

November service themes:

Humanism...
Truth...
Air...



In our September newsletter Rev. Meg wrote: "Inspired by our Unitarian Universalist sources and by the elements of water, fire, earth, and air, we will explore what grounds us, what we value, and how we want to be together this year." For November, the element theme is "air", the value theme is "truth", and the wisdom source we are highlighting is "Humanism".

We welcome guest ministers to help us explore these themes because Rev. Meg, in consultation with the Beacon board and her colleagues, has made a considered decision to continue her health leave until January 5th (for more information please read her letter on page 3). Details for the November 21st service will be posted on our website closer to that date.

Please join us online!

All services are online at this time. We meet at 10:30 am on Sundays unless otherwise noted. [Please register to attend on Zoom](#)—enter your name and email address, and the Zoom link will be emailed directly to you. We are using the same Zoom link from week to week, so you only have to register once to be able to attend all the Sunday morning services.

Many of our small groups meet via Zoom. For those Beacon groups and events that want to meet in person, please follow the link below to learn about how to do that within Beacon's updated Communicable Disease plan (effective as of Sept. 10, 2021): <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/covid-protocols/>. If you would prefer the PDF be emailed to you as an attachment, email Rachael at adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org

NOV 7 Being Good Without God

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Debra Faulk

Service Leader: Glenn Wootton

One of the challenges raised to Unitarian Universalists by more traditional religionists is how can we be good without the idea of an external motivator. Our claim is that we are people of deeds not creeds. What then is the motivation to do good deeds?



Bio: Debra Faulk, Minister Emerita, recently retired after serving Calgary Unitarians for eleven years. She is a life-long Unitarian Universalist and has served the wider denomination since her youth. She has degrees in Psychology and Anthropology from UVic and a Masters degree from the Vancouver School of Theology. Her passions include inter-

faith collaboration, community organizing, and gardening. She is now into a new venture of home co-ownership in Victoria.

NOV 14 Humanism

Speaker: Phil Campbell
Service Leader:

Marilyn Medén

Humanism is a philosophy that encourages people to think for themselves, valuing science and reason. It is focused on human means for comprehending reality and pursuing good. Humanist ethics are based on respect for all life and regard human values as having meaning in the context of human life rather than the promise of life after death. How do these words act as one of our sources? How do they influence the way of life of those who are Humanists? Phil Campbell will explore these ideas.

Service descriptions continued on page 2.

NOV
21

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Brian Kiely

The topic for this service will be posted on the website closer to the service date.



Bio: Brian Kiely recently retired from 22 years of service at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton. Before that he spent a decade at

South Fraser and even spent a year being the very part-time minister at Beacon. Brian is a former president of the CUC and the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists along with a couple of stints on the Executive of the UU Ministers of Canada. In "retirement" he is enjoying experiencing the gig economy with a judicatory position for the City of Edmonton, as well as working on municipal and federal elections and the Canadian Census.

NOV
28

10 AM
Change by Nature

National CUC Service

Led by youth and young adults, this service recognizes and celebrates our 60-year history, and calls on us to fulfill the possibilities of our future together. Come for a delightful and spiritual experience! [Register here.](#)

Love to do research and be creative? Be a Theme Resources Researcher!



I'm looking for poems, TED Talks/videos, and other resources for all ages on Beacon's monthly themes. Contact me to submit your suggestions on the themes of air, truth and humanism (Nov. themes) or fire, love and Christianity (Dec. themes): Laura Redmond at soulmatters@beaconunitarian.org.

*Connecting,
Inspiring,
Transforming!*

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**



Coffee Hour

After the Sunday services, we are pleased to offer an online coffee hour (as we did last year). We hope you can stay to join us for small group conversation: the **first round** is a brief check-in; a **second round** allows you to choose to be in general conversation in the main room, or be in a separate conversation room as a follow up to the Sunday service topic so that there is time to deepen into that exploration and how it applies to our lives. We are looking for people who might like to learn how to host or co-host a coffee hour from time to time. If you're interested and want to learn more, please contact worship@beaconunitarian.org. Training will be provided.

Dear Beacon members and friends,

I've been on health leave since October 11 and unfortunately my recovery is taking longer than anticipated.

