



Summertime!

Beacon Unitarian Church is now on summer hiatus, but we're offering four informal opportunities to gather before regular worship services resume on Sunday, September 7. Meanwhile, the "Lunch Bunch," which meets online every Tuesday from noon to 2:00 pm, will continue throughout the summer (see page 7 for details).

All are welcome to join our gatherings! Fill out the [Beacon Connecting Form](#) to receive more information. We look forward to connecting with you and getting to know you!



ripened
by the suns of their summers
apple faces, orchard people

—Franci Louann (1946-2025)

**JUL
13**

5:00 PM

Join us for a Joyful Summer Service

Coordinator: Marilyn Medén with musicians

Kate Smith and Bill Marshall

Location: John Hagen's backyard (1834 London Street, New West)*

In this cheerful and uplifting service, we'll explore how joy opens us to giving and receiving in ways that lift our spirits, touch others, and send ripples of goodness out into the world. The service will include a fun, interactive element. Kate Smith and Bill Marshall will provide their lively and heartfelt music to enrich our time together.

After the service, we invite you to stay for some relaxed social time. If you're able, please bring a plate of finger-food appetizers or desserts to share. Tea, coffee, and water will be available, but you may wish to bring your own beverage. If it's easy to do, bring a lawn chair. For more details, please contact Marilyn Medén (see the online Breeze directory for contact information).

**Inside if it's raining!*

**AUG
17**

10:30 AM

Summer Service in the Park

Coordinators: David Kristjanson and Glenn

Wootton

Location: Sapperton Park, across the street from the Royal Columbian Hospital

Come join us for song and celebration under the trees.

Bring your own lawn chair and perhaps snacks or a picnic lunch for afterwards. Please invite a friend or neighbour. There is a playground and spray park for anyone who would like to bring kids and/or grandkids. Look for the Beacon banner.



Please join us for New West Pride 2025

Saturday, August 16, 3–8 pm • Downtown New Westminster on Columbia Street

Beacon Unitarian is once again participating in the New West Pride Festival. We are looking for 8–10 volunteers to hang out at the Beacon booth and tell people about our Welcoming Congregation. There will be at least two people at our booth at all times. Shifts are one to two hours long, sometime between 2:30 and 8:30 pm—there is lots of flexibility and it's always lots of fun. Please email David Kristjanson for more information.



AUG 24 10:30 AM
Summer Singing Service
Service Coordinator:

Peggy Lunderville
(call or text 604-812-5939)
Location: 8892 Armstrong Ave,
Burnaby

All ages and all levels of musical ability are welcome to join us for a morning of singing/playing at Peggy Lunderville's home. This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to connect as a community in the summer as we sing our favourite hymns from the charcoal and teal hymnbooks, as well as the "Joyce Poley" songbooks. Bring musical instruments if you wish to accompany. If you have a hymn you would like to be included, please contact Peggy Lunderville ahead of time. There will also be room for some requests at the service itself. Potluck lunch to follow (tea, coffee, juice and water will be provided). Our home is wheelchair accessible.

Next regular Beacon Sunday service:
September 7, 10:30 am, Sapperton Hall
and on Zoom

SEP 7
**Pouring Our Energies
Together: The Annual
Water Ceremony**

Beacon's program year starts again with this special service. The annual water ceremony service is for all ages: we pour water from various sources into one common bowl, symbolizing the re-gathering of this community after a summer break. If you would like to bring water from your summer experiences to put into the bowl, please do (whether from a favourite place or from your tap at home)!

BEACON'S MISSION

Our mission is to celebrate the worth and dignity of all people and to live in conscious relationship with the earth.

For inspiration, we draw on the world's great scientists, artists, humanists and theologians, as well as on our personal experiences.

So we are inspired to create greater equality, greater justice and greater hope for our world.



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

Board Bitz

The year 2025 has tested Beacon's spirit—and proven its strength. Through it all, the warmth of this community has never wavered.

In early May, the board made the difficult decision to not enter into a new contract with Rev. Meg Roberts for the 2025–26 church year. Rev. Meg joined us in 2019 and during her time with us has had to take two extended medical leaves. With Meg being accepted for long-term disability, it became uncertain when, or if, she might return. This uncertainty placed a strain on the Worship and Pastoral Care teams, and on the congregation as a whole.

After this decision was made and communicated, we were heartened when Rev. Meg, together with Rev. Karen Fraser-Gitlitz, offered to join us for our final service of the church year. Together, they led us in a *Ritual of Leave-Taking* to mark the end of Meg's covenant with Beacon. We are grateful for the time that Rev. Meg spent with us and wish her a full return to health. As is customary, there will be a one-year period of no contact between Rev. Meg and Beacon members to allow space for transition and clarity.

