

## March & April Service Descriptions

**MAR 5** **“Worth Keeping”**  
Rev. Brian Kiely  
What is it we actually do here on Sundays? Just what does ‘worship’ mean for humanists, agnostics and atheists?

**MAR 12** **Moms Stop The Harm**  
Guest Speaker: Deb Bailey  
Today we welcome Deb Bailey, who lost her daughter, Ola, age 21, to the overdose epidemic. She will talk to us about *Moms Stop The Harm*, a network of Canadian families impacted by substance-use-related harms and deaths. They advocate for the change of failed drug policies, provide peer support to grieving families, and assist those with loved ones who use or have used substances. <https://www.momsstoptheharm.com/>

**MAR 19** **The Challenge of Lay Chaplaincy**  
Marilyn Meden, Janet Pivnick, Sue Sparlin  
Beacon currently has two serving lay chaplains: Janet Pivnick and Sue Sparlin. Together with the past lay chaplain, Marilyn Meden, they will share stories of their experience as lay chaplains and give you some history into the formation of this uniquely Canadian Unitarian program. They will be available during coffee hour to answer your questions.

**MAR 26** **Spring**  
Rev. Brian Kiely  
Well, it might feel like spring in the Lower Mainland, but in Edmonton spring happening when it should is a 50/50 proposition. Today we will take time to reflect on seasons happening when they will.

**APR 23** **Truth, Courage and Solutions**  
Service Leader: Janet Pivnick  
Guest Speakers: Teresa Morton and Mary Bennett  
For Earth Day 2023 we will explore the book ‘All We Can Save’ which has the subtitle ‘Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis’. This compendium of 60 essays and poems features women scientists and poets. It is a wonderful, affirming journey through the myriad ways that the climate crisis is, and will be, affecting us. Join Teresa Morton and Mary Bennett for an examination of this groundbreaking work!

Please check the weekly e-bulletin, *Beacon this Week*, or the Beacon website for further April service descriptions as they become available.



**Listening to Appalachian Spring**  
Franci Louann, January 7, 2009

on Australian radio, she hears a favourite classic  
communes with Aaron Copland’s *Appalachian Spring*  
alone with her trans-Pacific prompt—  
“listen to music, write”  
she slept ten hours, strange for her  
others have gone to the Blue Mountains  
the house is quiet  
drapes are closed against January’s  
hot noon  
dishes are done, kitchen tidy  
a pot of rooibos tea on her table  
this work is performed by  
the London Symphony Orchestra  
with Copland conducting

she expected to hear *Rodeo*  
hoedown music  
but that’s another composition  
now—the “simple gifts” song  
its tune brings back the words for her  
*‘tis a gift to be simple, ‘tis a gift to be free*  
*to turn, turn, will be our delight,*  
*till by turning, turning, we come ‘round right*  
the gift for her is the message—live simply  
make time  
listen for the muse  
write  
“‘Tis a Gift to be Simple” is a song written by the Shaker, Joseph Brackett, in 1848. Martha Graham commissioned Aaron Copland to create *Appalachian Spring* for her ballet that premiered in 1944.

## Minister's Message

Today I am writing my reflection for Beacon's 40th birthday celebration. I have been thinking about the legacy we, today's Beacon, inherited from the founders.

They started this congregation to serve their own needs, of course, but I bet many had an awareness that they were doing something for the future. I know that when we were starting the South Fraser Congregation in 1990 we were trained to think longterm in our planning.

In the next few weeks Beacon's leadership will hold congregational

conversations. Beacon has been through a lot of hard stuff this past couple of years and has displayed

**It's our turn to think about preserving and passing on the legacy we were given.**

great resilience. But now it's time to look ahead, to imagine what can be done now ... or in a couple of years.

It's our turn to think about preserving and passing on the legacy we were given. The first step is rebuilding the vibrant community that has suffered through some storms.

I strongly encourage you to attend either the two in person sessions or the two Zoom sessions. We need to hear your voice.



