

**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.

## May Services

**MAY 1** **Gather Round the Maypole**  
*Rev. Brian Kiely*

Since the 13th century, this ritual of Spring and fertility celebrated the joy of the returning warmth (I know, I know, B.C. has been warm and springy for MONTHS). It's earthy, sexual, and was therefore banned by later Puritans. So let's talk about delightful earthiness.

**MAY 8** **Think Globally, Act Locally – An Honouring of Women Both Far and Near**

*Guest Speaker: Janet Pivnick*  
On this day in which we honour mothers, grandmothers, aunts and all those women who raise us, nurture us and mentor us, let's celebrate the ways in which Unitarians are supporting women around the world. Sending humanitarian aid to Ukrainian refugees in Hungary and participating in the recent NGO Commission on the Status of Women are just two of the recent Unitarian social justice activities that focus on the rights of women

**May service themes:**

## Earth... Unitarian Universalists...

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 May, the element theme is "earth," and we are highlighting Unitarian Universalists, current and past, as a wisdom source.



and girls. We'll lift up the women in our lives and explore the work that Unitarians are doing in support of women.

**MAY 15 10 AM** **CUC National Service: A service for all Canadian Unitarians**

*"Feelings come and go like clouds in a windy sky. Conscious breathing is my anchor."* —Thich Nhat Hanh  
We invite you to take a deep, deep breath. Join us Sunday, May 15 for a restorative service. Together, we will pause to reflect on the breath that sustains us.

**MAY 22** **The Power of One: Medicine Wheel and the Number ZERO**



*Sharon Jinkerson-Brass (a multifaith series video)*  
Living relationally means connecting to all of creation in our Indigenous

ways of being and doing. Sharon will share time honoured traditions around being connected to the past, present and the future as well as our environment and the spirit world. Living relationally means embracing the notion that life is a ceremony.

**MAY 29** **Finding Yourself First**  
*Rev. Brian Kiely*

The core of spirituality is inside us. We can be shown techniques, taught words and practices but in the end, the spiritual journey is inward towards the centre of our being.

### 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 conversations 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, for an opportunity to deepen into that reflection 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](mailto:worship@beaconunitarian.org). Training will be provided.

### June Services

**JUN 5** **Work: A Collaborative Service**  
*Rev. Brian Kiely and the*

*Worship Services Committee*  
What is the meaning of work in your life? Is it joyful? Is it...well...work? Are there hardships? In this collaborative service we will listen to Beaconites reflecting on the meaning of work in their lives. If you would like to speak for 3-5 minutes, or contribute words to be read by others, please contact Brian at [brieki@aol.com](mailto:brieki@aol.com). We will also have a time for comments from the floor, Zoom style.

**JUN 12** **Pride and Parenting**  
*Rev. Brian Kiely*

Some of the earliest memories my children have is their annual participation in the "Rainbow Parade". They began in strollers. Unitarians and especially Edmonton Unitarians have a long tradition of supporting the ever evolving alphabet of LGBTQ2S persons. Last year it went from "the right thing for me to do" to something more personal as my now son came out as Trans. Declan will share his transition perspective as well.

JUNE SERVICE  
THEME:

### Overview of all the Elements and Sources of Wisdom...



**JUN 19** **Solstice, Summer and Slowing Down**  
*Rev. Brian Kiely*

In this last regular service of the year, the members of Beacon can unknot their shoulders and say, "We made it!" Made it through another COVID

year, made it though Zoom services, perhaps made it even back to a hopeful place of 'perhaps next year will be different'. But today is a day to let go awhile and take a collective breath. It's a day of gratitude.

## Minister's Message

In ancient times, even farther back in time than the start of COVID-19, congregations across our movement were discussing how to include people who could not be present at Sunday worship in their services.

It was a hot topic at ministers' gatherings and in denominational workshops. And while 'satellite churches' and 'live streaming' were eagerly anticipated, most found the actual work of making it happen too expensive, too technically confusing and just too daunting. For many it was deemed nerd stuff. With the exception of some very large churches, it remained a case of, "It's a good idea, but... maybe sometime."

Then COVID happened. The old proverb "necessity is the mother of invention" (traced to Plato in content if not in exact wording) sparked a revolution.

In fits and starts, congregations across the country, and probably around the world, began to figure out how to use Zoom and other platforms. And for presenting services after the fact, they discovered YouTube and Instagram and other platforms.

Easy transition? Oh my, no. It *was* fits and starts, glitches of all kinds with bad sound, and poor lighting, while speakers and congregants alike just didn't know how to use the medium effectively...or at all.

But we learned, in a hurry. And while skills are still evolving, Beacon has done very well in making online church happen. Be proud of that. Sure, most of us miss the human contact and congregational singing and shared coffee, but this is so so way

better than nothing. It has literally held this community together for over two years.

