



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. 21st and October 19th and 26th. 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](https://www.beaconunitarian.org) homepage (on the righthand side of the page): [beaconunitarian.org](https://www.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 our website and in the weekly news update, *Beacon This Week*.*

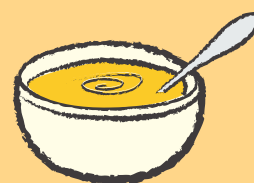
If you are a newcomer, Sunday service [general information](#) is found under the Services heading at the top of the website. Our services are designed for adults and we welcome all ages! If you would like us to follow up with you and get more information, you are invited to fill out the [Beacon Connecting Form](#) (on our website homepage).

*To receive *Beacon This Week*, our weekly e-news update, 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.

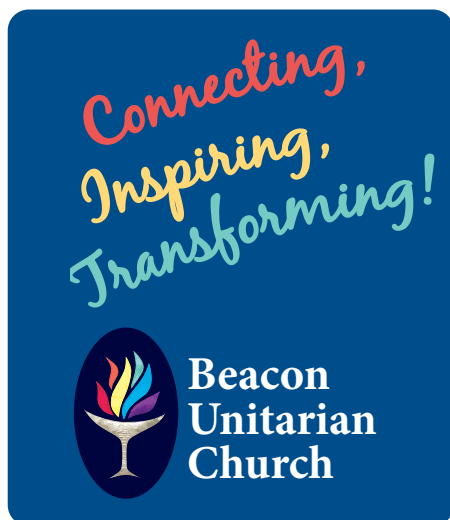
We look forward to connecting to you and getting to know you!



Soup Lunches

**Sunday, September 21
Sunday, October 12**

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 phone Augusta Hamilton, 604-941-2440.



The Practice of Embracing Change

From the *Meaning Making* Theme Packet, Oct. 2025

There is much advice about change: how to manage it, experience it, avoid it, choose it, survive it.

Change can be exciting and unsettling, joyous and uncomfortable. Whether we choose the change or it chooses us, there are always surprises. Some surprises are sharp and in focus, others float beyond our ability to put into words. Lynn, Fiona, Arran and I put ‘change’ at the beginning of this year’s Meaning Making series for a reason. Our theme for this year, “meeting this moment with love and justice,” is ambitious. What my swim coach used to call a stretch goal.

I’m glad I don’t have to wake up at 4 am to get to early morning swim practices anymore. But I do appreciate what I learned during that time:

- daily practice is what matters
- the first step in achieving a goal is understanding where I am at right now.

The spiritual work of embracing change starts with noticing and acceptance. If I try to paper over my grief at

my losses (for example), I miss out on an important experience. When I sit with my grief, when I share it with my community, and we are able to hold that grief together, a shift happens. The grief that was inside me is now in our communal space and this shifts my relationship to it. When we can look at it together, it doesn’t go away, but I am a little bit less overwhelmed by it.

We won’t be able to meet this moment with love and justice if we cannot meet ourselves and one another with acceptance, if not love. This is not a new idea. It is our legacy from the earliest Unitarians and Universalists: we are loved, we have inherent value. Accepting this message for ourselves will help us bring love and justice to one another, and to all the beings on this planet.

A big goal, for sure. But what could be more important? I look forward to this year with you.

Yours in community,

—Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz

IN FOCUS: CHANGING YOUR VIEW

Want to change the world? According to Ojibway author and journalist Richard Wagamese, it’s easier than you think—all you have to do is talk to your neighbour.

“It’s an elemental thing,” he explains. “The boundaries and perceived limits of your world change when you stop and talk to another human being. When you exchange stories—where you came from, how you got there, how your life is going—the addition of that one story to your reality changes your world.”

Seem too simple? For Wagamese, that’s the beauty of it. “It’s not a huge undertaking, it’s not an enormous task or a quest,” he says. “It’s just talking. If you multiply that exponentially over seven billion people, where everyone is sharing one story with each other, the number of strangers in the world shrinks by the same process—you actually affect change by sharing stories.”

