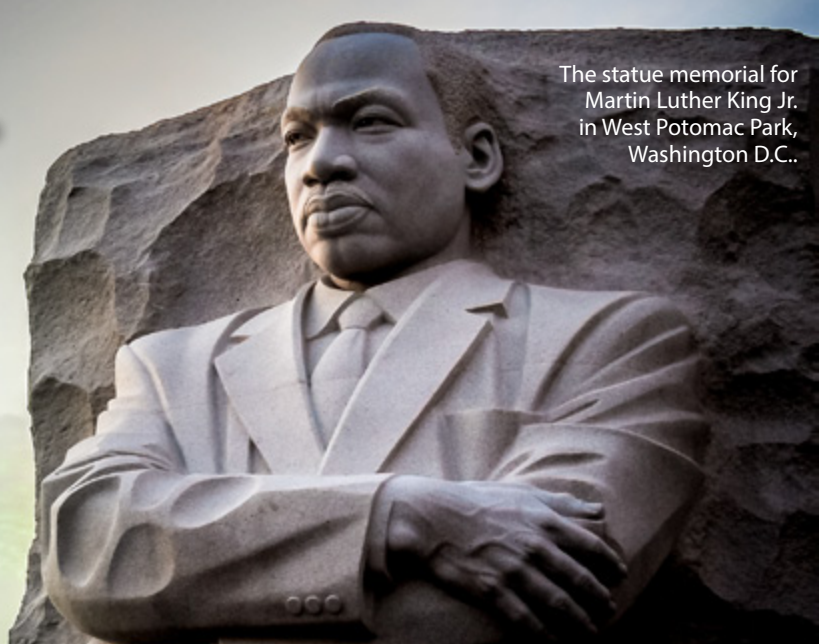


February service themes:

Prophetic People... Courage... 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 February, the element theme is "air," the value theme is "courage," and the wisdom source we are highlighting is "Prophetic People."



The statue memorial for Martin Luther King Jr. in West Potomac Park, Washington D.C..

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.

**FEB
6**

Celebration and Contemplation: The Path of an 8th

Principle

Service Leaders: Revs. Victoria Ingram and Meghann Robern
Unitarians and Universalists have been on the forefront of social change and justice seeking for hundreds of years. In November 2021, congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council once again stepped forward, this time to commit ourselves to dismantling racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion for all people. Be part of celebrating this commitment to foundational social change as we contemplate the steps we take to move forward in our commitment to justice in ourselves, our denomination, and our larger society. Join us live on [Zoom](#) or the

CUC's [YouTube](#) channel. If you are unable to attend, the service will be made available early the following week. Call in toll-free: 1-855 703 8985; Meeting ID 847 1005 5117; Passcode: 482463. To register please go [here](#).

**FEB
13**

For the Love Of Beacon

Beacon is turning 39! Join the Religious Exploration committee, the Connecting committee, and Worship Services as we celebrate Beacon's birthday with a special emphasis on Religious Exploration. We will conduct a ritual of remembrance and appreciation in honour of our DRE extraordinaire, Ashley Cole, who will be leaving at the end of February. We will thank her for her service to Beacon over the past six years.

FEB
20

Charting Dark Spaces: Philosophizing in a time of Cholera

Speaker: Dr. Kira Tomsons
Service Leader: Susan White

In a time of social upheaval, it can be difficult to find a way forward amidst despair and overwhelming access to information about events in the world. Philosophy, while perhaps often seen as aloof and above such things, actually can help provide a light with its commitment to wisdom, values, and critical engagement with our experiences, so that we might walk a path into, through, and out of the darkness.

Bio: Kira Tomsons is a faculty instructor at Douglas College. She writes and teaches about the ethics of care, feminist considerations in bioethics and business ethics, and the ethics of lying to children. She hangs out with her wife, children and two cats, playing video games, knitting and dabbling with art.

FEB
27

We are Called to be People of Empathy

Guest Speaker: Ken Madden

(A Multi-Faith Series Video)

Empathy can be said to be ‘the caring that arises when there is understanding.’



