



Sunday Services – Inspiring Learning and Spiritual Growth

We welcome you to our 10:30 am Sunday services.

We gather both in person at Sapperton Community Hall in New Westminster (318 Keary St.) and online using the Zoom platform. You can register for the Zoom link on our [website](http://www.beaconunitarian.org) homepage (on the righthand side of the page): [beaconunitarian.org](http://www.beaconunitarian.org). The services are 60–70 minutes long.

Our services vary from week to week to inspire people of various philosophies and theologies. So, whether you believe in a higher power, the spirit of life, or the power of humans to affect change, we have something for you to reflect on and learn.

We have a gifted pianist accompany us in community singing in each service and we will be having a pre-service sing-along twice a month starting at 10:20 am (please check the website for dates).

We list upcoming service descriptions on our website and in the weekly news update, *Beacon This Week*. Contact adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org to be put on our weekly emailing list. (If you'd like to see past [recordings](#) from our services, they are linked from our website's homepage.)

We also offer time to connect before and after the service:

- There is time to socialize before our

service (starting at 10:15 am) and after the service—in person and online. At Sapperton Hall, we also offer refreshments.

- A couple times a month after the service, we have small group discussions on various topics.

If you are a newcomer and would like us to follow up with you and get more information, you are invited to fill out the [Beacon Connecting Form](#) (on our website homepage). Also, Sunday service [general information](#) is found under the 'Services' heading at the top of the website. Our services are designed for adults and we welcome all ages! There are activities on a table at the back of the hall or they can be taken back to where families are sitting if preferred. There is also a nursery area available for parents to use as needed during the service.

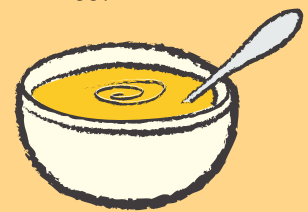
We welcome your feedback and ideas for songs, discussion topics, and new things in our services. We're creating a feedback form (for in-person and online) so watch our weekly e-news for details. You can also reach our worship team anytime at worship@beaconunitarian.org.

Come and be part of our caring and questing community. **We look forward to connecting with you and getting to know you!**

Soup Lunch

Sunday, September 15th

Please join us after the Sunday service for lunch in the downstairs hall. Suggested donation is \$5 or as you are able, free for newcomers! Last minute participants welcome. Anyone able and willing to bring salads, buns and butter, or desserts please contact Peggy Lunderville.



*Connecting,
Inspiring,
Transforming!*



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

Musings by Meg

As we start another program year, I think about the beauty of community. We come together:

- to support one another
- to explore the meaning of what is happening around us – in our lives and in the larger community around us
- to work together to make the world around us a more compassionate and fairer place for everyone

Right now, our world is often drawn into two camps: ‘us’ and ‘them.’ As Unitarians, we practice creating a community that is about reaching across divides and seeking to understand each other. To do that, we also need to be in good health – in body, heart, mind and spirit. ‘Spiritual’ to me means connecting with something larger than ourselves—the earth, a higher power, your loved ones—and then responding to that connection for the well-being of all.

This year, we’re going to explore what well-being looks like and feels

like. How can we support one another to ‘be well’ when so much of our world wants us to instead focus on ‘doing well’?

Our congregation will again be part of a multi-congregational program. This year the theme is ‘Meaning Making: Roots of Resilience.’ The October theme will be ‘*The Practice of Intentional Rest*’—*what does it look like to prioritize rest?* In our overly busy world, choosing rest over doing too much is a counter-cultural act. What does this mean to you and how you balance doing and resting? So, watch for that theme packet coming out the beginning of October—it will be sent out through our weekly e-news, *Beacon This Week*. We will also have a service on this topic and our website will be listing details in September about that.