—From an Interview by John Threlfall | Mar 15, 2011



LETTING GO— NEW BEGINNINGS

by Rev. Rosemary Morrison

Watch and learn from the trees,
their leaves are dying.
They do not suffer in silence, they
are shouting death from the tree
tops...

“Look, look!” each leaf proclaims
in vibrant colour.

This is the season of new
beginnings, of fresh starts,
another chance to try again.
Do the trees know they will leaf
out again?

Is this why they bravely allow each
precious little one to fall from
their grasp?

Learn from the trees.

As they let go, beauty emerges
with each falling leaf, each bare
branch, and the promise of new
life in the spring.

Board Bitz

The Board of Trustees of Beacon Unitarian Church met on June 19, 2025, in a spirit of collaboration and shared purpose. Our discussions reflected the care and dedication of board members, as well as a strong commitment to strengthening Beacon's vision of connecting, inspiring, and transforming.

Strategic Planning: Establish a Consultations Team

The motion to establish a Consultation Team for the 2025–2026 church year was raised by Teresa Morton, seconded by Susan Tarras, and approved by the board. The purpose of the consultation process is to ensure an inclusive, participatory, and holistic approach with the congregation on topics important to Beacon's long-term sustainability.

The Consultation Team will provide the board with guidance, based on congregational feedback, on how to move forward beyond the 2025–2026 church year in the following areas:

- What form of ministry should Beacon pursue (community-led, half-time ministry, quarter-time ministry, or other)?
- How should Beacon support this chosen form of ministry in terms of financial and volunteer resources?

The consultation process is designed to welcome everyone's input, encouraging participation and collaboration as we explore topics important to Beacon's long-term growth and well-being.

- Should the building fund be used to support ministry?

The Consultation Team will provide regular updates at monthly board meetings, with a final report submitted prior to April 2026 (the end of the current board term). The board also emphasized the importance of clarifying to the congregation that the

Beacon Implementation Team (BIT) will conclude its work by September 2025, at which point the Consultation Team will assume responsibility until its term concludes at the April 2026 AGM. The members are Teresa Morton, Susan Tarras, Phil Campbell, Peg Hinkley, Dominique Maisao, Cathy Burpee, and Deepak Sahasrabudhe.

Board Retreat, Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025 (10 am - 3 pm)

The board will meet to discuss what needs to happen over the new church year and how to make it a community-led church. Teresa Morton and Susan Tarras will meet prior to the retreat and send proposals to board members to review before the retreat.

On behalf of the board, we wish all Beacon members to savour the remaining sunshine and daylight hours during the month of September. We look forward to gathering again. See you in September.

—Lauren Casalis

Music Jams are happening again—September 11th and October 9th!

On the second Thursday of every month, Beacon holds a music jam where we get together and SING and PLAY MUSIC!

It is an opportunity to share a song, to play music together or just come along to sing with others. There will be reminders prior to each music jam so watch for them in the 'Beacon This Week' emails. The next two jams, September 11 and October 9, take place at Marylke's and begin at 7:00 pm and run until 8:30 pm.

Mark your calendars for these inclusive, fun events! All are welcome!



Unplanned harmony—Beaconites colour-coordinate at the June music jam!

Rooted in Community and Growing into Tomorrow

In a world where things are changing so quickly and isolation and turmoil often take centre stage, it becomes even more vital to have a place where we can grow into tomorrow while staying connected to what really matters. Beacon aspires to be that place. A place where we can be embraced, valued, and encouraged to share our gifts, ideas, and hopes for tomorrow.

This year, our pledge drive theme — **Rooted in Community and Growing into Tomorrow** — speaks to the balance we hold between honouring our past and reaching towards tomorrow. Through Sunday services, music, deep connection, and close friendships, we will tend the soil of community by taking the best of what has sustained us, and with your voice and vision, discover how we might make this world a better place.