Bio: Ken’s walk started as a Deacon in a mainstream Lutheran Church. Further in his walk, Sensei Ken was ordained in Kyoto

and has taught the buddhadharma for over a decade at a Calgary Buddhist Temple. He has been the University of Calgary Buddhist Chaplain and worked for interfaith harmony before recently returning to the Vancouver area where he grew up. He created and has run ‘The Circle’ sangha: their mindful practices of ‘emotional intelligence’ now align with Calgary Buddhist Meditation where online circumstance allows him to remain a teacher. His approach is non-sectarian and practical, and he is delighted when Buddhist understanding aligns with

science. Oh! and this life can be joyful and fun and kind when we allow our difficulties to drift away!



Beacon Newsletter: Change in publication schedule

The Beacon will be changing its publication schedule. Because so much information is available in the weekly *Beacon This Week* email and on the web site, the board agreed that the Beacon newsletter be produced every two months instead of every month. The new publication schedule will be: Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec, Jan/Feb, Mar/Apr, May/June, and July/August. This new schedule will go into effect immediately.

—Laura Redmond



Coffee Hour

After the Sunday services, we are pleased to offer an online coffee hour. We hope you can stay to join us for small group conversation comprised of two breakout sessions. The **first session** is a brief check-in. The **second session** 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 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.

Hi! I'm Brian

It is a great pleasure to have been invited to be your temporary minister while Rev. Meg recovers her health.

By way of introduction, I recently retired from the Unitarian Church of Edmonton after 22 years. Before that I spent a decade in the Lower Mainland at South Fraser Unitarian Congregation as their founding minister. During that time I even served 1/4 time at Beacon for a year! I was delighted to see a few familiar faces when I Zoomed in for services in the fall. Checking out your January newsletter, it was a treat to see Sandy Burpee (whom I knew when they lived in the Interior) honoured by the city, plus the accompanying photo of Crosby Johnson, who served on the board while I was there.

I was born in Montreal, and came to Unitarianism in my early 20's. During my career, I served in a number of church and community volunteer roles including the CUC Board (six years, one as president), the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (9 years as president), Editor of *The Canadian Unitarian*. I also held a couple offices in the UU Ministers of Canada. I have been active in *Choice in Dying* advocacy, refugee settlement, housing issues, the food bank and *Meals on Wheels*. I am also captain of the *Team Cross Cancer* cycling squad, helping raise funds for cancer research through long distance ride events.

As I think ahead to our time together in this (hopefully) last major wave of 'Covidity,' I have been trying to define my role for the board as I see it.

My Dad was in his mid-forties when I was born, and had a bit of a limp from a baseball injury. He would often come by when my 10-year old

buddies and I were playing various sports in the streets or the fields. Politely, my friends would ask if he wanted to participate in some way. "No thanks, boys. I'm just the kindly old coach watching with interest from the sideline and helping where I can."

Right now, as Beacon (and most of our Canadian congregations) are struggling with exhaustion, a weakening of the strong sense of community, a lack of resources both human and financial...well now is NOT the time for bold new ventures or visions. You don't need me to be a change maker, and it would dishonour Rev. Meg to even try to take on that role. Face it, we are all just hanging on as best we can in most aspects of our lives. Over the next few months I see my role as being the kindly old coach who offers support wherever it's needed, encouragement for the discouraged and maybe faith and hope that this will end and a brighter future is ahead.

Now is the time to get through this as best we can, shore up the critical infrastructure of the congregation and to remind each other what a strong and loving community Beacon is.

There won't be any miracles in the next few months, but there will (I hope) be laughter, affection, thoughtfulness and good Sunday services.

Feel free to contact me with your ideas, concerns and wishes. I will do what I can to help you all get through this and then happily turn the reins back over to Meg as soon as she is ready.



Rev. Brian Kiely

—Brian Kiely
briki@aol.com

For assistance with Beacon matters during this time:

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

For pastoral care:

In addition to Beacon's pastoral support team, Rev. Brian Kiely is available and willing to offer pastoral support virtually. To set up either a phone or Zoom appointment with him, please call 780-970-2641 (long distance) or email (briki@aol.com).

