



## Summer Services

**T**hinking about attending church services during the summer months?

Last year the CUC organized opportunities for us to attend church online all across Canada. This summer we are encouraged look at the variety of services out there across the land. A few of the options for *online services* are:

- [Unitarian Church of Vancouver](#) – 11 am
- [North Shore Unitarian](#) – 10:30 am
- [First Unitarian Church of Victoria](#) – 10:30 am
- [Toronto First Unitarian](#) – 10:30 EDT (7:30 am PDT!)

Watch in the *Beacon This Week* for updates on two Beacon-led summer services – *Poetry, Prose and Music* and the *Hymn Sing Along*.

For other Canadian Unitarian Council summer online groups and gatherings, please check the events page on the [CUC website](#).

### Next regular Beacon Sunday service:

**SEP  
12**

#### The Annual Water Ceremony 10:30 am

*Rev. Meg Roberts*

Beacon's program year starts again with this special service. The annual water ceremony service is for all ages: we pour water from various sources into one common bowl, symbolizing the re-gathering of this community after a summer break.

We will be adapting this ceremony to be within Beacon's Safety Plan (as well as the Provincial Health Officer's orders). If all goes as we hope, we will be meeting in Sapperton Hall (with extra safety precautions) as well as having people join us online (for those who prefer to connect virtually from home). Watch for an update to confirm this in the September newsletter and the *Beacon This Week* emails.

We hope you have a summer of renewal, good health and meaningful

connections. Check out all the other Beacon offerings in the summer newsletter and join in with our online small group gatherings. We look forward to seeing you in the fall and creating together this ritual of belonging.

*Connecting,  
Inspiring,  
Transforming!*

#### BEACON'S VISION

**Connect**

*with Compassion & Respect*

**Inspire**

*Learning & Spiritual Growth*

**Transform**

*through Joy & Justice*

## Musings by Meg

A thoughtful person recently gifted me Richard Wagamese's book, *Embers: One Ojibway's Meditations*. I read it a few years ago and was very moved and inspired by it. It is a real joy to return to it now, with all that is happening in the world and on this land.

As I was about to write this column, I opened the book to his meditation:

I DON'T KNOW the word for it, that space between seconds, but I've come to understand for myself that it's the punctuation of my life. Between each word, each thought, each moment is where the truth of things lies. The more intent I am on hearing it, seeing it, feeling it, incorporating it, the more precise the degree to which I'm focused on my life and the act of living. I want to dive into those bits of silence. They contain the ocean of my being and our togetherness. So if I don't respond quickly, excuse me. I'm busy allowing the surf of consciousness to break over me so that I can stand on the coast of our unity and be more.

This summer I look forward to seeking out that space between seconds. Although there are times under stress when I could ruminate on the past, or wonder about the future, life is only lived in each second—and between each second. I value the summer months to more actively practice this.

So, I invite you to find something to meditate on this summer—to seek out that space between seconds—and savour it. This gift we have of life, and the act of living. The knowledge that we are indeed

interconnected and interdependent in this web of existence. The moments when we can hear, see, feel, and incorporate the truth of things. Some of us seek inspiration from the land. Others turn to the knowledge and wisdom that can be stored and shared in books—including in the findings of science and explorations through philosophy. Insights also come from creative expression in film, art, theatre, gardening—from conversation with dear ones, and learning from the example of others—and so many other ways.

I hope amidst the swirling of life, in the stages and transitions we are going through this summer, that we pause, breathe, and notice that space between seconds—listen for the truth of things and then practice living it.

*I am on holidays in July. To prepare for the coming program year, I will be on study leave from August 7–22. I will be returning to email August 1st so if you have things you'd like me to know about, please email me after that date. (I will be turning off my email during July to better manage the volume of email correspondence when I get back.) For pastoral support during the times I'm away, see the information from the Pastoral Support Team later in the newsletter (page 5).*

I wish you and yours a healthy summer, with renewal and meaningful connection. I look forward to returning in the fall with stories to share with each other.

