



About Us



A Newsletter for "The Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship"
250 Beach Drive, Comox BC V9M 1P9, Phone 250 792-4027 **Website:** www.cvuf.ca

Volume 29

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We respectfully acknowledge that we meet on the unceded traditional territory of the K'ómoks First Nation.

Sunday Gatherings

Zoom room opens as of **3:45 pm**, Gathering starts at 4:00pm

to Join Zoom Meeting: email website@cvuf.ca Dan Leahy danleahy7@gmail.com

Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 4:00 pm

Facilitator: Caroline Shannon - Community Gathering on this month's theme: an inter-generational service focusing on the value of our spiritual community. There will be extended breakout rooms with a choice of general conversation, discussion of the month's theme, or children's activities.

Tech Support: Greg Olynyk olynyk.greg@gmail.com

Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 4:00 pm - "Which of our UU principles touch us the most and how do we live by them?"

Facilitator(s): Juliana Leahy and Marvin Haave

CVUF Children's Program: Liz Goodger

Tech Support: Heather Gatland - website@cvuf.ca

Sunday, June 20, 2021 at 4:00 pm - Flower Communion

Facilitator: Deb Howard

CVUF Children's Program: Caroline Shannon

Tech Support: Heather Gatland - website@cvuf.ca

We take a break from our weekly gatherings from June 27 to September.

Our Jan. to June 2021 'Transforming Our World' Offering'

Will be donated to the Comox Valley Food Bank. This organizations' work is in line with our Unitarian principle affirming and supporting justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

<https://comoxvalleyfoodbank.ca/>

Care and Concern

Now having been in pandemic restrictions for over a year, and with increased travel restrictions recently added to this, you may be feeling particularly challenged by what is going on. If you need some emotional or practical support, the Care & Concern Team is available (while following COVID-19 guidelines for safety and health):



- Robyn Rushford – robynr@shaw.ca, 250-941-7001 (home)
- Keith Wallace - keith.wallace@shaw.ca, 250-941-7001 (home)
- Lynda Campbell – larrylynda@hotmail.com, 250-871-4143 (home)
- Rev. Meg Roberts – mroberts@uuma.org, 1-778-870-9015 (cell)

If you know someone in the congregation who is struggling, ask them if they'd like a call from Meg or one of the Care and Concern Team – if so, please let us know. We are all in this together.

Soul Matters Sharing Circle – A Place to Find Inspiration, Meaning and Connection



Come join our Soul Matters Circle, a small group that meets once a month to explore how the congregation's monthly theme can be woven into our lives. **We meet online**, using Zoom. Our next meeting is **Saturday, June 5 from 2:00-4:00 pm**, facilitated by Rev. Meg Roberts. We'll reflect on May's theme: **diverse multicultural beloved community**. If you'd like to attend, to receive the Zoom link, please contact Rev. Meg Roberts, mroberts@uuma.org or 778-870-9015. Newcomers are welcome. We hope you'll join us.



Tentative - Picnic at Kin Beach Park - Saturday, July 18, 2021 from *12:00 - 4:00 pm. Summer Fun and Fellowship!

This is our Fellowship's special time to get together in the summer, although like 2020, **this year's picnic will be subject to change according to Covid restrictions in July. Stay tuned for any necessary updates.**

We will meet by the covered brick and concrete barbecue area for the picnic.

Don't turn in at the park sign, but continue a bit further on Astra Bay Road to the parking lot on the right hand side.

Like last year, this year you must bring your own food, drink, dishes, and eatin' irons, as we will not be potlucking yet.

You may want to bring lawn chairs, sun hats, umbrellas, balls, frisbees and swimming gear. And masks. I will have a big thing of hand sanitizer and eco-friendly spray cleaner.

Kin Beach is a dog-friendly park on the beach with outhouses available. We'll meet drizzle or shine. There is limited shade and 2 covered picnic tables. We will not use the BBQ itself, just the space.

I can hardly wait to see you there!