Rev. Brian Kiely

—Rev. Brian Kiely

## An invitation to contribute to Beacon's 2023 Congregational Conversations

These Congregational Conversations will open possibilities for the Beacon community and help create the future of Beacon. Each of the gatherings will last 1.5 hours and will be distinct. The In-Person Conversations will be held in New Westminster (Common room at the Vista 925 9th Street) on Saturday March 11, and Saturday April 1. These Conversations will begin at 10:30am, conclude at noon & be followed by a 30-minute lunch. The Zoom Conversations will take place on Wednesday March 15 and Wednesday April 5, start at 6:30pm and last 1.5 hours.

Each participant agrees to participate in both 1.5 hour discussions, EITHER the two in-person sessions or the two Zoom sessions. There are always emergencies and always pressing priorities, but the loss of even one person, for just one meeting, immensely reduces our chance of success.

We promise to have a conversation that we have not had before. We do not come to negotiate interests, share our stories or problem solve the past or the future. We will ask you to postpone problem-solving and making action plans; those will come later. The first question you will be asked to reflect on is 'What brings you joy at Beacon?'

No one will be asked in any way to yield on their commitments or interests. We are not coming to decide anything. We begin with the belief that the commitments and interests of each of us need to be honoured and considered by all.

These gatherings are for you if you are open to

- thinking deeply about Beacon,
- feeling a bit uncomfortable in the process and
- getting to know other Beacon members.



These gatherings are not for you if you come to

- criticize, shame or blame
- convince others of your viewpoint
- come up with brilliant ideas for others to implement.

If you are not able to attend our Congregational Conversations, that is fine. You will be missed, and the invitation is always open to you.

Please RSVP to [adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org)

Board Task-Group: Susan Tarras, Peg Hinkley, Teresa Morton and Guest Phil Campbell.

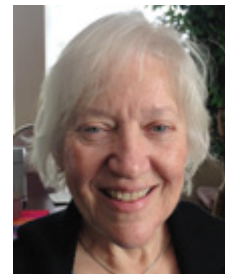
## Board Bitz

**G**oodbye Winter, Hello Spring is the title of a children's book by Kenard Pak. Happily we know that spring, one of my favourite seasons, is coming and we can say hello to it—a time of renewal, fresh starts, and new growth. It is a time to get fresh air, watch for robins and crocuses, and pause and think about where we are at, and what brings us pleasure and happiness. That is what we as Beaconites will do in person on March 11 and April 1, and via Zoom on March 15 and April 5. Discussions will start with a question—what brings you joy at Beacon? The conversations are not intended as problem solving sessions, but will open possibilities and may create a future for Beacon with further discussion at a later date. Look for the invitation to

the congregational conversations for more info.  
Beacon's AGM is April 23, another date to mark on your calendar.

**The spring is a time to get fresh air, watch for robins and crocuses, and pause and think about where we are at, and what brings us pleasure and happiness.**

Watch for the AGM package that will arrive via email prior to the 23rd. We will be voting on a new Sharing the Plate recipient at the AGM. Remember that half of the weekly collection goes to the Sharing the Plate recipient every year.



Beth Connelly  
Member at Large

If the weather cooperates, Beacon's 40th birthday celebration will take place on March 5th after the service. Please come and share some birthday cake with us in person if you are able.

As an aside—do you need a picture for your name tag at Beacon? London Drugs, and other photo developers, can take a picture from your phone and print it quickly and inexpensively at their photo dept. One print was 32 cents.

For now, enjoy the spring including the rain “when the world is puddle-wonderful “ according to e.e. cummings.

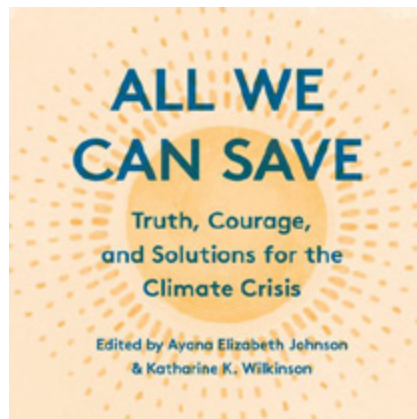
*Beth Connelly, Member at Large*

## Environment & Social Action at Beacon

**T**here seems to be a lot happening at Beacon this spring in the Environment and Social Action area!

Envirobee is happening on Sunday March 5th and Sunday April 2nd. Join me after the service, downstairs, for environmental questions, suggestions, and successes. Online Envirobee discussion is provided courtesy of Mary Bennett or a member of the BC Zerowaste group.