In the spirit of life,

—Rev. Meg Roberts



Rev. Meg Roberts

## Beacon Pulse Check Survey: A Quick Overview

By Ashley Cole, on behalf of Beacon's COVID task force

At the end of May, the Beacon COVID Task Force sent out a brief survey to the congregation to gauge the interest in both summer programming and the option to return to in-person meetings in September. Thank you to all who participated in the survey. It was sent out to 106 people and over 50% responded! Well done! The participation also included phoning five people who are not online to capture their input as well. We wanted to share with you some key findings from the survey.

The response to the experience of Beacon's online services and programs this past year was overwhelmingly positive, with over 83% of respondents landing somewhere in the 7–10 range on a scale of 1 to 10. Many expressed interest in outdoor small group summer programs, keeping with BC public health guidance, as well as offering great suggestions for online points of connection.

In regards to returning to in-person services and small group programming in the fall, the majority of respondents supported either a return to in-person services (94% rated this option at a 5 or higher on the scale) and/or a combination of online and in person services (92% rated this option at a 5 or higher on the scale). More than half the respondents did not want to remain online only in September. With this in mind and with current provincial health restrictions lifting, the COVID task force and the coordinating council will be meeting over August to develop an appropriate plan for Beacon's fall start-up, and will communicate it to the congregation when finalized.

## Board Bitz

We are beginning a new stage of the Pandemic. Many of us have received our second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Summer is here. In BC the travel ban has just been lifted. This is encouraging news for the province and for our congregation.

Beacon is an involved, caring community. We continued to persist with computer technology, particularly Zoom. We have been patient with each other at meetings and services while members adjust to technical issues. I have been graced with the loan of a webcam from a Beacon member so that others could hear and see me better.

My experiences with Sunday services have been mostly good. If not, it is usually a technical issue. However, if I am not participating in the service I can turn on my external speaker, drink my coffee and listen to evocative words and the mesmerizing music. A Zoom highlight during a recent June *Joys and Sorrows*, was being able to see Franci, home from the hospital, with our beautiful Beacon basket-weave quilt.

The CUC proposal of an eighth principle has provided opportunities for members to query what they really need from a Unitarian church community. While using our Covenant of Right Relations to guide us through the process, meetings were held to ensure that everyone felt heard.

Beacon is a small yet very diverse community; this was so very evident at our lively discussions about the proposed principle. Since the beginning of this process we have also had thoughtful emails sent to the board. Members are taking action, based on their values and the original Unitarian principles. The board appreciates all of the input and goodwill.

The Personnel Committee is busy this time of the year; it is doing year-end reviews with all of the Beacon contract workers. These reviews are important and the Personnel Committee, through Zoom and phone calls, is carefully completing the contract agreements.

By the end of the summer the board will make a decision regarding in-person services. We are encouraged by the provincial government's



Susan Tarras  
Co-President



Regina Ogmundson  
Co-President

lead as it slowly opens up services and businesses to a pre-pandemic normal.

In last month's *Board Bitz* Susan talked about how wonderful it will be when we can hug each other. I echo that. I know that many of us are cautious and worried. I haven't even hugged those within my nearby small family bubble.

I have seen all Beacon members step up and do the work needed to live up to our Mission: Connect, Inspire, and Transform.

To conclude, some wise words from William Shakespeare: *How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a weary world.* Enjoy your summer and please be kind to one another.

—Regina Ogmundson  
Co-President

## Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE)

Hello everyone,  
We made it to June! I hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather and making plans for the summer. Looking back over this past year, the goal for the religious exploration programs was connection—for families to connect with each other and to the broader community. We did this in a variety of ways from monthly mailout kits to Zoom events like the Night Tree Party and the Mystery Buddies program.

Somehow, even in these physically distant times we were able to find points of connection. For all those who participated along the way I send my immense gratitude to you!

As we look ahead to the next few months, I very much look forward to connecting with all of you in the fall, either in-person or online. In the meantime, I will be on break until August 15th. If you want any religious exploration program ideas over the summer feel free to have a look at the

religious exploration page on the Beacon website. Until we meet in the fall, I wish you all the best over these summer months.

