officer's guidelines](#).

Here are some resources:

- [National Indigenous History Month—Why it's important](#)
- Look for your local First Nations' celebrations (see their websites and check your local media)
- Check out National Indigenous Peoples Day virtual activities happening in your region through [Celebrate Canada!](#) For more information on First Nations, Inuit and Métis-led virtual activities, please visit:
 - the [Assembly of First Nations](#)
 - [Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami](#)
 - [Métis National Council](#)
 - your local [Friendship Centre](#)

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 that welcomes different points of view and discusses a wide range of ideas. We meet the last Sundays of the month at 7:30 pm, via Zoom. On **Sunday June 27th**, Karen Hamilton will introduce a discussion on **The George Floyd trial**. Karen notes that watching the George Floyd murder trial, gavel to gavel, was traumatic but also fascinating, not just from a legal and policing perspective but from a mental health crisis angle. She would like the Humanist Group to open their hearts and minds to examine the multi-faceted legal and mental health system that inevitably leads one to conclude that there is seldom “Justice” even when we think we have won. Karen plans to discuss the overburdened legal system and the psychological impact on those who witnessed the murder and fought to intervene. The Zoom link will be in the *Beacon This Week*. If you would like to receive emails about the Humanist Group, please contact Marilyn Medén (contact info is in the Beacon directory).

Theology Pub (Online) continues to meet by Zoom on third Sundays at 1 pm—that’s June 20 for this month. Members of our email list receive a little inspirational reminder (based on the current monthly service theme) just before our meetings. If you would like to join that list, contact Franci Louann or David Kristjanson at theologypub@beaconunitarian.org.

Book Club (Online) meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm.

Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome! For Zoom meeting details and all enquires, please contact John Hagen bookclub@beaconunitarian.org. **Thursday, June 24: *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of A Family and Culture in Crisis*** by JD Vance, c. 2016, 264 p. Facilitator: Joyanne Landers. See box on page 7 for more information.

Film Club (Online) meets every Friday at 7 pm. See the box on page 7 for more information.

Lunch Bunch (Online) meets every Tuesday at noon, year-round, currently via Zoom. Bring your lunch and share in lively and topical conversation. Contact Laura Ramsay at 604-816-5331 for the Zoom link.

The Beacon Choir has been temporarily suspended due to COVID-19. Please contact choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org for more information.

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 EVERY BODY. 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. Simply explore and enjoy the pleasure of moving to music your way. See the [three minute informational video](#). Classes are now over the summer. Please contact Janet Pivnick janpivnick@gmail.com for more information.

‘Getting to Know Beacon’ 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. Contact Rev. Meg: minister@beaconunitarian.org.

Beacon Pulse Check 2021

Your Feedback Needed June 1–6

We will be sending out a short survey to check in on how we are collectively doing and how Beacon can best serve the needs of our community. We will be asking for your feedback by June 6. That allows us time in June to compile your responses before two key planning meetings by Beacon leaders where we will be discussing summer and fall options for services and programming and the human resources to support those.

Please watch for a special email with link. If you don’t have online access to do the survey (or would prefer not to have to do it online), please contact [Rachael](#), our admin support (778-791-7952). Let her know if it is okay to have someone phone you to do it on the phone (while they type in your responses), or if you prefer to have a hard copy mailed to you.

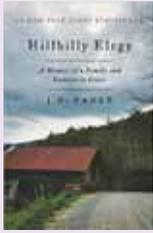
—Connecting Committee



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

‘Getting to Know You’ 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 Rev. Meg Roberts and a member of the Connecting Committee to learn about Unitarianism and various ways to be part of this community. Contact Meg: minister@beaconunitarian.org or 778-870-9015 for more info.

Beacon Book Club Thurs, Jun 24, 7 pm (Online)



Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by JD Vance, c. 2016, 264 p.

Facilitator: Joyanne Landers
Genres/Subjects: Memoir, American

Author JD Vance shares the story of his family and upbringing, describing how they moved from poverty to an upwardly mobile clan that included himself, a Yale Law School graduate, while navigating the demands of middle class life and the collective demons of the past. (BPL)

More info about the book club is at <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/book-club/>.

Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome! For Zoom meeting details and all enquires, please contact John Hagen, book-club@beaconunitarian.org.

Please Support the Share Food Bank!

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

Soul Matters Sharing Circles

Led by Rev. Meg Roberts, during the next session we reflect on May's theme, "Principled Living". We have two groups to choose from, both meeting on Wednesday, June 2nd: 1:00–3:00 pm or from 6:30–8:30 pm.

Newcomers are always welcome! If you would like to try it out, please contact Rev. Meg Roberts for Zoom access information and participant info packet (minister@beaconunitarian.org, 778-870-9015). The participant info packet is also available on Beacon's web site ([see resources link at top left](#)). You can join via computer/smart phone/tablet or via regular phone. All are welcome.



Beacon Film Club Fridays, 7 pm (Online)

The idea behind our club is to view a film in advance, and then come to a Zoom meeting at 7 pm on Fridays to chat about it. The Zoom link is in Thursday's *Beacon This Week*.

The films selected are all available from YouTube for a rental fee (from free 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, just search for the title in YouTube and look for the video that has a blue "Buy or Rent" box next to it.

Please connect with Marilyn Medén (using the Beacon directory) for more information.

June 4: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, introduced by David Kristjanson

June 11: *Erin Brockovich*, introduced by Marilyn Medén

June 18: *Blow Up*, introduced by John Hagen

June 25: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, introduced by Elizabeth Campbell

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. Also, please let us know if you or someone you know who is in need of support would like us to drop off one of Beacon Caring Quilts. 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* pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org



Beacon Sing-along

On the evening of April 24th an enthusiastic group of Beaconites, accompanied by some members of the South Fraser Unitarian Congregation met up on Zoom for a sing-along.

The idea came from Rev. Ev and Joan Morris. Rev. Meg passed

it on to Bill and Kate and with the Music Committee's support, it was born. We had volunteer song leaders who offered their favourites and we all joined in (with mics muted, of course). There were lyric sheets shared on Zoom so we could follow along.

Thanks to Ev and Joan, Kate Smith and Bill Marshall, Marylke Nieuwenhuis, Lara Charles, Peggy Lunderville, Sue Sparlin and Rev. Meg Roberts.

You can see how much fun we had by the photo below.

—Susan White



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

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Treasurer: Carol Woodworth; **Secretary:**
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at Large: Amalia Mamani, Jane Day, Joyce Gudaitis, Peg Hinkley.

Connections & Membership: Sue Sparlin

Religious Exploration Director:
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Beacon Newsletter:
newsletter@beaconunitarian.org
Production: Laura Redmond
Proofreading: Kate Smith and Bill Marshall

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