



Sunday Services—Inspiring Learning and Spiritual Growth

Each Sunday brings a rhythm of gathering, music, reflection, and connection. Here's what you can expect when you join us:

- 10:10 am: Approximately twice a month we have a pre-service sing-along and we invite you to sing or just listen. Our next sing-alongs are scheduled for Sept. 20th, Oct. 18th and 25th. On other Sundays you can socialize before the service—in person and online. At the hall, please help yourself to a tea or coffee.
- 10:30 am: Our service starts. In person, we meet 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

Pre-Service Sunday Sing-Alongs



We get together to sing inspiring, uplifting songs before the Sunday service begins. Kate Smith & Bill Marshall will host the sing-alongs on Sept. 20th and Oct. 11th. PLUS the 'Beacon Singers' lead on Oct. 25th. Be there at 10:10 to join in song!

homepage (on the righthand side of the page): beaconunitarian.org. The services are 60–70 minutes long. Each Sunday offers something a little different—sometimes thought-provoking and reflective, sometimes creative and hands-on. We invite you to join us for a few services and experience the full spectrum of what Beacon has to offer.

- After our service, we hope you can stay a while for connection and conversation (in person and online). Light refreshments are served in Sapperton hall.

We list [upcoming service descriptions](#) on the next page, on our website, and in our weekly e-newsletter, *Beacon This Week*.^{*} If you're a newcomer, general Sunday [service information](#) is located in the second link of the footer menu on our website. Our services are designed for adults *and* we welcome all ages! If you 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).

^{*}To receive *Beacon This Week*, our weekly e-newsletter, please contact adminsupport@beaconunitarian.org to be put on our emailing list.

We welcome your feedback and ideas for songs, discussion topics, and new elements in our services. You can also reach our worship team anytime at worship@beaconunitarian.org.

If you'd like to see past [recordings](#) from our services, they are linked from our website's homepage. 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, Sept. 20th
and Sunday, Oct. 11
(Thanksgiving)**

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 soup, salads, buns and butter, or desserts please phone Augusta Hamilton, 1 (250) 741-7924.



Sunday Service Descriptions

September

SEP
13

Every Drop Matters

Rev Debra Faulk

The annual ingathering water service invites everyone to bring water representing summer insights, experiences, travels—or a backyard puddle, the ocean or local pool. We mingle all of our water to signify flowing back into community.

SEP
20

A Seat in the Circle: The Beauty of Small

Rev Karen Fraser Gitlitz

Although we sometimes find ourselves wishing for more resources, bigger isn't always better. This morning we will look at the challenges of this moment through the lens of two central practices of Unitarian Universalism—freedom of the pulpit and freedom of the “pew.”

SEP
27

A Grand Experiment

Rev De Thorne

As the world fractures into isolating and rigid camps of opinion, Unitarians dare to create communities

that value many kinds of diversity. From our religious roots to present complexities, what have we learned about courage, curiosity and ourselves?

October

OCT
4

Agency and Acceptance

Rev Debra Faulk

How do we practice agency today, whether in our personal circumstances or as groups in society? What systemic factors make our agency possible (or limit it)? What does acceptance of others look like, and how can it be life-giving?

OCT
11

Building tomorrow with courage: Join the journey!

Rev Karen Fraser Gitlitz

Courage is the quality of the heart that gives us the strength to step into the unknown, to take action even when we hear voices—internal and external—telling us to stay safe. While the experience of courage can feel surprising and even mysterious, it is also a quality that we can cultivate, especially when we join together in community.

OCT
18

Seeing the Forest Anew

Reilly Yeo

In her incredible book “*The Word for World is ‘Forest,’*” Ursula K. LeGuin says “In diversity is life, and where there’s life there’s hope.” Beacon has worked hard to keep finding hope in these difficult times.

Join us after the service for the first meeting of “[Nature Grief, Nature Gratitude](#),” a four-session adult religious exploration series. We’ll work together as a spiritual community to deepen our understanding and awareness of how climate change is affecting us, and what a mindful, skillful response looks like for each of us. See page 5 for more information.