In gratitude,  
—Ashley Cole (she/her pronouns),  
Director of Religious Exploration,  
[dre@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:dre@beaconunitarian.org)



Ashley Cole



## A Great Time for A Challenge!



**A** Plastics Challenge, that is. For the month of July there is an Ecochallenge focusing on plastics, especially Single Use Plastic (SUP). It already has 816 participants and I am one of them! Will you join me? It is an opportunity to learn new habits, study plastics problems and contribute to collective impact. It is also a form of support for our phase-out-plastics work. <https://plasticfree.ecochallenge.org>

To quote from the welcome page: Throughout the Ecochallenge, share your progress, success, and reflections with fellow Ecochallengers. The combination of collective inspiration,

**Ecochallenge already has  
816 participants  
and I am one of them!**

camaraderie, and friendly competition makes change a little easier — and a lot more fun!

For this challenge, it has set up action categories such as food, personal care, pets, and community. There are tons of suggestions in each

category, with single actions, repeat actions or daily actions. The hope is that we will build new habits over the month.

We also get credit for the great things we already do!

And by the way, [Ecochallenge.org](https://ecochallenge.org) is hosting a People's Ecochallenge in October, like the one we did in 2020. This time, we will see if we can persuade the other Lower Mainland Unitarians to join us!

Best wishes for a great summer!

—Teresa Morton

[lessplasticnewwest@gmail.com](mailto:lessplasticnewwest@gmail.com)



Teresa Morton

## Healthy communications at Beacon

**We're practicing... and here are some resources.**

**B**ecause of the pandemic, we are in high societal stress. Many of us are impacted within our families and communities. We strive to live Beacon's vision of "Connect with compassion and respect." Sometimes we do that well and other times we miss the mark.

Recognizing that we are imperfect human beings, we try to follow our Beacon Covenant of Right Relations. Our intention is to practice these promises we make about how to be with one another. At the end of that covenant, it says, "if the covenant is broken, we turn to the supportive policies on Conflict Resolution and Disruptive Behaviour."

Don't know what the Covenant is? Or those policies and procedures? The Covenant and the document on Conflict Resolution are provided in the links below. Other policies can be

found at: <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/governance>.

As part of a congregational scan of policies and practices at Beacon—with multicultural safety and practices in mind—we will be reviewing

**Be specific and concrete  
about actions and words,  
rather than generalizing  
about someone's behaviour.**

these practices in the fall. For now, please practice as best you can with these resources—and consider each other's cultural and personal preferences: check in with the person when asking to talk about something that has happened, about preferences they may have about how to manage differ-

ences, and clearing up something that happened. (Tip: Be specific and concrete about actions and words, rather than commenting and generalizing about someone's behaviour or about groups of people.)

Beacon is a caring community that likes to learn, question, discuss and act. Using these tools well can help us do that.

[Conflict Resolution Policy](#)  
[Beacon Covenant of Right Relations](#)



## Beacon Pastoral Care Team Update

By Judy Villett

We are delighted to welcome Susan Millar to our team. She will join Laura and me as we assist Reverend Meg Roberts to support and care for Beacon members. She will help with phone calls and cards, delivering the Caring Quilts, as well as noting Joys and Sorrows during our Sunday services (to help our team follow up). We are so pleased to have Susan's kindness, calm presence and strength at monthly committee meetings. Members will soon be able to enjoy contact with Susan, as she steps in to help maintain our call list contacts over the summer. All three of us will be responding to messages left on the virtual pinwall/corkboard each week, taking turns to respond and then clearing them every Saturday (see below for more information).

Since Meg is on holidays in July and study leave August 7–22, if there are pastoral care concerns that come up, please contact us:

- Judy Villett, 604-521-1191, [judyvillett@gmail.com](mailto:judyvillett@gmail.com)
- Laura Redmond, 604-939-9310, [lauraredmond2@telus.net](mailto:lauraredmond2@telus.net)
- Susan Millar, [soomillar@gmail.com](mailto:soomillar@gmail.com)
- To email the whole team: [pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org)

Also, the Minister's Discretionary Funds are accessible if a financial need arises for Beacon members and friends (as well as for extraordinary requests from the larger community). While Meg is away, please contact Laura Redmond.