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 phone one of us directly:
Judy Villett: 604-521-1191,
Laura Redmond: 604-939-9310.

Board Bitz

All Board members agreed to take a turn at scripting the *Board Bitz*. This is my month and writing this has been more difficult than I thought. There is so much that is covered at meetings but even more in between. Research, requests, committees, funding sources, consultations, motions, and more meetings are just some of the necessary elements of sitting on the board. And most of you in our small community are aware of this since most have sat on the board once or twice! And the bulk of the work is normally done by the president(s). They truly give their all to keep Beacon running smoothly. Finding staff when needed has been one of their duties and during COVID it has presented some challenges.

We are losing our highly respected religious exploration coordinator. Ashley has served our families well and has used a variety of creative activities to keep them involved and interested. She will be missed by us, but mostly by the

families that she cares so much for.

The Rev. Debra Faulk has completed her time with us, and the board valued her wisdom in spiritual matters and her insights into community building. We were lucky to have her step in.

The Rev. Meg Roberts remains on extended medical for an unknown period. The board is pleased to say that Rev. Brian Kiely has accepted our proposal to step in as the supporting minister.

We say goodbye to those leaving and welcome those beginning with us. And to all of them we give our thanks for being part of our Unitarian journey. May our small community with a big heart thrive and be open to the changes necessary to stay connected.

—Karen Greenland,
Secretary of the Board



Karen Greenland
Secretary of the Board

Sharing the Plate

Nominations due Feb. 28

It's time for us Beacon folk to begin focusing on the selection of our next sharing the plate recipient for the year 2022/23.

If you have a locally-based charity you would like to nominate please download the nomination form from [Beacon's web site](#). Fill out the information required and email to jhagen1834@gmail.com or mail to J. Hagen 1834 London Street, New Westminster, BC V3M 3E3. You can also contact John Hagen at 604-521-1335 to receive a printed form.

It should be noted that if you have submitted nominations in the past that were not successful they can be put forward again for reconsideration.

The deadline for nominations is February 28th. This is to enable them to be checked, accepted and circulated to all of you to familiarize yourselves with the organizations presented, and to decide for which to vote at the AGM.

—John Hagen, Committee Chair

Good Grief Zoom Workshop

A note about the "Good Grief" Zoom workshop hosted by Beacon in November and December 2021

Reverend Meg Roberts was in the process of setting up a supportive circle based on the book *Nothing Gold Can Stay* but this had to be cancelled due to her health issues. Instead, she suggested a workshop with Natalie Segall, a grief councillor from Montreal.

The workshop had eight participants. It was a golden opportunity to explore our own grief and to try to understand the grief of others.

During each of the six sessions,

Natalie set a task or exercise that was very thought-provoking. We took turns responding. One example: "Remember and write a paragraph about the last perfect day with your loved one."

The last session gave each participant the opportunity to present a little ritual. Then Natalie lit a candle for us all and sang a moving song, *For Good* from the musical *Wicked*.

With Natalie's lessons and sound advice, I was able to work through a

heap of grief that I had accumulated after the death of my ex-husband last spring. I also empathised with the memories and stories of the other participants.

Thank you Reverend Meg Roberts and Beacon for this great workshop.

If anyone is interested in one-on-one grief counselling, Natalie Segall is available through her website: <https://www.goodgriefcentral.com/natalie-segall.html>

—Judy Villett

Children and Youth Religious Exploration (CYRE)

Hello everyone. It is with mixed emotions that I share my resignation from my position as Director of Religious Exploration. I have made the decision to step back from this role in order to take some time to rest and refocus my energy. With that in mind, my last day will be February 28th.

I first started working with Beacon in the fall of 2016, which means I've been with Beacon for five and a half years. Over all these years I have truly enjoyed getting to know you and have appreciated the opportunity to

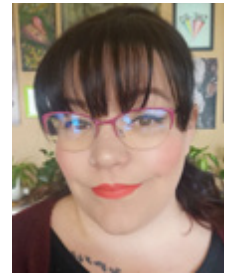
work alongside many of you. I want to extend a special note of thanks to Bette Goode who has supported me all this time in the work of religious exploration, to the families whom I have had the pleasure of supporting, and to all the members, staff and congregational leaders who have partnered in this important work over the years.