With every ending comes a new beginning. During this same service, after a moment of silence to honour the loss of congregants Sue Sparlin and Franci Louann, we welcomed eight new members into the Beacon community. Welcomed into our beloved Beacon community were



MaryAnn Becher from Century House accepts our "Sharing the Plate" donation of \$4400.



In the leave-taking ritual, Rev. Meg delivers our "sacred" Beacon water (collected in the annual Water Ceremony service) back to David.



As an expression of gratitude, Beacon's co-presidents present Meg with our ceremonial wooden bowl, traditionally used to hold the stones for our Joys and Sorrows ritual.



Beacon was thrilled to welcome eight new members on June 15, 2025 (with one joining in on Zoom).

Lorill Friesen, Laurence Hamish Seenath, Lori Holtorf, Heidi Bells, Corinne Cormier, Coralie Woodley, Ken Viersen, and Gina-Dianne Harding. We are all looking forward to getting to know them better in the new year.

During this very special service we also celebrated the generosity of our amazing community. Beacon's *Sharing the Plate* program reflects our ongoing commitment to care, not just for one another, but for the wider world. MaryAnn Becher from Century House Association Peer Support (CHAPS), our 2024/25 *Sharing the Plate* recipient, was with us to accept our donation of \$4,400.00.

As always, volunteers are the heartbeat of our community. Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to greet at the door, make coffee, bring food, count the collection, make music, create a service, do a reading, or transform an empty hall into a sacred space. Every role matters, and your contributions make Beacon the welcoming place it is.

A special thank you to our Pastoral Support Team, Beth Connelly, Dominique Mamisao, Laura Redmond, and Judy Villett. You are the glue that keeps Beacon together.



Each new member signed the Beacon membership book.

Please consider helping them out by volunteering to provide rides to those in our community who need help getting to important appointments. To volunteer please email the Pastoral Support Team through the contact page on our website www.beaconunitarian.org

Being without a minister does not mean we are without ministry. Please join us at 10:30 am on June 29th at Sapperton Hall for a congregational shared ministry planning session. All are welcome. Through conversation circles, we'll listen to one another's hopes and needs. We'll name the gifts we each bring, look honestly at

our limitations, take the best of what has been and explore what we might become.

Though Beacon officially "rests" in July and August, it never truly sleeps. Summer services are planned for July 13, August 17, and August 24 at various locations. We will also be at New West Pride on August 16.

We return to Sapperton Hall on September 7th for our annual Water Ceremony—renewed in purpose, with fresh energy, and the same steady heart.

Have a wonderful summer.

—David Kristjanson

With Love and Gratitude for Rev. Ev



Dr. Rev. F. Everett Morris
July 31, 1937–June 21, 2025

Doctor Rev. F. Everett Morris passed away Saturday, June 21 surrounded by his loved ones. He is survived by Joan, his wife of 25 years; his sons Dave and TR, grandchild K; Joan's daughters, Jeneen (Derrick Bayer and their sons Jayden and Ryan), and Kira (Dean Auger and their four children: Caleb, Theo, Matthias, Sophia).

He died at home after a ten-year struggle with Parkinsonism. Ev's long athletic career of marathon running, tennis matches, and a late golf addiction provided him with great strength and endurance in his last years. Joan's excellent and loving care allowed him to live out his days at home, and he passed away there surrounded by family.

Rev. Ev was Beacon's minister from 1998–2002. He was known for his thoughtful and insightful sermons. He founded "The Lunch Bunch" with engaging discussions from *Friedman's Fables*. Members of that group continue to meet.

Ev was born and raised in Spokane, Washington, and was an engineering professor for 20 years. Before that career he spent two years working with the Peace Corps in Peru with his first wife, Beth. Back in the U.S. they settled in Ames, Iowa where he earned his engineering PhD. His sons were born in Iowa before the family moved to Youngstown, Ohio for Ev's first faculty job.

After eight years in the midwest they moved to Spokane, Ev's childhood home. After a divorce he moved to California where he attended Starr King Unitarian Seminary in Berkeley, CA. Ev was first called to be a minister in Reading, Pennsylvania, and after five years came to Beacon.

Ev and Joan were married in 2000 during his Beacon ministry. After his retirement Ev did occasional services for other congregations in the Lower Mainland. In his free time he played golf, walked his dog Casey, took trips with Joan, and wrote two small books of poetry, sermons, and life philosophy.

He is missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held later in August or early September.

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to the David Suzuki Foundation or to Beacon Unitarian Church.