OCT
25

Agents of Flourishing

Rev Debra Faulk

How do we courageously claim our agency, in our personal circumstances and as groups in society? What systemic factors make our agency possible (or limit it)?...How might agency and acceptance contribute to flourishing?

Caregivers—You Are Not Alone.

The strain of caregiving for a family member or friend can leave you exhausted, anxious and isolated. Through its *Care for Caregivers* ZOOM series, Century House is offering five-week fall programs that give participants a weekly break from the demands of caregiving, all from the comfort of home.

With guidance from a professional facilitator, share experiences, learn from one another and guest speakers, access helpful information and resources, and have some fun. Assistance with navigating Zoom is available. Open to caregivers aged 50+.

A Zoom link will be emailed before each session.

Tuesdays, 1:30 – 2:30 pm (Zoom opens at 1:00 pm)

1. September 8, 15, 22, 29, October 6
2. October 27, November 3, 10, 17, 24
3. December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Registration Fee: FREE. Please contact facilitator Peggy Hinkley for questions or registration: peggy.hinkley@gmail.com



Board Bitz

Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful summer. While it is nice to slow down a bit during the hottest days of the year, starting up again in the fall always feels very exciting to me.

Although Beacon did not have regular Sunday services at Sapperton Hall in July and August, we did have several opportunities to get together. On the early evening of July 19, we met in John Hagen's beautiful backyard for a wonderful service created by Marilyn Meden and Cathy Tingskov, with music by Kate Smith and Bill Marshall. The weather was perfect, and we all enjoyed an amazing summer feast afterwards.

On Saturday, August 15, a group of us gathered at the Beacon booth at the New West Pride Festival to share what it means to be a Welcoming Congregation. The weather was beautiful, and it was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the wider community.

The next day, we sang and celebrated under the trees in Sapperton Park at our annual Service in the Park. We heard testimonials from four Beacon members, while Kate and Bill wove their wonderful music throughout the service. This is always a very special weekend for me personally. My first

introduction to the Unitarian Universalist faith was at the Beacon booth at the New West Pride Festival in 2015, and my first service was the Service in the Park the next day. I have been hooked ever since.

Our final summer get-together was the Summer Singing Service at Peggy Lunderville's home on Sunday, August 30. We all got to sing our favourite hymns and enjoy a delicious potluck afterwards. Many thanks to Peggy for hosting us again this year, and a special thank you to Kate and Bill for bringing the music and leading us all in song. They have been so generous with their talent and time. We are so blessed to have them as part of our community.

This fall, we are very excited to begin our collaboration with Tidal Pool. Tidal Pool is a co-operative of eight UU ministers serving small and mid-sized congregations. This is a groundbreaking experiment, and Beacon is the first congregation to participate. We will have an opportunity to help guide the direction this movement takes.

To ensure that we are moving forward together in the right direction, we will be asking for your feedback from now until the end of the year.

There will also be a couple of

special feedback sessions in November with more focused discussions, where we can share our thoughts about how things are going.

From September through the end of December, Tidal Pool will be bringing ministers to Sapperton for Sunday services, providing Adult Religious Exploration programs, helping with pastoral care, and guiding the Worship Team and Homily Club. There will certainly be a lot happening over the next four months!

Beacon has also signed up again with The Meaning Making Project, which will provide us with a service each month. These services will include a recorded sermon from a Canadian UU minister and will be presented by the Homily Club. The Homily Club will also be creating a couple of services of its own to bring to us.

Our first Sunday service back at Sapperton Hall will be on September 13 for our Water Communion with Rev. Debra Faulk. Watch for more information in *Beacon This Week*.

See you on September 13, when we will once again *Connect with Compassion & Respect, Inspire Learning & Spiritual Growth, and Transform through Joy & Justice*.

—David Kristjanson

Homily Club Update!

This fall will present an excellent opportunity for Homily Club members. Between September 13 and December 20 Beacon will host ELEVEN ministerial presentations at our services! The Beacon – Tidal Pool partnership will bring in three experienced ministers and one ministerial student. It will be an extraordinary opportunity to learn about crafting a worship service (flow of the service, music integration, readings, presentation styles and sermon—or homily—construction and delivery).