I have been working closely with the board on a transition plan with the goal of ensuring the smoothest transition possible. As it stands, the RE monthly mail outs will still be sent

out and posted on the Beacon website from now until the end of June, so that families can continue to engage with the monthly content. Thanks to those that will make this possible.

And many thanks to you all, I'm wishing Beacon the best as you explore what's next.

Take good care,



Ashley Cole

—Ashley Cole

Thank you Ashley, for your leadership, good humour and creativity over the years!



January 2017: Backpack Project



October 13, 2019: Spirit Jam



Christmas pageant 2016



Halloween Festivities, October 30, 2016

Metro-Vancouver Unitarians get together for Zero Waste

Thanks to the energy of the Vancouver Church, Unitarians are connecting with others from our four local congregations, banding together to tackle Zero Waste. Some congregations are sharing their 'Green Tips', others are considering taking on a challenge such as the 'Plastic Free July', and there is a lot of interest in the People's Ecochallenge. Vancouver members also talked about their recent 'Love Food, Hate Waste' challenge.



Teresa Morton

I reported that Beacon members have participated in the People's Ecochallenge (which runs in October), and that there would also be interest in the 'Plastic Free July' initiative.

If you are interested, please let me know and we can connect you with the next meeting of the group, which will be on February 27th at 4:30 pm, by Zoom.

—Teresa Morton

lessplasticnewwest@gmail.com

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. As a group we welcome different points of view and discuss a wide range of ideas. We meet the last Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm, via Zoom. On February 27th Luc Beaudoin will present *The Devil's Advocate: On the Utility of Theistic Concepts and Myths*. We will draw on ideas from researchers in the psychology of fiction, Northrop Frye, Stephen Fry and Jordan B. Peterson and from Luc's unpublished work in progress, *Discontinuities: Love, Art, Mind*. Find selected readings [here](#). If you would like to receive regular emails from the Humanist Group, please contact Marilyn Medén at humanist@beaconunitarian.org.

Theology Pub (Online) continues to meet by Zoom on third Sundays at 1 pm—February 20th 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 the group, contact Franci Louann or David Kristjanson at theologypub@beaconunitarian.org.

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

comers 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? Join members of the Connecting Committee for a one-hour short introduction. You can ask questions and meet other newcomers. Contact the Connecting Committee chair, Sue Sparlin, at connecting@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. Join fellow Beaconites to learn about Unitarianism and various ways to be part of this community. Contact our Connecting Committee at connecting@beaconunitarian.org.



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
(on health leave)

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

Administrative Support:
Rachael Greenland,
778-791-7952
adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org

Board Executive:
Co-Presidents:
Susan Tarras,
Regina Ogmundson;
Treasurer: Carol

Woodworth; Secretary:
Karen Greenland; **Members at Large:** Jane Day, Joyce Gudaitis, Peg Hinkley.

Connections and Membership: Sue Sparlin

Religious Exploration Director:
Ashley Cole,
dre@beaconunitarian.org

Beacon Newsletter:
newsletter@beaconunitarian.org
Production: Laura Redmond
Proofreading: Jane Shoemaker

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month preceding Sep. 1, Nov. 1, Jan. 1, Mar. 1, May. 1, and July 1.

Soul Matters Sharing Circles



Soul Matters is a small group that meets once a month (virtually at the moment) during our program year to explore and experience how Beacon's monthly theme can be woven into the tapestry of our days. For January the service themes were World Religions; Wisdom; and Fire. Our group will meet on February 2nd, 1–3 pm, to discuss the January themes.

Newcomers are always welcome! Interested? Contact Laura Redmond to receive the theme packet that we use as the starting point for our reflections: soul-matters@beaconunitarian.org. (Laura will be facilitating the February afternoon circle.)

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: filmclub@beaconunitarian.org.