Watch for the Earth Day Service on Sunday April 23rd where Mary Bennett and I will be presenting a fascinating book, 'All We Can Save; Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis'. The book contains essays and poems by 60 women, including climate scientists, advocates, and artists.

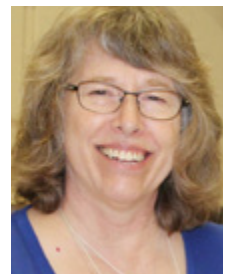


Mary will be talking about finding the joy in climate change work, while I will be covering the scope of the book (including a possible book study series) and highlighting some of the key findings.

*Teresa Morton  
(Check in Breeze for my contact info!)*

## 'Sharing the Plate' Program

**V**ote for the next recipient of the Sharing the Plate program at our Annual General Meeting, held after the service on Sunday April 23rd. The candidate charities will be announced in March. The current recipient is the Maida Duncan Women's Drop-in Centre in New Westminster, and we will start collecting funds for the new recipient in May.



Teresa Morton

*Teresa Morton  
(Check in Breeze for my contact info!)*



## Beacon Programs

We invite you to explore these great ways to connect to the Beacon community and to 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.

**March 26, 7:30 pm:** John Slattery will lead discussion on The Nones – Who are they and what do they believe? Do you check “None: or “none or the above” when asked for your religious affiliation on census forms? Then you are a “None”. But despite their non-affiliation with a listed religious group, many still regard themselves as being “spiritual.” Let us look at this rather eclectic group and the wide range spiritual beliefs and practices they *do* ascribe to.

**April 30, 7:30 pm:** John Smith will introduce the ideas of the fourth principle group which began at the Unitarian Church of Vancouver. Here is part of a proposed wording: The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its organizational powers for

religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are to equip congregations for vital ministry, to support and train leaders both lay and professional, to heal historic inequities, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world. We will transform the world by our liberating love.

If you would like to receive regular emails from the Humanist Group, please contact Marilyn Medén at [humanist@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:humanist@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 5 for more information.

**Film Club (Online and in person)** meets online the first and third Fridays at 7 pm. See the box on page 5 for more information.

**Lunch Bunch (Online)** meets every Tuesday from noon until 2 pm, 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 resumed on an informal basis. We are member-led and are meeting in New Westminster to teach and learn songs from each other. Please contact [choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org](mailto:choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org) for more info.

**‘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 get more involved, we look forward to getting to know you, and you us. Meet with other 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).



### Please Support the Share Food Bank!

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.

## Rising Together

### 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 [risingtogether@cuc.ca](mailto:risingtogether@cuc.ca) for more information or meeting dates and times.

### Beacon Film Club

**1st and 3rd Fridays, 7 pm (Online) with occasional in-person screenings**

The Film Club meets on Zoom on first and third Fridays at 7 pm. View the film in advance, then come to the Zoom meeting to chat about it. As well as our Zoom meetings, we will be planning for some in-person theatre events.

The Zoom-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). The Zoom link is in Thursday’s *Beacon This Week*.