After consulting with colleagues and with my health practitioners, I am extending my medical leave until January 5th. I have good support professionally and supportive friends and family. I have faith that this time off will help my recovery. I believe in the good leadership at Beacon, which includes staff, volunteers, and a strong board.

Yesterday, I met with the board co-presidents, Susan and Regina, about how we can support the worship services committee. We discussed coverage for services I would have been leading, as well as coverage for pastoral support. The co-presidents will be sending an update about professional ministry support during my leave (thanks to several colleagues who have gener-

ously stepped forward to assist during my leave).

I value my connection with Beacon and know that working sustainably together involves my being in better health.

Thanks to the pastoral support team for delivering one of the Beacon Caring Quilts to me the first week I was on leave - here's a photo attached of me with the quilt (and my friend's dog Mushu). You'll also see the photo of Beaconites and me, as seen on our website.

Thanks to all who have expressed support for my plan to take sufficient time needed to recover. I appreciate it greatly.

Take good care of yourselves and each other. We will reconnect in the New Year. All the best,

—Rev. Meg Roberts, Oct. 28, 2021



Rev. Meg Roberts



For assistance with Beacon matters during this time:

- **For practical and administrative matters**, please contact Rachael Greenland, Beacon's admin support person: adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org.
- **For congregational matters**, please contact the board co-presidents Susan Tarras and Regina Ogmundson, president@beaconunitarian.org.

For pastoral care:

During my leave, Beacon's pastoral support team is available and willing to offer pastoral support. 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
- needing help with errands
- if you, or someone you know, would like us to drop off one of the Beacon Caring Quilts

We will do our best to be of use in ways that meet Beacon's Communicable Disease Plan protocols as well as being within BC's Provincial Health Officer's guidelines for social contact.

To reach the whole team:

pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org or contact one of us directly:

Judy Villett: 604-521-1191,
judyvillett@gmail.com

Laura Redmond: 604-939-9310,
lauraredmond2@telus.net

Susan Millar: soomillar@gmail.com

Board Bitz

Ah yes, November. The leaves are still falling from the trees, the days are getting shorter giving us a bit more time to sleep in, and we are getting used to the colder weather while tucked under our warm quilts and comforters. Precious time for reflection before busy December is upon us. With the theme of conserving energy, the board along with our Sunday morning volunteers decided to return to on-line Sunday services only. It was thought the time and energy needed to set up and dismantle a COVID compliant sacred space could be used more productively. In January we will reassess re-opening at Sapperton Community Hall once we see what impact the Delta variant has had on us over the fall months.

True to form and in step with all of our diligent volunteers, much work was done by Joyce Gudaitis and Peg Hinkley in developing a business case and submitting an application for

Much work was done by Joyce Gudaitis and Peg Hinkley in developing a business case and submitting an application for a grant from the Cascadia Growth Fund. We were successful!

a grant from the Cascadia Growth Fund. We were successful! The additional funds will be targeted toward strategies for membership growth. These two will be at it again as they

are graciously applying on behalf of Beacon for another grant from the West Bequest Trust. The objective of the West Bequest Trust is to affirm and promote our seven (possibly eight?) UU principles.

Support staff at Beacon will be participating in a Family Ministry workshop in November. This workshop is designed to disperse multicultural education within our congregation. Stay tuned for more.

This year's canvass drive officially ended on October 31. Those who have not yet pledged by this informal deadline may receive a friendly telephone call during the first week of November. We need to receive all pledges in order to prepare our 2022 budget and our thirty second year as a full fledged congregation.

When thinking about what we appreciate about Beacon, I was reminded of the success of the film club. I wondered what brings this group together Friday after Friday to discuss the movie of the night. Diversity. Occasionally we are stretched beyond our comfort zone to watch a movie (with curiosity and/or patience) that we never would have considered otherwise. With open-mindedness, all enjoy the different insights and perspectives each participant brings to the discussion, and we seem to follow the *Covenant of Right Relations* without a weekly reminder to do so. Many often stay lo-o-o-ng after the 90 minute meeting to discuss whatever comes to mind, similar to our after service coffee hour. Let's incorporate that fun, diversity, respectful conversation, and open-mindedness with funds from our canvass drive into a Beacon for the present and the future! —Jane Day