Feb. 4: *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, introduced by Marilyn Medén

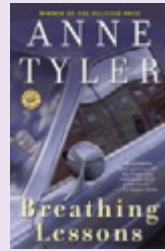
Feb. 11: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, introduced by Karen Hamilton

Feb. 18: *Lawrence of Arabia*, introduced by John Hagen

Feb. 25: *Network*, introduced by Donna Webb

Beacon Book Club

Thurs, Feb. 24, 7 pm (Online)



Breathing Lessons by Anne Tyler (1988, 327 pp.)

Moderator: Lindsay Udem

Genres & Subjects: Literary Fiction, Canadian Fiction, Married people Fiction, Funeral rites and ceremonies Fiction

Awards: Pulitzer Prize winner

Summary: Evoking Jane Austen, Emma Straub, and other masters of the literary marriage, *Breathing Lessons* celebrates the small miracles and magic of truly knowing someone.

Unfolding over the course of a single emotionally fraught day, this stunning novel encompasses a lifetime of dreams, regrets and reckonings—and is often regarded as Tyler's seminal work. Maggie and Ira Moran are on a road trip from Baltimore, Maryland to Deer Lick, Pennsylvania to attend the funeral of a friend. Along the way, they reflect on the state of their marriage, its trials and its triumphs—through their quarrels, their routines, and their ability to tolerate each other's faults with patience and affection. Where Maggie is quirky, lovable and mischievous, Ira is practical, methodical and mired in reason. What begins as a day trip becomes a revelatory and unexpected journey, as Ira and Maggie rediscover the strength of their bond and the joy of having somebody with whom to share the ride, bumps and all.

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



[Gathered Here](#) is a monthly online check-in for Canadian Unitarian Universalist young adults. Join other UU 18–35 year-olds on Zoom for sharing joys and sorrows, deeper check-ins, prayerful reflections, and an opportunity to process the events of our lives with a spiritually grounded community. Next meeting: Thurs. Feb 10, 11 am PT.

Teresa Morton, Artist: ‘Landscapes, Essentially’

Ranging from oceans to forests or gardens, Teresa’s pastel paintings are an invitation to explore our environment and to revel in the abundance of visual riches...

Largely self-taught, Teresa began with coloured pencil drawings and then moved into chalk pastel work.

“I am in search of beauty and seek to capture the essence of places so that viewers experience the magnificence of our planet and feel motivated to protect our precious home.”

For information or sales please contact Teresa.a.morton@gmail.com.



Mount Baker from Cherry Point



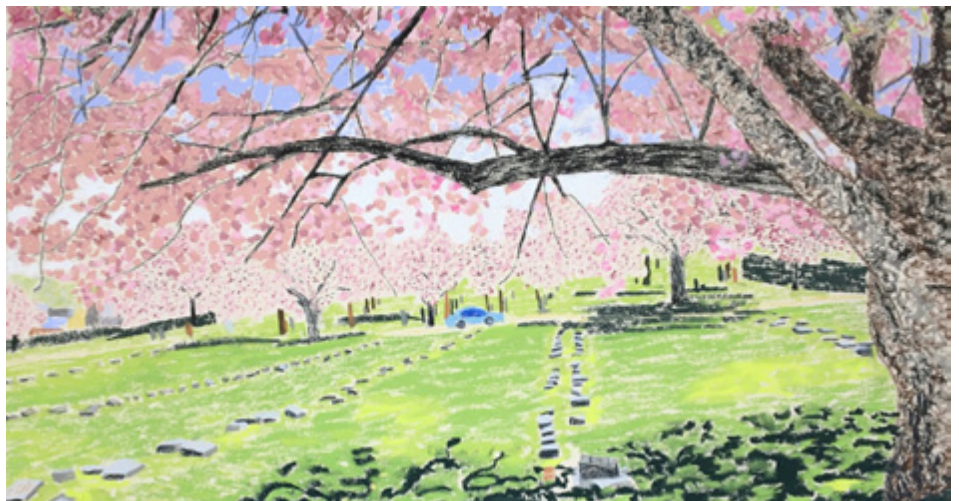
Van Dusen Gardens – 8



Someone’s Dog



Rathrevor Driftwood



Fraser Cemetery, New Westminster