—Ev's family

Beacon Implementation Team Report for June & July

The team consists of Peg Hinkley, Susan Tarras, Phil Campbell, Deepak Sahasrabudhe and Teresa Morton. Guests Dominique Mamisao and Cathy Burpee have agreed to remain on the team through August!

The team frequently refers to the four action plans that the congregation prepared, to make sure our activities are consistent with the plans for community, spirituality, outreach and music.

As Rev. Meg takes leave of Beacon in June of 2025, our transition to

a community-led congregation for 2025–26 is at the front of our minds. We know that the board will be setting in motion consultations with the congregation, and Implementation Team members will be invited to play a role in the CONSULTATIONS TEAM.

The Implementation Team is continuing to make progress in the following areas: improving the audio at Sapperton, working out back-up plans for the Service Tech Team, parking availability, community building through music, formalizing feedback

processes, and website/social media upgrades.

Our Beacon Music Jams are on hold for the summer (July and August) and then will resume on the second Thursday of the month in September. We have 12–15 Beacon members participating. All are welcome! The Team is also working with Worship Services Team to facilitate the pre-service sing-alongs.

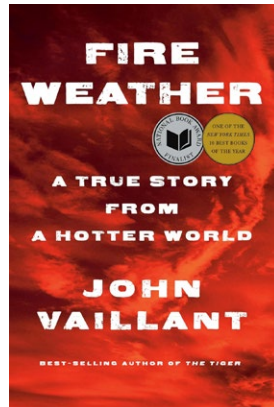
Teresa Morton for
Beacon Implementation Team

Environment News, Wildfires

At our June 8th Envirobee discussion, the wildfires were a 'hot topic.' I've collected a couple of references that may be useful.

- For a central source of **wildfire information**, use the Canadian government site 'wildfires' (<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/campaigns/wildfires.html>), which includes links to the **provincial wildfire maps**, information on wildfire smoke distribution, and background data.
- For **fire prevention and mitigation**, Firesmart programs are front & centre. [Firesmart BC \(firesmartbc.ca\)](https://firesmartbc.ca) has **prevention and mitigation measures for homeowners and communities**.
- A **local source** of information is Fire Prevention in Coquitlam (FirePrevention@Coquitlam.ca)
- And a Canadian perspective can be found in the book *Fire Weather*. *Fire Weather: A True Story from*

a Hotter World (also published as *Fire Weather: On the Front Lines of a Burning World*) is a 2023 book by Canadian-American journalist John Vaillant. The book details the



[2016 Fort McMurray wildfire](#) which led to the evacuation of more than 88,000 residents of Fort McMurray and the destruction of much of the town. (Source: Wikipedia)

And the root cause? Burning fossil

fuels! We need to accelerate the transition to clean energy...

As we continue to advocate for clean energy, keep your hope alive with **inspiration** found at monthly song circles led by music therapist Karin Roberts—*Sing to Heal*, 2nd Saturday of the month, 7 – 8:30 pm. The sessions are held at the Sanctuary on Sixth in New Westminister. No musical experience is needed.

Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful summer! Please plan for one action to take care of yourself and one action to take care of the planet. (I'm going to be helping with the Plant-based Cities Movement initiative in New Westminister: plantbased-cities.org)



Teresa Morton

Teresa M.

president@beaconunitarian.org

Celebrate Your Values with the CUC Store!

Looking for meaningful ways to express your commitment to justice, equity, and compassion? The Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC) Store offers a curated collection of inspiring items—perfect for personal use, gifting, or sharing with your community!

From stylish t-shirts and chalice pins to practical tote bags and pens, each item is designed to spark conversation and celebrate Unitarian Universalist values. Plus, explore free downloadable resources like posters, bookmarks, and wallet cards featuring the 8 Principles—because great ideas should be shared freely!

- Why shop with us?
- Thoughtful designs that reflect love, justice, and interconnectedness
 - Free standard shipping on all Canadian orders (no minimum!)
 - Exclusive free downloads—just add to your cart and checkout

Whether you're a longtime Unitarian Universalist or just discovering our community, these items are a beautiful way to carry your values into the world.

Browse the collection today! cuc.ca/cuc-store



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 typically meet the last Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm, via Zoom, but we are now on a summer break.

Please check the weekly e-newsletter for updates and the Zoom link. If you would like to receive regular emails from the Humanist Group, please contact Marilyn Medén at humanist@beaconunitarian.org.

