



BELONG WITH HEART. THRIVE IN SPIRIT. ACT IN SERVICE

SUMMER

at

North Shore Unitarian Church

Sundays:

1. Each Sunday, we will offer a 10:30am “Conversations” (via Zoom*) with a different person giving a 5-minute presentation to launch the topic. (See the schedule on the right; use Zoom links in the eBulletin).
2. The CUC is offering “Across Canada” services Sundays at 1pm our time, with each service hosted by a different church. NSUC is hosting the first session on July 5th. Details and registration [HERE](#).

Pastoral Care: During Rev. Ron’s away dates (see the [church calendar](#)), he will not necessarily be available by email or phone. For pastoral care emergencies, contact him at 604-999-3690 or rev.phares@northshoreunitarians.ca.

Lay Chaplain: Our Lay Chaplain, Lindsay Hindle, will be available throughout most of the summer to perform Rite of Passage services. Contact the Church Office if you need her assistance.

Board of Trustees: One or more Board Officers will be available throughout the summer. If needed, contact Board President Robyn Newton (president@northshoreunitarians.ca or 604-551-0313) or Vice President Brian Welwood (via the church office).

Staff Away Dates are shown on the church calendar. Staff may (or may not) be able to respond to emails during their away dates.

Conversation Topics

10:30am Sunday mornings

July 5th “The Lessons of Covid 19—Home and Away” with Leslie Gibbons

July 12th “Exploring Our Connections with the Wider UU World” with Marcia Stephenson

July 19th “Is Literature Transformational for the Reader?” with Jennifer Williams

July 26th “The Myth of Personal Responsibility” with Ryan Guenther

August 2nd “What Is Your Coming Out Story?” with Cynthia Becker

August 9th -A Leap Into Existential Questions” with Joy Silver

August 16th “Our First Principle” with John Slattery

August 23rd “Our Culture’s Hero Narrative” with Cara Elrod

August 30th “Living Our Values Environmentally” with Marcia Stephenson & Barb Kroon

September 6th “Can Secularists Bring Religious Intensity to Redeeming Our Actual Existence?” with Karen Funt (inspired by [THIS](#) essay)



Summer Office Hours: Weekdays 9am-2pm

unless otherwise shown on the Church Calendar.

We’ll be closed Wednesday, July 1st (Canada Day) and Monday, August 3rd (BC Day).

From Our Minister



Rev. Ron Phares

rev.phares@northshoreunitarians.ca

Well, that was strange. I don't need to recount the reasons. They are all over the nightly news. What's more relevant is our reaction as a spiritual body of spiritual bodies. The Pandemic era of congregational life has not been easy. It is certainly not preferred. And yet, we have discovered some new modes of conducting our spiritual community that have been an improvement because of it. I have even heard it said that in some ways, this physical distancing has brought us closer together and lowered some barriers.

But where the last part of this past year has been about adapting and reacting, the future is about game planning. We know the future is uncertain. But even uncertainty can be accounted for. Indeed, any game plan worth its salt factors for uncertainty. And so it is that we will proceed with multiple plans in the process of coming together.

Will we be able to gather on Sundays? My best guess is that this is not likely for sometime. However, we are exploring the possibilities of a re-integration that takes place in phases and seeks to accommodate as many people as we can in as many ways as we are able. And let it be known that we will forever more be streaming our services on YouTube and conducting some portion of church life on Zoom. Hopefully, those will be elective rather than necessary.

In light of all that, we will need to craft new and sustainable ways of doing church. Or perhaps it is more accurate to say, we will need to emphasize ways that already exist (such as small group ministry) and explore entirely new territories. There is a profound power in both of those paths. The next year promises to be deliciously ripe with possibilities.

Big picture, the puzzle is thus: how to shift the location of our congregation from physical to mental, from spatial to spiritual? I've got some ideas cooking on this. But regardless of form, the bottom line will be *intentionality*. It takes intent to form new habits and we will be in the business of forming new habits. It won't always be comfortable or convenient or smooth. Sometimes it won't be immediately even worth it. But mostly, and overall, I predict it

will cultivate in more earnest fashion than ever before the mission of this congregation: to encourage one another to live with greater depth, meaning, and purpose. And I for one can't wait.

Or... maybe I can wait. Hey, it's the end of the year. I'm ready to take a knee, catch my breath, and rest up. I'll be heading out or in or, at any rate, *elsewhere*, in early July, late July and early August (see the [Church Calendar](#) for specific away dates). In the meantime, I will be around, working in the office and from home or philosophizing in the shade of a tree. We'll kick off the year with some version of water communion the second Sunday of September.