If you have any questions please contact Donna Ziner dmziner@yahoo.ca or 250 338-6844

***Note time change from previous year.** Please try to be there by 1 pm if you can so we can eat together apart!

On Board

Spring has sprung and summer is around the corner. This has been a challenging year for all of us and we are feeling the pull toward brighter days. One thing we can certainly be grateful for is each other. The strength of our Fellowship to be able to get through this difficult year intact represents our commitment to each other and this beloved community.

With the vaccines going strong and our diligence in following all recommended health protocols as advised by our PHO Bonnie Henry, we're turning a corner. We hold the health and safety of everyone in this community very close to our hearts and we will keep you updated with our latest protocols as they arise. **Please watch your Communicator and check the website for all the latest news regarding our policies around health regulations for members and friends of the CVUF.** Gatherings will stay on-line to finish this year. We also recommend all our small group meetings remain online until we get the okay to do otherwise.

Your Board has committed to give \$500.00 to the Community Justice Centre for the Campagnolo Lecture on Restorative Justice. Part of the Mission and Purpose of the CJC is to:

-To educate, engage and involve residents in activities and processes that seek non-violent solutions to criminal and other hurtful conduct.

-To promote, support and encourage harmonious living together throughout the Comox Valley."

These are visions our Fellowship will stand beside. Please check out their website:

<https://www.communityjusticecentre.ca/about/>

This year for the CJC 10th Anniversary Celebration, the presenter is "Ms Terri-Lynn Williams-Davidson, an Indigenous lawyer, artist, musician, and cultural activist. The Celebration will incorporate the Lecture, as its centrepiece, as well as including an exhibition of her show, "Out of Concealment." There will also be a concert of her music. The Lecture grows out of her work as a First Nations lawyer defending environmental and cultural rights on indigenous lands."

Although we will miss Rev Meg Roberts greatly, we look very forward to celebrating her 9 years with us on Saturday, June 12 at 7pm ZOOM TIME. Let's give Meg the wonderful sendoff she deserves to take her into the unfolding journey ahead. **IF YOU HAVE ANY PICTURES OF OUR TIME TOGETHER WITH MEG PLEASE SEND THEM TO US AT board@cvuf.ca**

Much gratitude to see you all at the AGM. We have some decisions to make as a community about our way forward post Rev Meg Roberts, and your input will be invaluable to us. Your Board is committed to working with you on this new path forward for the CVUF.

The Board was also thrilled to hear about the support for our 8th Principle on Anti Racism. However, to align with our 5th Principle, the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large, more discussion and feedback needs to be had from all congregations before the final decision is made to accept it. We look forward to doing that important work together with you for a final vote in November. Stay tuned, your input is important.

GREAT NEWS FROM OUR PREMIER AND PHO TODAY (May 25). BC BEGINS a 4 STEP PLAN TO LIFT ALL RESTRICTIONS. What this means for us is that our **KIN BEACH PICNIC, ON JULY 18, FROM 12-4**, may go ahead. Of course, everyone should honour their own comfort level, bring their own food, drink and cutlery, but outdoor gatherings can be enjoyed, again, with a safety plan. Watch for more information about the picnic in the Communicator.

In closing,

May the warmth of this summer and connecting more with our family and friends, as things open up slowly but surely, bring us all renewed joy.

Your CVUF Board (Liz Goodger, Arlene Bell, Juliana Leahy, Barb Huhn, Dan Leahy, Meg Roberts)

Musings by Meg



Reflection on June's Theme: Principled Living

This congregational year, we have explored our Unitarian Universalist principles during our Sunday Gatherings, in our monthly theme packets, and in our adult Soul Matters Circle gatherings (as well as some other small groups). This month, the Community Gathering Team and I invite us all to take a few steps back and looking at the whole approach of trying to live according to our principles. Our Unitarian Universalist principles are

We covenant to affirm and promote:

- *The inherent worth and dignity of every person;*
- *Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;*
- *Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;*
- *A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;*
- *The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;*
- *The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;*
- *Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

Our principles' statement starts with our commitment to be in covenant with one another. Last September's theme was "Covenant and Community." What does it mean to be part of a covenanting community? Last month we explored a principle that has been proposed in North American Unitarian Universalist circles about building a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions. The Canadian Unitarian Council is actively discussing adding a form of this as an 8th principle (with a congregational process happening from June to November): [A Way Forward for the 8th Principle.](#)

Why are we focusing on principles this year? They ground us during this time of great uncertainty. They can act like a moral compass to give us direction in how to act in our lives. We will need this compass as we again shift our behaviour in relating to one another as pandemic restrictions gradually lift in the coming few months (if all goes well).