**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.

The Caring Quilts are for all ages and are currently distributed as follows:

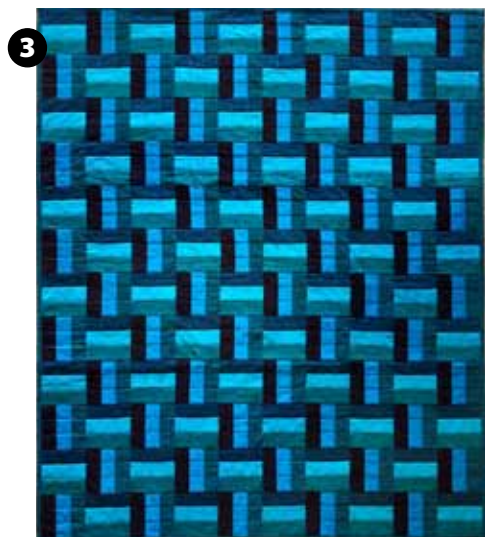
- 1 Children's Program Colourful Care Quilt, with Beacon children's names and drawings: Available.
- 2 Community Quilt, with Beaconites' names and messages on one side, and fuzzy pink lining on the back: Available.
- 3 Basket Weave Quilt, Judy's recent creation with beautiful jewel-tone fabric donated by Donna Hamilton: Presently loaned out.



### Summertime Joys & Sorrows Virtual Cork Board

Stay in touch over the summer by using our Joys & Sorrows virtual cork board. During the summer, when we are not meeting as a congregation, the Pastoral Care team invites you to post your joys and/or sorrows on our virtual cork board using this link: <https://pinup.com/3YzO4kS4Q> (If the link doesn't work, try copying and pasting it into your address bar.)

You can visit the cork board anytime during the week to view and/or post joys and sorrows. The board will be cleared every Saturday, and ready for a new week of posts on Sunday. If you have any questions, please email [pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:pastoralcare@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 that welcomes different points of view and discusses a wide range of ideas. We meet the last Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm, via Zoom. We will be taking a break for the summer, so the next meeting is September 27th. 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: July 18th and August 15th. Members of our email list receive a reminder a week before the meeting. If you would like to join that list, contact Franci Louann or David Kristjanson at [theologypub@beaconunitarian.org](mailto: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](mailto:bookclub@beaconunitarian.org). See box on page 7 for the July and August books to read.

**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](mailto: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. See the [three minute informational video](#). Classes are now over the summer. Please contact Janet Pivnick [janpivnick@gmail.com](mailto: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 in August: [minister@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:minister@beaconunitarian.org).

### Photo Gallery: Flower Communion Service, June 20



### Please Support the Share Food Bank!

During COVID, donations to the food bank can be 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

This Soul Matters Circle is a small group that meets once a month during our program year to explore and experience how the monthly service theme can be intricately woven into the tapestry of our days.

Led by Rev. Meg Roberts, our groups will gather again starting on Wednesday October 6. Choose from one of the following groups: 1:00–3:00 pm; or 6:30–8:30 pm

Newcomers always welcome! Interested? Leave your name with Rachael at [adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org). Meg will get back to you in September.



### Beacon Book Club

Thurs, July 22, 7 pm (Online)



**Truth Be Told:**

**My Journey Through Life and the Law** by Beverley McLachlin, c. 2019, 373 p.

**Facilitator:** Karen Hamilton

**Genre/Subjects:** Memoir, Canadian  
“Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, Beverley McLachlin,

offers an intimate and revealing look at her life and shares her insights into the most pressing legal and social questions we face today. In an age of division and uncertainty, McLachlin’s memoir is a reminder that justice and the rule of law remain our best hope for a progressive and bright future.” (Source: BPL)

Thursday, August 26, 7 pm (Online)



**Dear World: a Syrian Girl's Story of War and a Plea for Peace** by Bana Al Abed, c. 2017, 205 p.

**Facilitator:** Carol Woodworth

**Genre:** Biography

“When seven-year-old Bana Alabed took to Twitter to describe the horrors she

and her family were experiencing in war-torn Syria, her heartrending messages touched the world and gave a voice to millions of innocent children.” (Source: 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, [bookclub@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:bookclub@beaconunitarian.org).