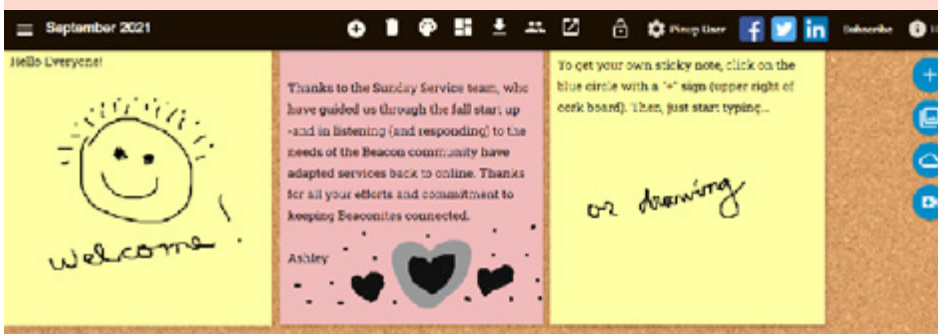


Jane Day
Board member at large

Joy and Sorrows Virtual Cork Board

The Pastoral Support Team wants to expand our ways to hear from one another this fall. In case you are unable to attend a Sunday service online, and want others to know about your joy, sorrow or milestone, **please post by Saturday at 6 pm to be shared the next day.** Alternatively, you can visit the corkboard if you missed the Sunday service and want to catch up on the joys and sorrows shared by others (if they have given their permission for us to post their share).

We invite you to post your joy, sorrow or milestone on our virtual cork board using the private link provided in the weekly *Beacon This Week*. If you're not yet receiving our weekly e-news update on Thursday and want to, OR if you just want the link to that cork board, please contact: admin.support@beaconunitarian.org. You can visit the cork board anytime during the week to view and/or post joys and sorrows. The board will be cleared periodically. If you have any questions specifically about this new way of connecting and supporting one another, please email pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org.



Good news on Single Use Plastic!

Isn't it frustrating that regulation of Single Use Plastics (SUP) moves so slowly? Don't you wish that all the Lower Mainland cities would have the same requirements? Well, there is some good news recently.

The province has issued a ministerial order that allows municipalities to implement bylaws against SUP use. The bylaws can restrict the use of 'polystyrene service ware' (plates, cups, bowls, trays, cartons or lidded containers), plastic straws (while maintaining the availability of 'accessible straws' in plastic), single-use check-out bags, or plastic utensils. There are also minimum amounts that are to be charged for recycled paper bags or reusable bags. Municipalities have to provide at least 6 month's notice of the bylaw going into effect but can't extend this notice beyond one year.



**Living with
Less Plastic
NEW WEST**

**The province has issued
a ministerial order that
allows municipalities to
implement bylaws against
single use plastic.**

In addition, MetroVancouver is working on a set of recommended measures for limiting the use of SUP, which should result in more consistency city to city!

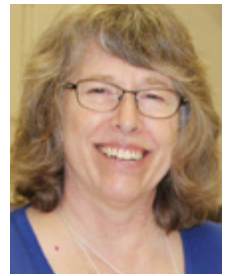
Ecochallenge update

As of the 15th of October, about halfway through the Ecochallenge, our MetroVan

Unitarians Team has 18 members from Beacon and from the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. Together we have accumulated 2876 points, well above what the Beacon Team achieved last year. The impact so far includes reducing CO₂ by 5 pounds (2.3 kg), 105 meatless or vegan meals, 1902 minutes of exercise, and reducing water use by 144 gallons (476 liters). I chose four actions this year, so it is more manageable than last year!

—Teresa Morton

lessplasticnewwest@gmail.com



Teresa Morton

Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE)

Welcome to November! Now that we have had some time for the dust to settle on the adjustments made to Sunday services and CYRE programming I wanted to take a moment to circle back to further explore the monthly themes of the Unitarian Universalist sources. What are the sources? Think of a river or a stream. We often see them in motion, a small portion of a much bigger whole. Where does it come from? The start of something—or the reason for something—is its source and for Unitarian Universalists, we recognize many starting sources for the wisdoms that guide and inspire us.