We will hold our first Homily Club meeting after the service on **September 27th**, and Reverend De Thorne (a former Beacon minister!) will attend the meeting.

In October the Homily Club meeting falls on October 25th. Details will be announced shortly. —Teresa Morton



Building a tomorrow with courage. Join the journey.

Beacon is embracing the future and launching into a great experiment! We have chosen to embark on a collective adventure by partnering with a ministers' cooperative called Tidal Pool. Tidal Pool will accompany us on this spiritual journey and provide guidance, spiritual sustenance, and Sunday Services along the way.

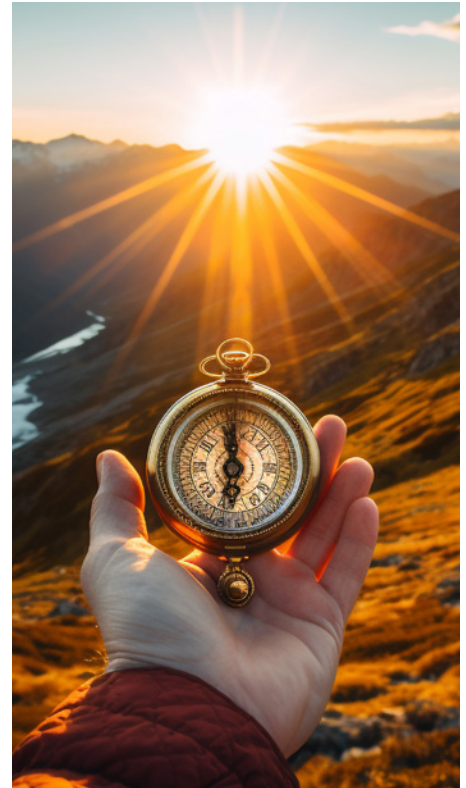
In November we will pool what we have learned over the first two months of our adventure to create a plan and a map for the year ahead. As the adventure continues in 2027, we know that there will be a need for ministry, a place to gather, pastoral care, volunteers and a small support staff. These are the things that create our strong and stable spiritual foundation and provide our community with spiritual learning, music, programs, and outreach.

Beacon is that strong and stable spiritual foundation and to complete our quest in 2027 we will need a strong and stable financial foundation as well. Beacon is entirely funded by

the generous donations of our members and friends, and each October we pledge what we will donate to our Beacon community over the next year. The pledge drive Sundays are October 4, 11, 18 and 25.

We pride ourselves on being a diverse community, which also includes a diversity of economic circumstances. The amount you pledge is completely confidential and will never be shared with the rest of the community. The question of how much to contribute can only be answered by you. It is always a balance between what your heart says to contribute and what your wallet says you can afford. You are part of this community and this journey, no matter what your current financial situation is and we trust that your pledge will be the right pledge for you. We only ask that you give as generously as you are able.

We are preparing a vision budget, which is one kind of map, and we have made the pledging process as smooth and easy as we can. Please ask

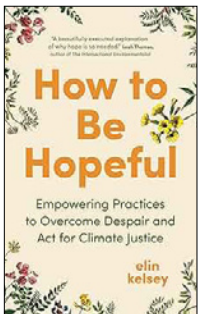


for help if you need it. We are ready, willing, and able to assist!

Join the journey as we venture into 2027 – with courage!

—Pledge Drive Committee

Caring for Our Planet: Gather, Learn & Find Hope



Workshop Series

How to Be Hopeful

Sat. Sept. 12

A new four-session series at Century House will explore Elin Kelsey's recent

book, *How to Be Hopeful*, and its implications for cultivating a hopeful stance on climate.

Teresa will lead the sessions on Saturdays, September 12 and 26, and October 17 and 31, from 10 a.m. to

noon. Sessions will be offered both in person and online.

Registration info coming soon.

Enviro-bee: Sept. 13

We gather after the service, allowing about 10 minutes for everyone to get coffee, tea and a snack. Teresa or a guest speaker will check in with participants about current environmental concerns and successes, followed by a short presentation on a topic of environmental relevance.

Enviro-bees are open to both in-person and online participants.