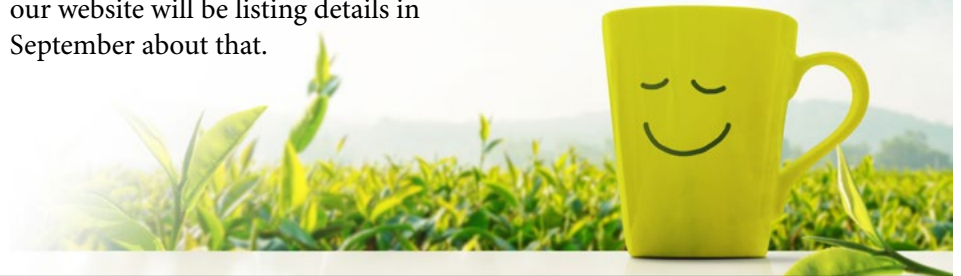
I look forward to learning from you and with you about how we cultivate well-being as individuals, as a community and as a society. When we do, we are better able to have the resilience to respond to the forces that seek to divide us. We can find ways to listen across those divides to what unites us as human beings (rather than human ‘doings’)—then together we can seek the well-being of our home on this beautiful blue-green planet Earth.

In the spirit of life,

—Rev. Meg Roberts



Rev. Meg Roberts



Virtual Adventure at the CUC Co-Lab: Experiences of Transformation

Mark your calendars for an exhilarating event from Nov. 1–3, 2024, as Unitarians, Universalists, UU congregations, and communities come together for the CUC Co-Lab: Experiences of Transformation. This virtual gathering promises a unique opportunity to connect, enjoy, and engage in profound conversations.

Mission and Goals: The mission of the CUC Co-Lab is to foster authentic connections, ignite inspiration, and explore significant questions about change, transformation, and renewal in alignment with our shared values. Participants will engage in focused discussions, captivating storytelling, and innovative events designed to cultivate hope and renewal. We’ll use:

- Focused Chats: Engage in meaningful conversations about change and transformation.
- Captivating Storytelling: Hear inspiring stories that reflect our values and experiences.

- Innovative Events: Participate in unique activities that promote connection and inspiration.

Join Us: Whether you’re a seasoned member of the CUC community or new to the scene, everyone is invited to join this journey of shaping a brighter future together. Don’t miss this chance to reignite your inner spark and co-create our direction for the future.

Pod-ding Together: Interested in gathering in-person with others in your congregation or region for the event? We will send you suggestions for how to gather for the weekend. Select that option when you register. (For those who have already registered, email congregationallife@cuc.ca to request the information).

Registration: Click the link below to register and be the first to receive emerging details about the event.

[Register Now!](#)

Board Board Bitz - September/October 2024

After an inspiring spring of experimenting with the structure of our Sunday services, summer has been a time to rest and re-energize. As we move into the fall, we will continue re-inventing much of how we do things at Beacom. The board has scheduled its annual retreat for September 7th to continue to build momentum for another memorable church year.

We'll continue to offer coffee and tea upstairs both before and after services as we did this spring. We discovered having coffee upstairs creates a more welcoming environment for us to reach out to both members and newcomers. We'll also continue to build community with our monthly soup lunches that are a great way to get to know everyone better. Special thanks to Peggy Lunderville who works so hard to make these lunches happen, including the much anticipated Thanksgiving turkey lunch in October.

This fall the board will be calling on our committees to engage in goal setting for the year as they examine their mission and mandate. We'll be asking the committees to focus on goals that are realistic and achievable in a timely fashion. We'll also lean into our commitment to radical hospitality, finding even more ways to welcome newcomers into our beloved community.

Music has always been a vital component of life at Beacon. Keeping Beacon's strong focus on music now that financial realities have ruled out a weekly will be another challenge. We've already had two music planning meetings and are holding another on September 5th to explore ways to keep our music program as fresh and vibrant as it has always been. Ideas include singing and playing music

solo and in small groups at church and singing for pleasure in someone's home

Another focus this year will be keeping the memories of Beacon's past alive by digitizing our records of years past. The board is looking into developing a Beacon Archival Storage Policy based on what is required by the Societies Act. It's important to keep in mind that fewer and fewer of Beacon's members have space to store physical records so its particularly valuable to have them in electronic format.