I doubt Beacon will go back to the way things were, at least not completely. Reopening in person is coming. The board and the worship services committee are doing their best to work with Sapperton Hall leaders on an effective technical plan, but when two democratic organizations are negotiating, more patience is required than anyone might like.

This kind of coming transformation is about more than opening the building. There will still be people who can't or won't attend in person services for lots of good reasons. Our teams are

working on a way to have in-person services that are also livestreamed. They have worked out a good plan about how it can happen in a way that looks and sounds good, but necessary permissions and required equipment have not yet been secured.

Church will be back, and it will be largely the same, but also different. Inclusion of those not in the room, a distant dream only five years ago, now looks like an obtainable reality. Making it work will no doubt have a few hits and misses, and refinements will have to be developed as needs are uncovered. But you know? Beacon has come this far. You will get there. Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, see you on Zoom

—Brian

P.S. Though only halfway through my contract, this will be my last column,

*Continued on page 3*



Rev. Brian Kiely

**Our teams are working on a way to have in-person services that are also livestreamed.**

### 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](mailto:admin-support@beaconunitarian.org).
- **For congregational matters**, please contact the board co-presidents Susan Tarras and Regina Ogmundson, [president@beaconunitarian.org](mailto: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 ([briekie@aol.com](mailto:briekie@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](mailto:pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org) or phone Judy Villett at 604-521-1191, or Laura Redmond at 604-939-9310.

## Board Bitz

**O**n April 24, our co-president, Susan Tarras, skillfully Zoomed us all through our online AGM. Remember when virtual meetings were a novelty? Now it seems pretty seamless to click the link to attend, watch it all happen on the screen, and vote using our little green checkmarks. Thank you to all of you who attended and participated, enacting our democratic principle.

At the AGM, the board thanked all the committees for their work this year including the nominating committee, who presented three new board members. We welcome Beth Connelly, Teresa Morton, and Deepak Saharabudhe. We are looking forward to starting our work together at our May board meeting. The board expressed gratitude to Karen Greenland who served as the board secretary and is stepping down this year. Karen provided reflective and practical input to board work and at the same time took accurate minutes and shared them promptly. Thank you Karen!

**Rev. Brian is more than fulfilling his vision as the “kindly coach who offers support wherever it’s needed”.**

Thank you also to Susan White and Richard Hollins who accepted appointment by the board to be Beacon’s CUC AGM delegates for 2021–2022.

Our minister, Rev Meg Roberts, is continuing her recovery and has confirmed she won’t be returning before our summer break. We have extended our contract with Rev. Brian Kiely, as temporary minister to the end of June. We are hopeful that Meg will begin returning to

work in the fall and Brian has generously assured us he will be available to help with transitions that lie ahead. We are extremely fortunate to benefit from Brian’s energy, experience, and delightful sense of humour. He is more than fulfilling his vision as the “kindly coach who offers support wherever it’s needed”.

When I first began attending Beacon services several years ago, members talked about Beacon as the ‘little church that could’, and we certainly are. We have adapted to a lot of changes this year and are still a

strong community who care for each other and benefit from wonderful thought-provoking services every week! As well, Beaconites meet for Lunch Bunch, book club, film night, humanist meeting, Soul Matters and Theology Pub!



Carol Woodworth  
Treasurer

Yay for Beacon, and Happy Spring to us all! There are encouraging conversations about us all meeting together “in the real” in the fall and perhaps having an outdoor picnic together before then.

—Carol Woodworth  
Treasurer

### Minister’s Message *(Cont’d from pg. 3)*

so I want to offer a big thanks: thanks for having me and helping me along the way; thanks for the warmth of your reception; thanks for keeping this community going through even tougher times than most congregations.

You were a great community when I worked with you nearly three decades ago. You still are. Best wishes for a brighter future.

**SAVE THIS DATE: Sunday, July 17th for a Beacon Community picnic in the park.**

**Games, food, fun, fellowship.**

**Time and place to be announced next issue.**

**You can help—say “yes” when the team calls you!**

## In loving memory – Renée Tess Spakowsky

**R**enée Tess Spakowsky (Ueberer), 81, of Maple Ridge, passed away on February 12, 2022. Renée is survived by her children Jeff, Julie and Keira; her grandchildren Ava, Virginia, Cedar and Willow; and her sister Annalee.

Renée was born in Toronto, Ontario on April 22, 1940. Daughter of Lawrence and Hilda (Sim) Ueberer. She had fond childhood memories of her relatives on Manitoulin Island. She married and the family moved to BC in 1976.