This year, along with some other resources, I will be adapting the curriculum from both Tapestry of Faith's *Love Will Guide Us* and Elizabeth Cogliati's *UU LEGO Sources Curriculum* to guide all ages in further learning around the UU Sources through monthly mailed out newsletters with suggested activities (available on the website as well) and through a handful of all-ages events.

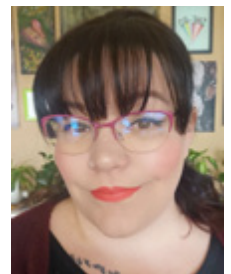
Also woven into the monthly theme will be the core elements of water, fire, earth and air. The overarching source for the year is the 6th source: "Our congregations affirm and promote spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which cel-

brate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature." Honouring the sacred circle of life

invites us to reflect further on the elements that shape our lives and our UU services. I look forward to the adventure of exploring our sources together over the coming months!

In gratitude,

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



Ashley Cole

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. **On November 28 at 7:30 pm, Earl Morris will introduce a discussion on “Self healing; Jesus; and the Chakras”.** Humans have powerful self healing properties. They can be learned. A few will be explored. As usual we will have a moderated discussion with much sharing of ideas. For Zoom details contact Marilyn Medén (contact info is in the Beacon directory). Also, if you would like to receive regular emails from the Humanist Group, please contact Marilyn.

Theology Pub (Online) continues to meet by Zoom on third Sundays at 1 pm—November 17 for this month. Members of our email list receive a reminder a week before the meeting, including topic information. 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. 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 or

check the *Beacon This Week* email. Newcomers are welcome!

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

‘Getting to Know Beacon’ New to this community? Want to learn about our Sunday services and other programs? In the new year, you can 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. In January, contact Rev. Meg: minister@beaconunitarian.org.

‘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. In the new year, join Rev. Meg Roberts and a member of the Connecting Committee to learn about Unitarianism and various ways to be part of this community. In the new year, contact Meg: minister@beaconunitarian.org.

Stay Connected!

During these winter months we are all encouraged to make an extra effort to stay connected. Make a phone call to someone you don’t know very well. Send them an email asking if you can call or give them your phone number and ask them to call you. Make a coffee date or video call through Facebook. Tell them you’d like to know them better. Listen with curiosity. Say “thank you” at the end of the call. The little things matter.

Don’t know who to call? Think about someone you’d like to hear from, and call that person. We may think this doesn’t apply to us, that we’re fine as we are. The Connecting Committee asks us all to reach out just a bit more, to be “radically inclusive” if you will, to go beyond. We want to stay your Connecting Committee and would hate to morph into the Disconnecting Committee. (Bad puns are optional.)

—Sue Sparlin

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Photo by Hugh Edmund

Soul Matters Sharing Circles



Soul Matters Sharing Circle is a small group that meets once a month during our program year to explore and experience how Beacon's monthly theme can be woven into the tapestry of our days. For October the theme was *Water and Life*. Click on the link to download the [Sept./Oct. theme packet](#) that we use as the starting point for our reflections. Our group meets on the first Wednesday of the month (November 3rd) and explores the previous month's theme. We will be meeting via Zoom this fall, first Wednesday of the month, from 1–3 pm. Newcomers are always welcome! Interested? Contact Laura Redmond soulmatters@beaconunitarian.org. (Laura will be facilitating the November and December afternoon circles.)

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.

Nov. 5: *The Isle of Dogs*, introduced by Lindsay Udem

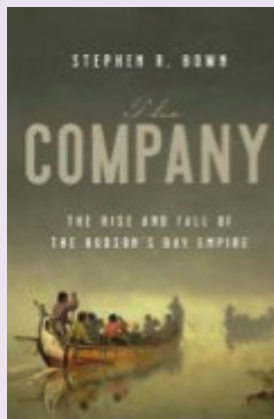
Nov. 12: *The Greatest Showman*, introduced by Sheryl Swann

Nov. 19: *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, introduced by Elizabeth Campbell

Nov. 26: *The Swimmer* (a 1968 film with Burt Lancaster), introduced by Michael Scales

Beacon Book Club

Thurs, Nov. 25, 7 pm (Online)



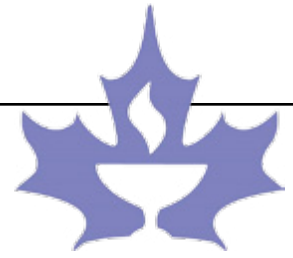
The Company: the rise and fall of the Hudson's Bay Empire by Stephen R. Bown (2020, 486 p.)