We are also looking for volunteers who are able to scan photos of time past that our archivist, Jane Shoemaker faithfully collected for many years. She filled this important role of memory keeper for many years and since her retirement we've been hoping that someone else will to step in and will also be prepared to take and preserve photos of past and future Beacon events.

In other news, several board members have attended meetings of MetroVan Unitarians, which represents congregations throughout the Lower Mainland, and are discussing how to share resources for worship, small groups like Soul Matters, environmental topics and much more. If you're interested in being part of this mailing list, you can reach out to Teresa Morton.

Reaching out to the wider community to share our values is becoming increasingly important. Declining membership means we can't just wait for people to discover us. Sharing our ideas means making the community aware of what Beacon has to offer. Another opportunity to reach out to the community and share our values will be happening on October 1st during Seniors Climate Action Day.

We can participate with other senior groups in our community in their climate actions and perhaps organize and publicize our own climate action event



Joyce Gudaitis
Treasurer

Fall 2024 is shaping up to be the start of another exciting year of growth and change at Beacon. We will continue to share the joy of being part of our beloved community as it transforms to meet the needs of the future.

—Joyce Gudaitis, Treasurer



Food Bank collection is taken on the first Sunday of the month at Beacon.

In addition, donations can be mailed directly to Share Family and Community Services at 104 - 3020 Lincoln Ave., Coquitlam BC, V3B 6B4 or by using this new link: [Beacon Unitarian - Virtual Food Drive | Food Banks BC](#). Thank you for supporting your neighbours with your donations.

Help Wanted!

We need someone with a scanner who can help transform Jane Shoemaker's photos of the trip to Beacon's Partner Church in 2001. Jane has faithfully kept the photos all these years and it is time to convert them to a digital format. (Estimated 450 photos.)

Please connect with Teresa M. at president@beaconunitarian.org if you can help! Thank you!

October is Pledge Drive Month



In this topsy-turvy world, where isolation and turmoil often take center stage, it can be difficult to stay connected to what matters most. In such times, it becomes even more vital to have a place where we are embraced, welcomed, and valued, regardless of our life's journey. Beacon Unitarian aspires to be that place. Our community thrives on the richness of our diversity, and we are constantly evolving to ensure that everyone finds a place where they truly belong. Whatever your heritage, whatever your faith, however you identify and whomever you love, you belong here.

This year, we are dedicated to cultivating wellness within our community. When life feels overwhelming, and disease permeates our lives, families, and society, it's crucial to focus on wellness – in mind, heart, body, and spirit. At Beacon, we believe that spirit is about connecting to what nurtures and inspires us, as well as connecting to something larger than ourselves. This connection is at the heart of our

community, where we support one another in finding balance and wellness in all aspects of life. Through our services, programs and interactions, we seek to nourish the whole person, providing support and inspiration for our shared journey.

**Our Pledge Drive
Sundays this year are
October 6, 13, 20, and 27.
Please watch your email for the
2025 Pledge Drive Package.**

We look forward to learning with you and from you about what it means to be embraced by community. At Beacon, we are continually developing new ways to connect with each other through our hearts and minds as we celebrate our shared humanity. Our Sunday Services and small group programs are a part of this effort. We are committed to taking the best from our past while experimenting with new ideas—whether through music,

creativity, or innovative ways to share and explore together.