Over this year, I have been so inspired by hearing people talk about the challenges and the joys of practicing these principles in their daily lives. Talking about who inspires them by their example of living according to their values. The principles are beautiful concepts and not easy to live up to! So, this month, I invite you to spend some time with them – perhaps sitting outside on your balcony, in your garden, or in a park, enjoying June's warmth. Here are some questions to consider:

- Which principle is most challenging for you these days?
- Which principle is giving you the most joy?
- Which principle would you word differently or add?
- What principle is missing that you would name as important to you?
- Which principles show up in your moral compass this month?

I hope your explorations this month help provide you with a feeling of being grounded while other things are shifting around you. I hope your reflections offer a sense of direction for living and serving within this covenanted community, within your families and within the larger community.

Saying a Good Goodbye

It has been a real privilege having nine years together in shared ministry. So, it was with mixed emotions that I informed the board and congregation that I won't be seeking to renew my contact after this one ends on June 15. As I said in my May 1st letter to the congregation, it was important to me to have continued together this year while we are in a pandemic. I also learned that to continue to do quality ministry and have good health and well-being, I need to simplify my life and lessen my load. I am very grateful to the Board and to all those of you who have expressed your support for me to do what I need to for my well-being.

As part of saying a good goodbye, we will have time together to celebrate our shared ministry at an online party, Saturday, June 12, 7-8:30 pm (more information elsewhere in this newsletter). If you're not available then, or even if you would just prefer a one-on-one goodbye with me, contact me so we can arrange a phone call or zoom call.

Having a good goodbye includes letting go when the time comes. It is a common best practice that when a minister leaves serving a congregation, they take a period of time with no contact between themselves and the staff, members and friends of that congregation. This is to allow time for a new minister to develop relationships with the congregants and staff (if a new minister is sought); and just to have time to let things settle into a new rhythm in the congregation. (It also allows the former minister to move on with the ministries they are engaged with). I know from experience how useful and important it is (even if it might feel unusual for those of you who haven't experienced such a practice before). I am electing to have a one-year period during which I won't be in contact with CVUF members, friends, and staff (as of July 1). (I will also shift things accordingly on my Facebook contacts and other social media connections). I ask that you respect this decision on my behalf and not contact me. This also allows you to turn your energies to developing these other relationships and move on with other ways of creating a shared ministry at CVUF.

I know that I will miss you. As I mentioned in my annual report, I think we have explored what a creative, innovative ministry together could look like. What it means to be a spiritual community in the 21st Century. This has meant experimenting, learning when everything didn't go as planned, then trying out something else. This has led to CVUF:

- going from two Sunday services a month to offering weekly Sunday Gatherings
- developing a stronger online presence
- moving from a sense of scarcity about finances to developing a valued-driven congregational culture of stewardship
- developing sustainable programming and staffing positions

It has been my privilege to work in a wonderful staff team with Young People's Spiritual Exploration Program Facilitator Caroline Shannon and Administrative Coordinator Lorna Tutte (as well as with other staff over the years). I am so incredibly grateful to the dedicated and capable leaders, members, friends, and families I have worked with, laughed with, cried with, and learned with over these years.

This Fellowship has a very special place in my heart. I will continue to feel gratitude for our time together and all I've learned and experienced with you along the way. I also know that you are a strong and resilient community. I wish you many blessings as you continue in your mission: transforming yourselves and our world through compassionate action. It is an honour to have served alongside you.