Book Club (online) typically meets on fourth Fridays at 7 pm via Zoom, however we are now pausing for our summer break. An in-person summer social—with appy and dessert finger food—will take place at 3 pm, on Sunday, July 6th at 1834 London Street. If you like, bring a book to introduce as a summer read. We will be planning for the fall, thinking about a possible change from Zoom to in-person for some of our meetings.

Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome! Books chosen will be announced in our weekly e-newsletter, *Beacon This Week*. Please read

the book beforehand and then meet online to discuss. For enquiries, please contact John Hagen bookclub@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!

Film Club (online and in person)

typically meets 1st and 3rd Fridays at 7 pm via Zoom but we have pressed “Pause” for a summertime break. However, we have an in-person social gathering to look forward to:

Friday, July 11, 5 pm: We will meet at 1834 London Street for an easy-on-Marilyn potluck! John and Marilyn will supply water, coffee and tea, but please bring everything else—cutlery, plates and something to share. And please RSVP, telling Marilyn what you will bring [so we don’t have ten plates of devilled eggs!] We will eat right away, so if you bring something hot, it will still be hot. After we have eaten there will be time to mention movies that are showing in the theatres that

we might want to watch as a group. The more organized you are for this, the better!

For more information email Marilyn Medén: filmclub@beaconunitarian.org.

Beacon Men’s Group

In our diverse community, we recognize that many men seek spaces to:

- Reflect on their personal journeys and spiritual growth.
- Navigate life’s challenges in dialogue with others who understand.
- Explore topics such as relationships, identity, vulnerability, and purpose in an atmosphere of mutual respect and acceptance.
- Build meaningful friendships and a sense of community.

We meet every second week at 7:00 pm at various locations. If you’re interested in joining or learning more about us, please email mensgroup@beaconunitarian.org.

Women’s Groups are discussion groups—held both in person and online—for women who attend Beacon. To join a group please contact Beth Connelly or Cathy Burpee in September. Please check the Breeze directory for contact information.



June 28, 2025: Franci Louann’s Celebration of Life was a well-attended gathering of friends, family, and members of the broader community who came together to honour her poetry, spirit, and friendship. The service was thoughtfully planned and led by Laura Redmond and Karen Bartlett, with beautiful food and hospitality coordinated by Judy Villet. Thanks to *all* those who pitched in to make this a meaningful event.





Rising Together: Unitarian Universalists of Colour

Indigenous folks, Black folks and people of colour (IBPOC) are often in the minority in Unitarian Universalists congregations and communities. Gathering together with others who share similar identities and experiences can reduce isolation and support us in getting our spiritual needs met. *Rising Together* is the place where we can find each other!

Led by Camellia Jahanshahi, the CUC's Dismantling Barriers Lead staff, *Rising Together* meets online bimonthly for worship, discussions, and workshops, with informal check-ins between sessions. Join us to connect with other IBPOC Unitarian Universalists across Canada, affirm one another, and strengthen our voice in the broader UU community. Email risingtogether@cuc.ca for more information about the fall program.



UU Expressions: Love in Real Life

This 10-episode docu-series offers an inspiring and honest look at Unitarian Universalism across Canada in 2024. It's not just a celebration—it's an invitation to reflect on living our UU values in the diverse communities we call home, from bustling cities to small towns. Featuring interviews with 27 UUs across 17 unique expressions of UUism, the series highlights both our faith's thriving moments and challenges. [Listen here.](#)



Food Bank collection during the summer months.

Donations can be mailed directly to Share Family and Community Services at 104 - 3020 Lincoln Ave., Coquitlam BC, V3B 6B4 or by using this link: <https://bcvfd.foodbank.bc.ca/fundraiser/beacon>. Thank you for supporting your neighbours with your donations.

Free Upright Piano – Looking for a New Home

Carol Becken has a well-loved upright piano (with bench) that she would like to give to someone who will use and appreciate it. Her hope is that it might find a new home with someone in the church community.

All that's required is for the new owner to arrange pickup. Interested? Please contact Carol at 604-469-0236.



www.beaconunitarian.org
info@beaconunitarian.org

Mailing Address:

Box 414,
407– 552 Clarke Road,
Coquitlam, BC V3J 0A3

Contract Minister:

Rev. Meg Roberts
(on health leave)

Lay Chaplains:

Janet Pivnick,
Laura Redmond;
ceremonies@beaconunitarian.org

Administrative Support:

Rachael Greenland;
adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org

Board Executive:

Co-Presidents: Teresa
Morton, Susan Tarras;

Treasurer:

Richard Hollins;

Co-Secretaries:

Deepak Sahasrabudhe,
Rob Warner;

Members at Large:

Lauren Casalis, Dave
Kristjanson.

**Connections and
Membership:** TBD

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.