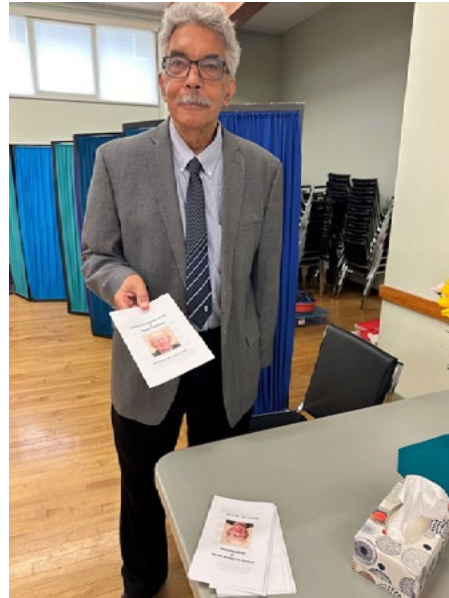
As we focus on these goals, your financial support through this fall's pledge drive is crucial. Beacon is completely supported by the generous donations of our members and friends, and every year we pledge enough in October to take us through the following year. Our pledge drive Sundays this year are October 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th. We pledge over these four Sundays so we know what income to expect in 2025 in order to prepare a budget and present it to the congregation in December. Please watch your email for the 2025 Pledge Drive Package. It will arrive in early October. As we embark on this year's pledge drive, we invite you to consider how Beacon has touched your life and how you can help us continue to be a welcoming congregation that **Connects with Compassion & Respect; Inspires Learning & Spiritual Growth; and Transforms through Joy & Justice.**

—2025 Pledge Drive Team

Supporting our Celebrations of Life

On August 21, we celebrated the life of Dave Thomson, an original member of Beacon (when it first formed back in 1983). Thanks to all who helped make this possible! These photos (provided by pastoral care team member, Judy Villett) show Sapperton Hall before the service. Judy and Beth, as coffee coordinators, set up for refreshments, making it look beautiful. Michael was there as a greeter for those who joined us in this service. Sue hosted those who joined us online and Tyler helped make the AV part of the service run smoothly. It was a privilege, as officiant of the service, to offer this time for reflection on Dave's life as well as create space to be together to mourn his loss.

It is at these rites of passage when we learn more about those around us, often in new and moving ways. Our thoughts are with Dave's family, especially his daughter, Denise and son, Phil, as they and their loved ones



live with the loss of Dave in their lives. As Phil reminded us, it is often in the small gestures of love that speak to who we really are.

—Rev. Meg Roberts
(Photos by Judy Villett)



What can WE do for National Seniors Day and Climate Action??

October 1st is Canada's Seniors Day, and this year Seniors for Climate is coordinating a National Day of Climate Action! There are at least 50 events scheduled across the country to highlight the theme of 'Later is Too Late'.

The campaign is sponsored by six seniors' climate organizations—Suzuki Elders, Climate Action for Lifelong Learners (CALL), Grandmothers Act to Save the Planet (GASP), Climate Legacy, Seniors for Climate Action Now! (SCAN) and For Our Grandchildren (4RG). You can learn more at <https://seniorsforclimate.org> and sign up for their newsletter at the bottom of their home page.

I have a specific suggestion AND I'm open to any ideas you may have!

How about this? On Sunday October 6th, Beacon will hold its service on Zoom only (Brian Kiely will present the first of the Pledge



"I would welcome one or two co-conspirators to put together the information about Climate Action initiatives in Beacon's area."

Drive sermons). After the service, I would like to host a special Envirobee where we **focus on Climate Action in our home neighbourhoods**. And I suggest we invite our friends to join us! I think we can publicize this as an 'information buffet' for those searching for local opportunities to get involved.

It would involve some planning and coordination, so I would

welcome one or two co-conspirators to put together the information about Climate Action initiatives in Beacon's area.

Let me know what you think!

Teresa M.

president@beaconunitarian.org

Envirobees are scheduled for September 15th and October 20th.

The Beacon Implementation Team (BIT) has been hard at work over the summer!