Beacon has long been known as “*The Little Church That Could*”, and over the years our community has remained steadfast because our roots in love and community run deep. These roots keep us grounded and provide support and inspiration for our shared journey. They also give us the strength to grow into tomorrow, reaching out beyond our walls to the larger community with joy and justice.

We thrive on the richness of our diversity and we are constantly evolving to create a space where anyone and everyone can truly feel that they belong. As we say every Sunday, “*Whatever your heritage, whatever your faith, however you identify and whomever you love, you are welcome here.*”

As you can see, Beacon is our strong and stable *spiritual foundation*, but without a strong and stable

Beacon is our strong and stable spiritual foundation, and by nurturing a strong financial foundation as well, we secure a bright and enduring future.



financial foundation as well, we will not survive. We are entirely funded by the generous donations of our members and friends and each October we pledge what we plan to donate to our Beacon community over the next year.

**Our Pledge Drive
Sundays this year are
October 5, 12, 19 and 26.
Please watch your email for the
2026 Pledge Drive Package.**

This gives our treasurer the information needed to create a budget for the new year.

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. We pride ourselves in being a diverse

community and this includes a diversity of economic circumstances. How much you pledge is completely confidential and never shared with the rest of the congregation. We trust that your pledge will be the right pledge for you. **YOU BELONG HERE**, no matter what your financial situation is at this time, but we do ask that you give as generously as you are able.

As you consider your pledge for 2026, we invite you to reflect on just how much the roots of this community have nurtured you on your personal journey and on what dreams and ideas you might want to bring to the rest of us as we grow into tomorrow.

Our pledge drive Sundays this year are October 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th. Please watch for your pledge drive package in early October.

Celebration of Life for Dr. Rev. Ev Morris



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

Date: Friday, September 12, 2025

Time: 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Sapperton Community Hall
318 Keary Street, New Westminster,
BC V3L 3L2

We gather in love and remembrance to honour the life and legacy of our beloved Rev. Ev Morris—a

respected member of our church family, a Unitarian minister, and a friend to many.

A reception with a light buffet will follow. If you're able, you are warmly invited to bring a plate of ready-to-serve sweets or baked goods to share.

The service will also be available via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person. Here is the [link to register](#).

With Rev. Debra Thorne officiating, we will gather to share stories, music, prayer, and gratitude for a life of faithful service and loving presence.

The service will include about 10 minutes for spoken memories, and a guest book will be there to gather additional reflections. Did Ev ever help you to smile, think, connect, care, question, frown, believe, wonder, create, appreciate, or love? You're welcome to share a memory—a word, a short story, a poem, a song — whatever feels right to you.

Let us come together to honour Ev's memory and give thanks for the gift of his life among us.



CAREGIVERS—YOU ARE NOT ALONE.

The strain of caregiving for a family member or friend can leave you feeling exhausted, anxious, and isolated. To support caregivers, Century House is offering a five-week *Care for Caregivers Zoom series*, which offers participants a chance each week to pause, connect, and feel supported from the comfort of their own home.

Guided by a professional facilitator, participants will share experiences, learn from one another and guest speakers, access helpful information and resources, and have some fun along the way. Assistance with navigating Zoom is available. Open to caregivers aged 50+. A Zoom link will be emailed prior to each session.

Workshop Details:

Dates & Time: Tuesdays, 1:30–2:30 pm (Zoom opens at 1:00 pm)
September 9–October 7

Location: Online only via Zoom

Registration: Please register early by calling or visiting the Century House front desk: 604-519-1066. Or register online using this [link](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8456289692): <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8456289692>

Registration Fee: Free

Contact: For more information, email peggy.hinkley@gmail.com

Beacon's Implementation Team wraps up its work in September

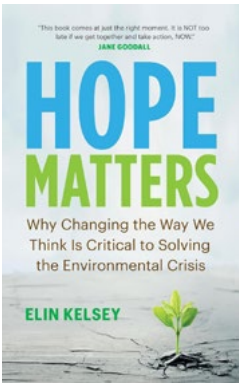
The Beacon Board has asked the Implementation Team (BIT) to conclude its work in September so that the Consultations Team can begin. (See Lauren's 'Board Bitz' article to learn about the mandate of the Consultations Team.)