In the Spirit, Rev. Meg Roberts

How to reach me

As I live in Vancouver, I'll continue meeting virtually with you over the phone, email, or through an online platform (Skype or Zoom): mroberts@uuma.org Cell: 778-870-9015. Mondays and Tuesdays are my regular days off, so if you reach my voice answering system, please leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

My schedule from June 1-15:

- **June 4: Community Gathering Team Meeting (7-9pm)**
- **June 5: Board meeting (10am – 12noon) and Soul Matters Circle (2-4pm)**
- **June 12: Shared Ministry Party (all welcome!) (7-8:30pm)**
- If you need assistance on congregational matters between June 1-15 when I'm not available, or after June 15 (the end of my contract with CVUF), please email the Board of Directors, board@cvuf.ca or if you would like emotional support, contact one of the members of the Care and Concern Team (their contact information appears later in the newsletter).

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What BC's Restart Plan Means for CVUF May 26, 2021

It is good news that PHO Bonnie Henry is announcing a gradual return to social gatherings. As always the BC plan is based on data and science about the COVID-19 virus and its variants. CVUF works from the PHO recommendations to plan for what seems safe for our community as we gradually return to in-person gatherings.

CVUF Board holds the safety of this community and its individuals close to our hearts. The BC Restart Plan may allow larger gatherings in June, however, **we will continue meeting only virtually, on Zoom, through our last service in June.** Though the BC Restart Plan immediately allows gatherings of up to ten individuals outside or inside with distancing and masking precautions, **we advise our small groups to continue meeting virtually for now.** This is because we have concerns about the increased risky behavior over this recent holiday weekend. In the past there have been spikes in number of cases after holiday gatherings. *We advise this more cautious approach to protect the people in congregation who are at increased risk of serious infection.*

If things progress as the BC Restart Plan optimistically hopes **we could look forward to meeting in person again in the Fall.** (data depending). We will monitor recommendations during the summer, and let you know if we are able to hold our picnic at Kin Beach Park on July 18th.

Even when we return to in person gatherings, we will offer an on-line live streaming of Sunday Worship gatherings. This will make our worship accessible to those among us who might not be able to attend physically. Looking forward to all gatherings of our Beloved CVUF Community.

The Board- Dan Leahy, Arlene Bell, Liz Goodger, Juliana Leahy, Barbara Huhn, Rev Meg Roberts



A Way Forward for the 8th Principle Process

At the CUC's AGM on May 8, there was a spontaneous motion from the floor to immediately adopt an 8th principle, which states: "We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote: "Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and other oppressions in ourselves and in our institutions." Although this motion passed with a majority vote, a careful review of the proceedings and AGM transcript following the AGM revealed that in allowing the motion to proceed, the CUC did not properly follow the requirement of prior notice for motions, and as a result, we violated [our own bylaws](#) (refer to bylaw #3). The CUC bylaws supersede all other rules and procedures, thus making the motion invalid and, as such, it does not stand.

We want to be clear that this does not invalidate the passion or commitment we have for this issue. We know that there is hurt and confusion following this outcome. But we want to get this right. We want to ensure that there is never a question that Canadian Unitarian Universalists are deeply committed to upholding the principle of dismantling racism and other oppressions, and committed to the work it requires.

We propose a Special Meeting, to be held on Saturday, November 27, 2021. By holding it in late November, we aim to provide time for congregations to discuss the matter. This meeting will focus on the 8th principle and the process by which it was approved, discussion of the Dismantling Racism Study Group's findings and recommendations, proposed motions arising from the recommendations, plans from CUC Board and staff on implementation, and an overview of the CUC's bylaws, rules of order, and resolutions process.

In the meantime, the next [two leaders roundtables](#), taking place May 29 and June 26, will both be devoted to the topic of the 8th principle process, and we encourage everyone to bring their questions and ideas to these meetings. We have also compiled ['A Way Forward for the 8th Principle Process'](#) document that aims to answer many questions people may have.

The CVUF board will host a conversation in September on the CUC materials coming out (watch for more details in the September newsletter and the weekly Communicator email). Questions? Contact: board@cvuf.ca

The Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship

c/o 250 Beach Drive, Comox BC V9M 1P9, Phone 250 792-4027

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Consulting Minister: Rev. Meg Roberts mroberts@uuma.org Phone 1-778-870- 9015

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If you no longer wish to receive this Newsletter please email cvufcoord@gmail.com and let me know.