BIT MEMBERSHIP: The team has six 'permanent' members (Rev. Meg, Peg H., Susan T., Phil C., Deepak S. and Teresa M.) and is welcoming two additional members for three-month assignments. Dominique M. has joined us for July-August-September and Cathy B. will be attending for October-November-December. Please let Teresa M. or Peg H. know if you want to serve for a three-month stint on the team. Keep in mind that we have FUN and CHOCOLATE at our meetings! (About half our meetings are in-person, half are on Zoom.)

MUSIC: We have been organizing September's music planning gathering on September 5th which will focus

on playing music and opportunities to increase instrumental music at Beacon, including at our Sunday Services. There will be a fourth and final music planning gathering in October; watch for details in *Beacon This Week!*

SUNDAY MORNING:

The Team is considering our Sunday morning parking options and is investigating city parking passes for those with disabilities.

Deepak and Tyler have been working on reviving Beacon's hearing assistance devices—more info will be coming out soon.

We have FUN and CHOCOLATE at our meetings!

PUBLICITY for Beacon is one of our main tasks and we are hoping to recruit a volunteer to support Beacon's social media presence. Let us

know if you have suggestions of who might be interested!

Our website is getting a new format, and Deepak is working on approximately 10 short videos of 'WHO is Beacon'. He will be working with Susan M., and he hopes to complete these by September.

Please connect with the team through implement@beaconunitarian.org. We want to hear from you!

—Teresa M.,

Co-president, Beacon Board

Hope Matters: Addressing our Eco-Grief, Sharing our Eco-Joy, and Tooling Up for Action

A Program in Four Sessions: Thursdays 1–3 pm, Oct. 3, 17, 31 and Nov. 14
(in person and on Zoom)

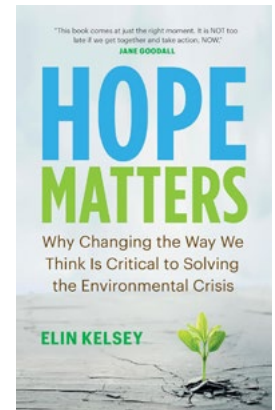
Facilitated by Teresa Morton and Rev. Meg Roberts

Are you overwhelmed in the face of the climate crisis? Are you seeking a safer place to think about this existential threat and support in deciding how you feel about it? We offer a series of 4 sessions where we will collectively grapple with how to engage with these challenges, build resilience and explore how hope is nurtured and incorporated into our daily lives. We will be drawing from Elin Kelsey's book *Hope Matters: Why Changing the Way We Think is Critical to Solving the Environmental Crisis*.

- These four sessions will include:
- Understanding ecological grief through psychology and ritual
 - Building strategies for processing our responses
 - Experiencing the power of accessing our ecological joy so we can deepen our connections with the natural world
 - Sharing hopeful stories of positive environmental action
 - Learning how to shift perspectives and cultivate ecological hope
 - Providing resources and support for engaging in sustainability efforts

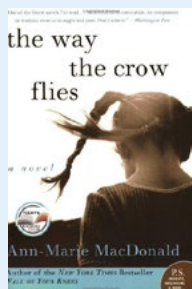
Each session incorporates sharing, learning and experiencing through ritual and creativity. Sessions will happen every 2 weeks, to give an opportunity to apply what we are learning and bring back insights to share at the next session.

Questions? Email Teresa at president@beaconunitarian.org.



Beacon Book Club (online)

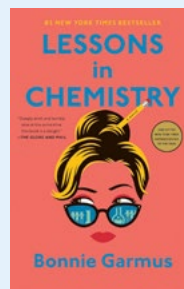
Friday, September 27, 7–9 pm



The Way the Crow Flies by Ann Marie McDonald introduced by Augusta Hamilton.