BIT is completing its tasks in the areas of crafting a new Website, establishing monthly Music Jams, supporting Sing-Alongs and other music in our services, coordinating the transition of monthly Soup Lunch responsibilities, supporting Communication

& Marketing Committee, reviewing & compiling the results of the 2025 Pulse Survey plus working on improving parking at Sapperton.

Whew! That's just a partial list of what we've been working on! There will be a final report at the end of September.

Our profound THANKS to the members of the Implementation Team; Phil Campbell, Peg Hinkley, Dominique Mamisao, Cathy Burpee, Deepak Sahasrabudhe, Susan Tarras & Teresa Morton.



Hope Matters 2025 series: Eco-grief, eco-healing and finding your eco joy

A Program in Four Sessions:
FRIDAYS from 10 am to noon:
Sep 12, Oct 10, Oct 31, Dec 12.
(in person and on Zoom)

Facilitated by Teresa Morton and Peg Hinkley

This fall, Beacon Unitarian and Century House Seniors are again presenting a four-session series 'Hope Matters', an exploration of the critical role which hope plays in our climate emergency response. Elin Kelsey's book *Hope Matters*, and Joanna Macy's *Work that Reconnects*, provide the basis for our work together.

The series is held in person (in New Westminster) and online. Join the

series to explore eco-grief, eco-healing and finding your eco joy. Presenters include Karin Roberts (Joanna Macy's work) and representatives of New West Environmental Partners and the New West Climate Action Hub.

Registration is now open

Please use the New West Active Living Guide for registration (both in-person and [on-line](#)). Look in the

'General' section, then 'Workshops', Hope Matters is about 7th in the workshop listings.

Please let me know what questions you have!



Teresa Morton

Envirobee is back! Sept. 14 and Oct. 12

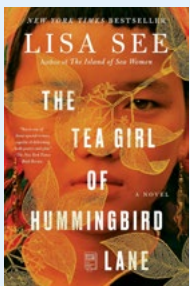
I've been monitoring the environment news (positive & negative) and I've collected lots of signs of climate progress which I want to share with you. We get together after the service finishes (allowing ten minutes for everyone to get coffee/tea & a snack). The Envirobee is for both in-person and on-line participants.

—Teresa Morton

(president@beaconunitarian.org)

Beacon Book Club (in person) For meeting details please contact John at bookclub@beaconunitarian.org.

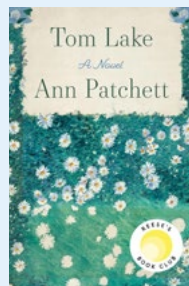
THURSDAY, Sept. 25, 7–9 pm



In *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*, Lisa See tells the sweeping story of Li-yan, a young woman from the remote Akha tea-growing people of China.

As the modern world encroaches, Li-yan rejects tradition, secretly leaving her newborn for adoption rather than following custom. While Li-yan builds a new life beyond her village, her daughter Haley grows up in California, wondering about her roots. Spanning cultures and generations, this powerful novel explores family, destiny, and the enduring bond between mother and child.

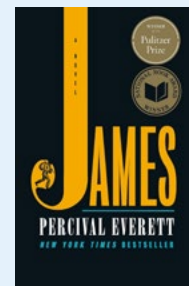
THURSDAY, Oct. 23, 7–9 pm



In *Tom Lake*, Ann Patchett weaves a luminous story of memory, family, and love. During the spring of 2020, Lara's daughters return to their Michigan

orchard, urging their mother to recount her youthful romance with actor Peter Duke at a summer theater company. As she reflects, her daughters reconsider their own lives and their mother's past. Both hopeful and elegiac, the novel explores love, happiness, and family with Patchett's trademark insight and emotional subtlety.

THURSDAY, Nov. 27, 7–9 pm



(Zoom meeting)
In James, Nathaniel Everett reimagines *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* from the perspective of the enslaved Jim.