#### March Films

Mar 3: *Pleasantville*, introduced by Donna Webb

Mar 17: *The English Patient*, introduced by Pauline Atwood

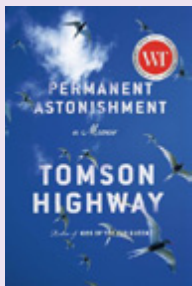
#### April Films

Apr 7: *A League of Their Own*, introduced by Janene White

Apr 21: *A Quiet Man*, introduced by Elizabeth Campbell

### Beacon Book Club

**Thursday, March 23, 7 pm**



***Permanent Astonishment: Growing up Cree in the Land of Snow and Sky, a Memoir*** by Tomson Highway  
c. 2021, 326 pages

**Presenter:** Susan Tarras

**Summary:** Capricious, big-hearted, joyful: an epic memoir from one of Canada’s most acclaimed Indigenous

writers and performers. Tomson Highway was born in a snowbank on an island in the sub-Arctic, the 11th of 12 children in a nomadic, caribou-hunting Cree family who traversed the tundra by dogsled and lived off the land. In this book he animates the magical world of his northern childhood, paying tribute to a way of life that few have experienced and fewer still have chronicled. Growing up in a land of ten thousand lakes and islands, Tomson Highway relished being pulled by dogsled beneath a night sky alive with stars; sucking the juices from roasted muskrat tails; and singing country music songs with his impossibly beautiful older sister and her teenaged friends. Surrounded by the love of his family and the vast, mesmerizing landscape they called home, his was in many ways an idyllic far north childhood. But five of Tomson’s siblings died in childhood, and Balazee and Joe Highway, who loved their surviving children profoundly, wanted their two youngest sons, Tomson and Rene, to enjoy opportunities as big as the

world. And so when Tomson was 6, he and Rene were flown south by float plane to attend a residential school and begin the rest of their education. In 1990 Rene Highway, a world-renowned dancer, died of an AIDS-related illness. *Permanent Astonishment* is Tomson’s extravagant embrace of his younger brother’s final words: “Don’t mourn me, be joyful.” Infused with joy and outrageous humour, *Permanent Astonishment* offers insights, both hilarious and profound, into the Cree experience of culture, conquest and survival. (Source: Burnaby Public Library Catalogue)



***Hamnet & Judith:*** A novel by Maggie O’Farrell

**Presenter:** Joyanne Landers

**Genre:** Fiction

**Subjects:** Shakespeare, Hamnet

**Summary:** Hamnet & Judith is an exploration of marriage and grief written into the silent opacities of a life that

is at once extremely famous and profoundly obscure. As the book unfolds, it brings its story to a tender and ultimately hopeful conclusion: that even the greatest grief, the most damaged marriage, and most shattered heart might find some solace, some healing.” (Source: BPL Catalogue)

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



## A long history of connecting, inspiring and transforming!

**B**eacon was founded in 1983. Since then it has served to bring people together for connection, learning, expansion, giving, receiving, music-making, fun, service to our greater community and more! Please enjoy these few samples from Beacon's archives of photographs, carefully collected and catalogued by Beaconite Jane Shoemaker. Let us celebrate the 40th anniversary of Beacon's light in our own lives and in the life of the Tri-Cities.

### 1980s



1983: First members



1983: Board



1983



1983



1984



1987



# Beacon turns 40!

## 1990s



1990: Men's group



1994



1995



1996

## 2000s



2000: Wedding of Joan and Ev



2001: Beacon Board



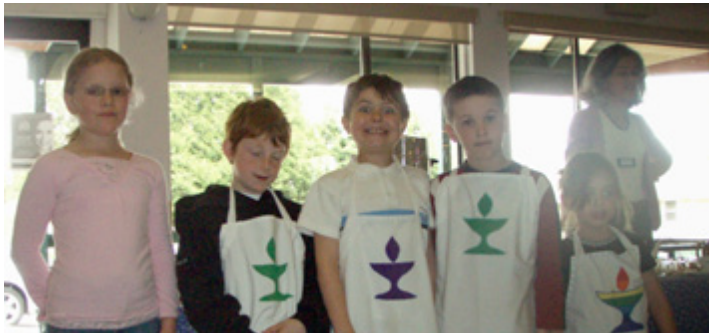
2005



2005



## Beacon turns 40!



2007



2007

## 2010s



2011: Joyce's Birthday



2013: Rev. Thorne's Ordination



2011: Lunch Bunch



2017: Pride Parade



**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:**

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:** Teresa Morton;

**Members at Large:** Beth  
Connelly, 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: Kate Smith and  
Bill Marshall.

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