Nature Grief, Nature Gratitude

There will be no Enviro-bee in October. Instead, we invite you to attend a four-session series, *Nature Grief, Nature Gratitude*, led by ministerial student Reilly Yeo. The first session will take place Sunday, October 18, after Reilly's service—in person, downstairs at Sapperton Hall. See page 5 for more information and how to register.



Teresa Morton

—Teresa Morton

Small Groups, Big Topics: Two Fall Opportunities!

Adult Religious Exploration (ARE)

Loving Communities with Janet Pivnick (2 sessions)

As Unitarians, we aspire to create loving communities. While we all want to reap the benefits of being part of a loving community, the work of creating community can be challenging.

These two interactive sessions offer an introduction to ways of continuing to show up during difficult times. Session 1 explores internal processes, while Session 2 explores interpersonal processes that can help us navigate tension when it arises.

Location: Century House in New Westminster

- Tuesday, Sept. 29, 6:30–8:30
- Tuesday, Oct. 13, 6:30–8:30

Please register for Janet's two sessions by sending an email to Teresa M. at are@beaconunitarian.org.

Nature Grief, Nature Gratitude with Reilly Yeo

(4 sessions: *Participants must be able to attend all four sessions.*)

A small group ministry series with Reilly Yeo exploring our responses (body, mind and spirit) to the climate crisis. Reilly is co-founder of *My Climate Plan* and former Director of Communications and Public Engagement for the David Suzuki Foundation.

- Session One: Sunday, Oct. 18, 12 to 1:30 pm, downstairs at the Hall. Please bring a contribution to a potluck lunch.
- Session Two: Tuesday, Oct. 27, 6:30 to 8:30 pm via Zoom.
- Session Three: Tuesday, Nov. 2, 6:30 to 8:30 pm via Zoom.
- Session Four: Sunday, Dec. 20, from 12 to 2 pm, in person at Beacon after the Sunday service

Please register at: <https://events.humanitix.com/nature-grief-nature-gratitude-beacon>

Questions? Please connect with Teresa M at are@beaconunitarian.org.

Save
the
dates!

Beacon IS Music!

There's a lot happening at Beacon this fall in the music area! We have monthly MUSIC JAMS, wonderful opportunities to gather to sing. The first two Music Jams of the church year are taking place in New Westminster (connect with Teresa for the address), on Thursday evenings—September 10 and October 8 from 7–8:30 pm. Kate & Bill provide singing leadership and the Beacon Singers often present songs as well.

SING-ALONGS will be happening on select Sunday mornings at 10:10 am—be sure to take advantage of this PRE-SERVICE singing opportunity.

- September 20 and October 11:
Kate & Bill lead
- October 25: Beacon Singers will lead



NEW! Two exciting musical opportunities

SINGING WORKSHOP with Kathryn Nicholson

Friday, Oct. 16th & Sunday, Oct. 18th, Sapperton Hall

Learn and practice songs with Kathryn on Friday, October 16th and then sing for the congregation on Sunday, October 18th. Everyone is welcome.

Beacon Unitarian Musical Event (BUME)

An Evening with Shari Ulrich, A Concert for Compassion
Friday, Nov. 13th, 7 pm, Sapperton Hall

Tickets are \$35 in support of New Westminster Hospice Society. More info to come through the BTW. Mark your calendars now, enjoy a wonderful evening and support a good cause!

Music Jams

2nd Thursdays of every month, 7–8:30 pm

Music jams are an opportunity to share a song, to play music together or just come along to sing with others. Watch for reminders in the 'Beacon This Week' emails. Jams begin at 7:00 pm and run until 8:30 pm. All are welcome! Music Jams are happening Sept. 10th and Oct. 8th in New Westminster (Peg's amenity room).

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

In addition, donations can be made online (<https://bcvfd.food-bank.bc.ca/participant/124/417/>)

Thank you for supporting our neighbours with your donations.



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.

Sunday Sept. 27, 7:30: John Slattery will help us take a close look at two of our presumed Unitarian Sources: “Personal Experience” and our “Judeo-Christian Tradition”.

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

Book Club (in person) meets on fourth Fridays at 1 pm at John’s place in New Westminster. Book selections appear in *Beacon This Week*. Please read the book ahead of time so we can dive right into discussion. See the box on page 7 for our current books.

Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome! For information email John at 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) meets 1st and 3rd Fridays at 7 pm via Zoom. Some in-person events are arranged from time to time. For more information see page 6 or email Marilyn Medén: filmclub@beaconunitarian.org. The Zoom link is in Thursday’s email, *Beacon This Week*.

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 offer friendship and conversation in several small groups that meet both in person and online at different times throughout the month. New participants are always welcome. To learn more or find a group that suits your schedule, please contact either Beth C., Cathy B., Elizabeth C., or Teresa M. (see the Breeze directory for contact information).

NEW: Come into Circle! Dance & Chant in New Westminster

Come dance & chant to music from around the world. The dance steps are based on simple repetitive patterns, which become a peaceful moving meditation. Each dance & chant is taught separately. No partner or dance experience is needed. Everyone is welcome.

Date: 3rd Tuesdays starting Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2026

Time: 6:45 – 9 pm (beginning at 7 pm)

Location: 529 Queen’s Ave (at 6th Street) in New Westminster

Facilitators: Karin Roberts, Darlene Rainbow & Margaret Grocke

Cost: By donation (all proceeds to the United Church for use of the space)

What to wear and bring: Comfortable clothing, soft soled shoes and water bottle are recommended. *For everyone’s comfort, please come fragrance-free.*

For more information please contact:

newwestdanceandchant@gmail.com



We Dance and Chant ...

- For the earth and global peace
- For balance, healing and wholeness
- For joy, relaxation, growth and awareness
- In gratitude with a sacred intent

Note: Circle Dance and Chant was called into being by Mary Bennett after Beacon’s July 5th dance circle in Moody Park

Film Club (via Zoom)

Join us for engaging, respectful movie discussions where diverse opinions are welcome.

Our Friday Film Group has been meeting since the beginning of the pandemic. Each meeting begins with a brief presentation about the movie from the person who chose it, followed by an opportunity for everyone to share their perspectives and ideas. After everyone has contributed, we go around a second time and reflect on how our thinking may have been confirmed or changed by listening to others.

Film Group members contribute to the selection of movies. Some films lend themselves to a deeper dive, and there's always the option of doing some extra research.

Whether you adored the movie or didn't care for it, you'll find a welcoming environment where you can share your thoughts, hear new insights, and discover memorable movies that are inspiring, entertaining and always thought-provoking!

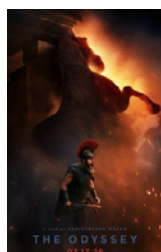
Logistics:

We meet on Zoom on the first and third Friday of each month at 7:00 pm.

View the film in advance, then come to the Zoom meeting to chat about it. 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*.



Sept. 4: **Odyssey**

Join the Friday Film Group for a special standalone discussion on this summer's blockbuster, *Odyssey*. You don't need to have

seen the movie to participate! Whether you've watched it already, are interested in the historical context or Christopher Nolan's filmmaking, or were put off by the violence, everyone is welcome to join the conversation.



September 18:

Fiddler on the Roof

(YouTube, presented by Pauline Atwood)

Set in a 1905 Russian village, *Fiddler on the Roof* follows Tevye, a Jewish milkman cling-

ing to his traditions. As his daughters marry for love, Tevye must balance faith, family, and a changing world.

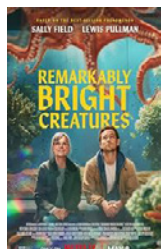


October 2: **Cast Away**

(YouTube, presented by Donna Webb)

Stranded on a deserted island after a plane crash, a FedEx executive must learn to survive physical

and mental isolation. With only his resourcefulness and a volleyball named Wilson, he fights to stay alive and find a way home.



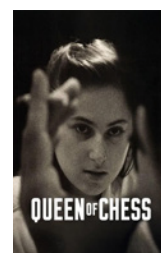
October 16:

Remarkably Bright Creatures

(Netflix, presented by Michael Scales)

Working the night shift at an aquarium, a grieving widow forms a unique bond with a remarkably clever octopus. With its subtle help, she

uncovers long-buried secrets about her son's disappearance decades ago.