When Jim learns he may be sold and separated from his family, he hides on Jackson Island, while Huck fakes his own death to escape his father. Their journey down the Mississippi is both perilous and transcendent. With sharp humor, incisive social observation, and Jim's intelligence and compassion at the forefront, this novel is a bold, action-packed retelling and a modern American classic.

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 28, 7:30 pm: Can we learn from the past? Can we act on what we learn? Referencing the book *One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This* by Omar El Akkad, Marilyn Medén will lead a discussion of the past and the future of civilization.

October 26, 7:30 pm: Al Sather will use Mark Twain's critical poetic essay *The War Prayer* to introduce discussion.

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 (in person and online)

meets on fourth Thursdays at 7 pm. Our next meeting is Sept. 25 at John's, 1834 London Street. We'll meet in person for October, then switch to Zoom for winter. 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 6 for current titles and contact details. Newcomers and drop-ins are always welcome!

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 sidebar 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 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. Please check the Breeze directory for contact information.



Beacon Film Club

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. 19: *A Taste of Honey* (YouTube, Kanopy), introduced by Richard Hollings

October Films

Oct. 3: *The Widow Cliquot* (Netflix), introduced by Judy Villett

Oct. 17: *American Symphony* (Netflix), introduced Pauline Atwood

SEPTEMBER AT U OF T

flip-flops;
Band-aids
on her ankles

Franci Louann (1946-2025)
September 21, 2009
Ontario haiku-like

CUC Fall Dismantling Barriers Events

Join CUC Dismantling Barriers Lead Camellia Jahanshahi.

Dismantling Barriers: [Engaging with Conciliation](#)

Join us on September 25th from 4-5:30pm PT as we talk about conciliation.

It's been 10 years since the Truth and Reconciliation report was released. What have we learned? What are we working on? How does uncolonizing and decolonizing fit into the work of creating sustainable faith movements? Let's talk about it!

Dismantling Barriers: [Lessons from Hogan's Alley](#)

Join us on October 23rd from 4-5:30 pm PT for our second learning opportunity this year to engage with the hidden histories of Black Canadians.

Have you heard of Hogan's Alley? Let's learn about it together! This session will come with a pre-packet available at the beginning of October. During the session we'll watch some materials together and then engage in discussion based on what we watched and the pre-packet given. We look forward to seeing you there!

Reclaiming Education

Join us at 4 pm on [Wed. Sept. 17](#), for a conversation with Watsenniiostha Nelson, Director of Education, Kanehsatà:ke. She will share her vision for transforming education from a tool of assimilation into a pathway of Indigenous reclamation and empowerment. Hosted by Amber Bellemare and Camellia Jihanshahi as part of Indigenous Solidarity Month.



Coffee Call: Volunteers Needed!

Love a good cup of coffee and great conversation? Help make our Sunday mornings warm and welcoming!

What's involved:

- 1st Shift: Arrive at 9:30 am to start the coffee brewing (great for early birds);
- 2nd Shift: Help with cleanup after the service; finished by 1:00 pm (perfect for those who like a slower start!)

Volunteer Details:

- Commit to one Sunday per month (1st or 2nd shift, or both).
- Training and support provided — you won't be on your own!
- We also need backup support volunteers for when regular hosts are away.

Want to help? Reach out to Beth at betcon42@gmail.com or cell 604-880-3287, or speak to Judy at judyvillett@gmail.com. Be part of creating those cozy, welcoming Sunday mornings — your coffee skills (and smiles!) are needed!



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

In addition, donations can be made online (<https://bcvfd.foodbank.bc.ca/fundraiser/beacon>) or mailed directly to Share Family and Community Services at 104 - 3020 Lincoln Ave., Coquitlam BC, V3B 6B4. Thank you for supporting your neighbours with your donations.



www.beaconunitarian.org
info@beaconunitarian.org

Mailing Address: Box 414,
407- 552 Clarke Road,
Coquitlam, BC V3J 0A3

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.