After a career as a drafts person while raising her three children, she returned to Ontario to attend Niagara College to pursue her true passion as a landscape designer. Renée graduated as a horticulturist and a certified master gardener. She returned to BC and shared her knowledge of plants and passion for gardens. After retirement, she showed great interest in local/provincial politics, advocating for seniors and playing a good round of Scrabble at the Ridge Meadows Seniors Society. Renée was an avid reader and she enjoyed her friendships within our church. Renée will be greatly missed by her family and all who knew her.

Thank you, Renée, for the clarity, light, laughter and love that you brought to our community and to the greater world.



Renée, Naomi and Collin, 2016

## An International Plastics Pollution Treaty

**T**he United Nations Environment Assembly agreed to establish a binding plastic pollution treaty on March 2nd, 2022. The UN considers it the most important environment initiative since the 2015 Paris Accord.

Members of the Environment Assembly met in Nairobi for a week to set the parameters for the treaty, which is due to be completed in 2024.

The intergovernmental taskforce responsible for negotiating the terms of the treaty will have their hands full; although there is strong public support for such an agreement the oil producers and plastics manufacturers are likely to be strongly opposed.

The Canadian government, along

with the provinces, is setting goals of achieving zero plastic waste by 2030. One aspect of the plan is the restriction of plastic single-use items; such as plastic bags, straws, cutlery, plates, and stir sticks.

It will be interesting to see how the Canadian plan dovetails with the international treaty!

A complicating factor is the fact that plastics, worldwide, include an estimated 10,000 additives, some of which render the plastic difficult, if not impossible, to recycle. In addition, the health effects of these additives have rarely been elucidated.

Meanwhile, the Metro-Vancouver Unitarian Zero-Waste circle is putting a focus on plastics, including provid-

ing information for the congregations (Beacon's experience is being shared with the other churches). The four congregations will participate in the October Ecochallenge emphasizing the actions that deal with plastics and zero-waste.

I am looking for an additional person to represent Beacon on the Zero-Waste circle, which meets by Zoom at 4:30 pm on the last Sunday of the month. Please connect with me to explore this possibility!



Teresa Morton

—Teresa Morton

[lessplasticnewwest@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**Sunday, May 29th:** Marilyn Medén will introduce *Ways to Stop Wars*. We will think beyond the usual constraints, looking at various ways to discourage war and discuss actions for change.

If you would like to receive regular emails from the Humanist Group, please contact Marilyn Medén at [humanist@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:humanist@beaconunitarian.org).

**Theology Pub (Online)** continues to meet by Zoom on third Sundays at 1 pm—May 15th and June 19th. 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 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 enquiries, please contact John Hagen [bookclub@beaconunitarian.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:connecting@beaconunitarian.org).

### 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. Our group will meet on Wednesday, May 4, 1–3 pm, to discuss the March and April service themes. The theme packet can be downloaded from the [Upcoming Services page](#) on our web site.

On Wednesday, June 1st, 1–3 pm, we will share our experiences on the themes for May and June.

Newcomers are always welcome! Interested? Contact Laura Redmond to receive the theme packet that we use as the starting point for our reflections: [soulmatters@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:soulmatters@beaconunitarian.org).

#### Rising Together

A space for UU's of Colour  
Ages 14-24

#### **Rising Together Connects Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) UU Youth (14–19 yrs) and Emerging Adults (18–24 yrs)**

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](http://cuc.ca/events) and email [rising-together@cuc.ca](mailto:rising-together@cuc.ca) for more information or meeting dates and times.

### Please Support the Share Food Bank!

During this time of pandemic, 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 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.

For more information, please connect with Marilyn Medén: [filmclub@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:filmclub@beaconunitarian.org).

### Movies in May

**May 6:** *Romancing the Stone*, introduced by Sherryl Swann

**May 13:** *Twelve Angry Men*, introduced by Rose Matovich

**May 20:** *Saving Private Ryan*, introduced by Elizabeth Campbell

**May 27:** *Moonstruck*, introduced by Susan Tarras

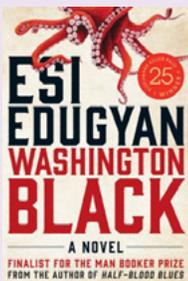


### Movies in June

The movies for June will be announced on our website and in the weekly *Beacon This Week* email.

## Beacon Book Club

Thursday, May 26, 7 pm (Online)



**Washington Black: A Novel** by Esi Edugyan, published by Harper Collins, c. 2018, 419 p.

**Facilitator:** Gail Thomson

**Genre and Subject:** Historical Fiction, Slavery, Fugitive Slaves, Barbados

**Awards and Reception:** Winner of the 2018 Scotiabank Giller Prize, and shortlisted for the Booker Prize,

the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize, and the 2019 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction

**Summary:** When two English brothers arrive at a Barbados sugar plantation, they bring with them a darkness beyond what the slaves have already known. Washington Black – an eleven year-old field slave – is horrified to find himself chosen to live in the quarters of one of these men. But the man is not as Washington expects him to be. His new master is the eccentric Christopher Wilde – naturalist, explorer, inventor and abolitionist.