The optimism of the early sixties, infused with the excitement of the space race and the menace of the Cold War, is filtered through the rich imagination of high-spirited, eight-year-old Madeleine, who welcomes her family's posting to a quiet Air Force base near the Canadian border. Secure in the love of her beautiful mother, she is unaware that her father, Jack, is caught up in a web of secrets. When a local murder intersects with global forces, Jack must decide where his loyalties lie, and Madeleine will be forced to learn a lesson about the ambiguity of human morality—one she will only begin to understand when she carries her quest for the truth, and the killer, into adulthood twenty years later.

October (date TBA), 7–9 pm



Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Grams, introduced by Marilyn Medén.

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality.

Except for one: Calvin Evans, the lonely, brilliant, Nobel Prize–nominated grudge holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

Like science, though, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother but also the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show, *Supper at Six*. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking (“combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride”) proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because, as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women how to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo. (Source: amazon.ca)

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.

September 29th, 7:30 pm: We will be sharing more ideas about AI! There are lots of resources available. We will look at the many advantages and disadvantages of AI. How about finding an advantage and a disadvantage and bringing them to the meeting?

October 28th, 7:30 pm: Topic to be decided. Speaker: Earl Morris.

If you would like to receive regular emails from the Humanist Group, please contact Marilyn Medén at humanist@beaconunitarian.org.

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!

Book Club (Online) will meet Friday, September 27th at 7 pm via Zoom. See page 7 for more information. For enquiries, please contact John Hagen bookclub@beaconunitarian.org.

Film Club (Online and in person)

The first meeting of the season will be on Friday, September 20. A schedule will be discussed for the coming church year, possibly switching to Thursday evenings. For more information see box at right or email Marilyn Medén: filmclub@beaconunitarian.org. The Zoom link is in Thursday's email, *Beacon This Week*.



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

Getting to Know 'U'

If you've been to a few of our services and want to know more about us please join us for our next gathering this fall (date to be determined). A light lunch is included. Meet with other Beaconites to learn about Unitarianism, our programs, and various ways to be part of this community. We look forward to getting to know you, and you us. Please contact the Connecting Committee at connecting@beaconunitarian.org so we can let you know about the next upcoming date.

Beacon Film Club



**Friday, September 20, 7 pm
via Zoom**

View the film in advance, then come to the Zoom meeting to chat about it. In addition to our Zoom meetings, we will plan 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. The Zoom link is in Thursday's email, *Beacon This Week*.

September Films

Sept. 20: *Rustin*, introduced by John Hagen (NetFlix)

October Films (dates TBA)

Rice Boy Sleeps, introduced by Lindsay (YouTube)

The Farewell, introduced by Marilyn (NetFlix)



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ceremonies@beaconunitarian.org

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

Board Executive:

Co-Presidents:
Teresa Morton,
Peg Hinkley;
Treasurer: Joyce Gudaitis;

Secretary: TBD;
Members at Large:
Jane Day, Deepak
Sahasrabudhe, Dave
Kristjanson, Rob Warner

**Connections and
Membership:** Sue
Sparlin

Beacon Newsletter:
newsletter@beaconunitarian.org
Production: Laura Redmond
Proofreading: William Marshall
and Catherine Smith.

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



Reconnecting to Life: A Weekend Retreat for Facing the Climate Emergency

Join us for a 2-day retreat on September 28/29 at VanU to explore how to engage more effectively with the enormity and urgency of today's intertwined crises. Through experiential practices of reflection and ritual pioneered by Joanna Macy in her "Work that Reconnects," we will cultivate courage and resilience for facing this time with clarity and purpose, and strengthen our commitments to bringing our unique gifts more fully into the service of life. Cost \$75 including lunches, tea and coffee. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

2nd Annual

Community BBQ with KARAOKE



SANCTUARY ON 6TH
beheld belong believe



Sunday, September 8, 2024

Bring something to share.
We'll have burgers, smokies and sweets.

4:00 Gather to set up and prep
5:00 Share meal and Karaoke time

Let us know you're coming.
Email youngsun@sanctuaryon6th.ca

Sanctuary on 6th
Queens Avenue & 6th Street, New Westminster
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