November 6:

Queen of Chess

(Netflix, presented by John Hagen).

Follows the development of 3 sisters in Hungary into chess prodigies, especially the

youngest who became the undisputed women's world champion and also went on to beat most of the top male players in the world.

Beacon Book Club

Friday, Sept 25, 1 pm



The Piano Maker by Kurt Palka presented by Marilyn.

Helene Giroux arrives alone in St. Homais with an

elegant car and everything she owns in a small trunk. At the local church, she discovers a fine Molnar piano—the same make her family manufactured before the Great War. As Helene settles into a simple life, she recalls the events that brought her there: the loss of her mother and husband, an old suitor who rescues her and her daughter, and journeys from Indochina to the Canadian north. When the town policeman confronts her, her carefully buried past resurfaces.

Book club meetings are in person in John Hagen's home. Please RSVP to medenmarilyn@gmail.com or phone 604 469 6797. Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome!

Growing a Minister—Notes from the Field

By Janet Pivnick

Some Background: If you are new-ish to Beacon, you may not know that our congregation is sponsoring one of our members on her path to become a Unitarian minister. Janet Pivnick began her ministerial formation in 2020 with Beacon's sponsorship. Congregational sponsorship is an important requirement for people seeking ministry training, and an equally important way for a congregation

to contribute to the future of the Unitarian faith. Sponsorship is not a financial commitment but rather an indication of support for an emerging minister. Janet was an active lay leader in our congregation since joining in 2016 and has returned to the pulpit at Beacon a couple of times each year. She will be leading two Adult Religious Education sessions at Beacon this fall.



Janet Pivnick
Ministerial Candidate

As I enter into my final stages of ministerial formation, I wanted to report on the past year and provide an update about this upcoming year of my training. My main focus in 2025–2026 was the first year of my ministerial internship with Vancouver Unitarians under the supervision of Rev. Shawn Gauthier. An internship provides a candidate with an opportunity to take on the diverse roles of ministry, to reflect on their theology as it plays out in ministry, to step into a sense of ministerial presence and experiment with their own ministerial identity.

In addition, as part of my Masters of Divinity, I took courses in Religious Education from Starr King School for Ministry, Christianity in Antiquity from Vancouver School of Theology and UU History from Methodist Theological School of Ohio. The year was rich, providing many other ways to step into ministerial roles by supporting the lay led congregations in the lower mainland, taking ministerial workshops with the UUA (e.g. AI in ministry, creating safe congregations) and engaging

in conversations with seminarians and ministers across the continent.

In 2026–2027, I will be continuing with the second year of my two-year internship with Vancouver Unitarians. I would be delighted to see Beaconites in the pews on the days that I preach (dates below) and was very appreciative to see some familiar faces in the past year. In addition, I will be taking my final course in my masters program, UU Theology. I am starting a part-time position as Spiritual Care Outreach – Multifaith with First United in the downtown eastside. I will also be stepping onto the Nominating Committee for both the Canadian Unitarian Council and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers of Canada. I will be pulling back on other commitments as I enter the final stages of ministerial formation and ground myself in my own ministry in preparation for meeting with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee in 2027–2028.

Becoming a minister was not on my radar before setting foot in Beacon. Looking forward to wrapping up a career in environmental education,

I was not thinking of starting a new career that required extensive training. The many opportunities that Beacon provided to try on different forms of lay leadership and the excellent models of ministry that I saw at Beacon (both in our professional ministers and in fellow congregants) inspired and motivated me to take my life in a new direction that had a deep resonance with my values, my sense of self and the work that I want to do in the world. Ministerial formation has been the most challenging, rewarding, transformative experience of my life. I am incredibly grateful to Beacon both for planting the seed of ministry and for nurturing my ministry every step of the way.

I hope to see you in the “Loving Communities” program at Beacon this fall (information on page 5) or to see you on a Sunday morning at Vancouver Unitarians. Anticipated preaching dates this year are: September 27, October 11, November 8, December 24, February 7, February 14, March 28, May 9 or 16, June 13. Please check the VanU website to confirm dates – vanu.ca.



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Treasurer: Richard Hollins;
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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.