From the blistering cane fields of Barbados to the icy plains of the Canadian Arctic, from the mud-drowned streets of London to the eerie deserts of Morocco, *Washington Black* teems with all the strangeness of life. This inventive, electrifying novel asks, What is Freedom? And can a life salvaged from the ashes ever be made whole? (Source: Excerpt from BPL catalogue)

Thursday, June 23, 7 pm (Online)



**Flight Behaviour** by Barbara Kingsolver, published by HarperCollins Publishers, c2012, 436 p.

**Facilitator:** Carol Woodworth

**Subject and Genre:** Fiction, Thriller, Climatic changes, Appalachian Mountains, Families

**Summary:** Set in the present day in the rural community of Feathertown, Tennessee, this novel tells the story of Dellarobia Turnbow, a petite, razor-sharp 29-year-old who nurtured worldly ambitions before becoming pregnant and marrying at seventeen. Now, after more than a decade of tending to small children on a failing farm, oppressed by poverty, isolation and her husband's antagonistic family, she has mitigated her boredom by surrendering to a flirtation with a younger man. In the opening scene, Dellarobia is headed for a secluded mountain cabin to meet this man. But the tryst never happens. Instead, she walks into something on the mountainside she cannot explain or understand: a forested valley filled with a lake of silent red fire that appears to her a miracle. Dellarobia finds her path suddenly opening out, chapter by chapter, into blunt and confrontational engagement with her family, her church, her town, her continent, and finally the world at large. (Source: Excerpt from BPL catalogue)

For Zoom meeting details and all enquiries, please contact John Hagen [bookclub@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:bookclub@beaconunitarian.org).



## CUC Refugee Program Responds to Global Crisis

We are in the midst of a people displacement crisis. Over the past 10 years, the global refugee population has more than doubled. As of March 13, 2022, there were more than [26 million refugees in the world](#). This number grows daily due to persecution, violence, conflict, and natural disasters.

More than 60 percent of these refugees came from five countries: Syria (6.7 million); Ukraine (3 million); Afghanistan (2.6 million); South Sudan (2.6 million); and from among the Rohingya population in Myanmar (1.1 million). Children make up 30% of the world's population, but account for 42% of all forcibly displaced people.

Today, the situation in Ukraine is top of mind for many of us. It is the largest displacement of people in Europe since World War II. And it is dominating news headlines and political debates. As critical as it is to respond to the needs of refugees in Ukraine, we cannot neglect refugees in other nations.

“Focus on one population is unsettling,” says Samia Teclé, the Refugee Support Staff at the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC). “Resources are finite. When we prioritize some groups, we deprioritize others.”

Since 2015, the CUC has helped congregations welcome hundreds of refugees from more than a dozen countries. Canada allows citizens to

sponsor and resettle refugees. The Canadian Unitarian Council has a sponsorship agreement with the federal government. Under that agreement, we can streamline the application process for congregations who want to sponsor refugees to Canada.



Each year the federal government gives us an allocation. This is the maximum number of refugee “spaces” we can apply for in a given year. Once we have our quota in place, we need congregations to come forward as sponsoring groups, working together with the CUC. We need to balance the number of refugee spaces we have with the number of groups that are willing and able to sponsor a refugee.

Finding this balance can be tricky. In 2020 and 2021, we thought we wouldn't meet our quota. Congregations, understandably, were pivoting

in response to the Covid pandemic.

Their priorities shifted, and they continued to place value on refugee sponsorship, enabling us to fill all our allocated spaces.

This year, we have seen a significant increase in requests to sponsor refugees. Yet, we have not yet received our 2022 allocation from the federal government. For the first time, Samia worries we may need to turn some potential sponsors away. (Or, at least, ask them to come back next year.)

We expect to receive our 2022 allocation soon. We also are looking forward to the federal government's launch of a new digital intake tool. This should reduce the time it takes to submit and process applications. It has, however, resulted in some short-term delays. Until the tool is launched later this spring, the CUC cannot submit any new applications.

We invite you to learn more about [CUC's refugee sponsorship program](#) and contact [refugee@cuc.ca](mailto:refugee@cuc.ca) if you have questions about your congregation undertaking a sponsorship.

(Source: <https://cuc.ca/enews-april-19-2022>)

### ANNOUNCEMENT:

**Susan Millar and Deepak Sahasrabudhe are personally sponsoring a family of three and will soon be welcoming refugees from the Ukraine into their home.**



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info@beaconunitarian.org  
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**Mailing Address:**  
#414, 552A Clarke Road,  
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**Contract Minister:**  
Rev. Meg Roberts  
(on health leave)

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Janet Pivnick,  
604-880-7907  
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:**  
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.