### 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.

**July 2:** *The Power of Belle*, introduced by Peg Hinkley

**July 9:** *Beginners with Christopher Plummer*, introduced by Rhea Kikkert

**July 16:** *Atanarjuat: The Fast Runner*, introduced by Pauline Atwood

**July 23:** Our secret presenter

**July 30:** *Parasite*, introduced by Sherryl Swann

**August 6:** *The Shape of Water*, introduced by Michael Scales

**August 13** *Ladybird*, introduced by Lindsay Udem

## Mourning 215 children (Tuesday June 1, 2021)

Canadian Unitarian Universalists share the grief and sorrow over the recent discovery of the remains of 215 children on the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. We are profoundly shaken, while recognizing that sadly it does not come as a shock to many Indigenous families across the country.

The discovery further shows the immense harm done by the residential school system and the effects that continue to be felt today. This is genocide, and there are remains of children and youth at almost every former residential school site. It is a start, but not enough, for the government to offer reparations for the 215 children; we urge that it must be a priority to recover the remains of all the other lost children.

The CUC committed in 2014 to upholding the recommendations of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and we reaffirm our support for implement-

ing this, as well as the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, as the best means of addressing the injustices Indigenous people in Canada face.

We encourage Canadians to write to their Member of Parliament to press for action that will help repair some of the harm done, to consider donating to the Indian Residential School Survivors Society, and to continue the work to educate ourselves about the history and impact of the residential school system.

Together we must ensure that every child matters and no children are forgotten.

—Vyda Ng, Executive Director  
Canadian Unitarian Council

*The CUC respectfully acknowledges the Ancestral Traditional Territories of the Ojibway, the Anishnaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Métis and the Mississaugas of the New Credit Nation, where the CUC office is located.*

## The 8th Principle Process: Next Steps

The information package in preparation for the Special Meeting on November 27, 2021, titled [The 8th Principle Process: Next Steps](#), is now ready. The Canadian Unitarian Council Board of Trustees is proposing the following motion to adopt an 8th Principle: “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 our institutions.” The CUC Board moves this motion in recognition of the strong support from the delegates at the 2021 AGM to adopt this 8th Principle and to correct the procedural error that took place.

- [CUC Roundtables](#) will be held on the last Saturday of each month for conversation and questions about the proposed 8th Principle and process.
- For congregations: Please use the Congregational Feedback Form and designate one person from your congregation to share comments by October 20 to have these considered by the CUC Board.
- Delegates need to be [registered by Nov. 6](#) to be eligible to vote. Information is on page 6 of the package.
- Q&A sections will hopefully answer questions about the 8th Principle and the Special Meeting. These begin on page 7.

## Rising Together Connects BIPOC UU Youth and Emerging Adults

Rising Together is the Canadian Unitarian Council's group for Black, Indigenous and other people of colour, youth and emerging young adults (ages 14–24). This group gathers every two months for themed worship, discussions, and workshop-style activities. Join us for a chance to meet other BIPOC Unitarian Universalists across Canada and nurture our community with the aim of affirming each other and ensuring we have a confident voice in the broader UU community. Next meeting is in October. See [cuc.ca/events](http://cuc.ca/events) and email [risingtogether@cuc.ca](mailto:risingtogether@cuc.ca) for more information.



**Beacon  
Unitarian  
Church**

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[minister@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:minister@beaconunitarian.org), 778-870-9015

**Lay Chaplain:**  
Sue Sparlin, 778 319 7827  
[ceremonies@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:ceremonies@beaconunitarian.org)

**Administrative Support:**  
Rachael Greenland,

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Ogmundson;

**Treasurer:** Carol  
Woodworth; **Secretary:**  
Karen Greenland; **Members**

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Jane Day, Joyce Gudaitis, Peg  
Hinkley.

**Connections &  
Membership:** Sue Sparlin

**Religious Exploration  
Director:**  
Ashley Cole, [dre@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:dre@beaconunitarian.org)

**Beacon Newsletter:**  
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Proofreading: Kate Smith  
and Bill Marshall

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