Moderator: Susan Tarras
Genre & Subjects: Canadian Non-Fiction, Canadian History, Fur Trade

Summary: A thrilling new telling of the story of modern Canada's origins. The story of the Hudson's Bay

Company, dramatic and adventurous and complex, is the story of modern Canada's creation. And yet it hasn't been told in a book for over thirty years, and never in such depth and vivid detail as in Stephen R. Bown's exciting new telling. *The Company* started out small in 1670, trading practical manufactured goods for furs with the Indigenous inhabitants of inland subarctic Canada. Controlled by a handful of English aristocrats, it expanded into a powerful political force that ruled the lives of many thousands of people—from the lowlands south and west of Hudson Bay, to the tundra, the great plains, the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific northwest. It transformed the culture and economy of many Indigenous groups and ended up as the most important political and economic force in northern and western North America. When the Company was faced with competition from French traders in the 1780s, the result was a bloody corporate battle, the coming of Governor George Simpson—one of the greatest villains in Canadian history—and the Company assuming political control and ruthless dominance. By the time its monopoly was rescinded after two hundred years, the Hudson's Bay Company had reworked the entire northern North American world. Stephen R. Bown has a scholar's profound knowledge and understanding of the Company's history, but wears his learning lightly in a narrative as compelling, and rich in well-drawn characters, as a page-turning novel." (Summary provided by the publisher. Source: BPL Catalogue)

For Zoom meeting details and all enquires, please contact John Hagen bookclub@beaconunitarian.org.



CUC's 60th Anniversary Weekend

Friday, November 26 – Sunday, November 28, 2021

The CUC was launched on May 14, 1961, when about 50 Unitarian Universalists from Halifax to Vancouver voted the Canadian Unitarian Council into being. Our journey to 2021 has been eventful, filled with significant milestones in human rights and social justice areas. During this weekend, we recognize and honour the work of those who have laid the foundations for our Canadian UU faith community, and press on to the work that remains to be done to bring us to a world in which our interdependence calls us to love and justice.

Rising Together Connects BIPOC UU Youth and Emerging Adults

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. See cuc.ca/events and email risingtogether@cuc.ca for more information or meeting dates and times.

Overview of the weekend:

Friday, November 26

Elder's Circle with Stephen

Paquette: 1:00 pm PT (1.5 hours)
CUC Elder-in Residence Stephen Paquette holds a webinar on decolonization and we invite you to join him in this conversation. [Register here.](#)

BC Region Gathering: 7:00 – 8:30 pm PT. Hosted by Joan Carolyn. An opportunity for BC UUs to connect, share a worship experience, and ponder some questions and topics in common. [Register here.](#)

Saturday, November 27

CUC Special Meeting: 9:00 – 11:30 am PT. This meeting takes place to discuss and vote on the proposed 8th Principle for "Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles

racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." Information for the Special Meeting is found in [this Google folder.](#)

CUC 60th Anniversary Recognition:

1:00 – 3:00 pm PT. Join us for a retrospective on the past 60 years, with first-hand and personal accounts by UUs who were significant contributors to the CUC's journey, followed by a conversation and our hopes and committed actions for our future.

Sunday, November 28

National Sunday Service: 10 am PT. Led by youth and young adults, this service's theme is "Change is Nature." Come for a delightful and spiritual experience! [Register here.](#)

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.



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

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(on health leave until
Jan. 5, 2022)

Lay Chaplain:
Sue Sparlin, 778 319 7827
ceremonies@beaconunitarian.org

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Ogmundson;

Treasurer: Carol
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at Large: Amalia Mamani,
Jane Day, Joyce Gudaitis,
Peg Hinkley.

**Connections &
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**Religious Exploration
Director:**
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dre@beaconunitarian.org

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.