Until then, know that my family and I are delighted to be here. We have felt incredibly welcomed by you all, very much cared for. You have touched our hearts. I feel entirely in the right congregation and

am giddy over the direction in which we are moving. There is an integrity in this congregation that I value more than I can say. It runs right through staff, members, and friends. I love you.

“THE NEXT YEAR
PROMISES TO BE
DELICIOUSLY RIPE
WITH POSSIBILITIES.”

May you have a blessed summer.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Ron

From Our Board President



Robyn Newton, Board President
president@northshoreunitarians.ca

This is a time of great change. It is a time of fear and courage, of anger and love. It is a time of retreating into our homes and reaching out to one another, a time of “villains” and heroes. Some of my heroes are congregation members who step into leadership roles at times of great uncertainty. I

acknowledge all the unsung heroes who have stepped up in our caring community to help in different ways.

COVID forced us to change the way we work, and how we gather and care for each other. As usual during times of crisis and change, our congregation has swiftly risen to the challenge. The switch to online services and programs was implemented very quickly and successfully, and Rev. Ron Phares’ de-

cision to cancel the service March 8th after two COVID cases were identified in Lynn Valley, may turn out to be one of the best decisions ever made for our congregation.

Other great things that happened this year past include:

- Heart, Mind & Spirit’s work with the Congregation on Truth & Reconciliation, facilitated by Catherine Strickland
- Rev. Ron Phares’ Integration Circle, where congregants investigate and integrate what happens on Sunday into their daily lives in a more profound and lasting way.
- Mid-week Ministry: another opportunity to join with our Minister, stay grounded, find inspiration, and feel connected to the NSUC community in the middle of the week.

“I ACKNOWLEDGE
ALL THE UNSUNG HEROES
WHO HAVE STEPPED UP
IN OUR CARING COMMUNITY
TO HELP IN DIFFERENT WAYS.”

These are just a few highlights of many. I encourage you to read our Annual Report to see just what a busy congregation we are!

Looking forward:

Your Board is working on a public statement to condemn systemic racism in Canada; if you are interested in providing input, please email me at president@northshoreunitarians.ca.

We have been told by congregation members that any statement needs to be supported by clear commitments to action, including learning more about the issues, and uncovering our own unconscious biases. While the statement will be made on behalf of the Board and the Minister, we wish to engage all congregation members who wish to be involved in our journey to deeper understanding. We will explore our next steps over the summer. Look for additional information in the fall newsletter.

Sunday Conversations: in lieu of regular Sunday services over the summer, we will be offering Sunday morning “Conversations” at 10:30am. I am delighted to report that all the “conversation starter” spots have been filled. I look forward to what I am sure will be stimulating and thought-provoking conversations.

The Integration Circles and mid-week ministry will take a break over the summer, but will resume again in September. I look forward to joining them!

Have a wonderful, safe and joyful summer on these lands known to many of its original human inhabitants as “Turtle Island”. I am overwhelmed with gratitude, and hope.

~ Robyn Newton

Children's Program



Lynn Sabourin
Director of Lifespan Learning
lsabourin@northshoreunitarians.ca

This has been quite a year! Who would have known that the last four months of church would be online, pushing us to adapt to technology that we will use going forward. In a June service, I would normally recognize the Children's Program adults who helped during the year. Instead, I will acknowledge them here in print, and leave a little gift on their doorsteps over the coming days. These people give their time, talent and energy to our children every Sunday as teachers and support workers behind the scenes. Without them, we would not have a Children's Program.

Thanks so much to Cara Elrod, our wonderful Children's Program Assistant; Joan Cox for help with crafts and mailings; Olivia Bornik, Jen Ritchie and Phil Watt who serve on our Family Ministries Team; Jasha Ramsay-Latter and Alison Nixon for all their work on the Christmas play; and teachers Jilly Watson, Elizabeth Cody-Rutter, Sam Moller, Catarina Gomes, Erin McNeill, Susanne Krebs, Jessica Motherwell, Bill Richardson, Doug Sabourin, Kay Welwood, and Gabi Harvey.

I want to send a very big shout-out to Cara, Jessica and Bill, who became Zoom masters while we were in COVID shutdown. Every Sunday during this time, they Zoomed with the children online. Cara and I met with children in Grade 2-5, and Jessica and Bill with the young people in Grade 6-7. They became imaginative in creating activities that could be bagged and delivered every couple of weeks to children's homes (safely, of course). It is challenging to keep the children connected when physical contact is not possible. The common activities and snacks helped to bridge the divide. I can't thank Bill & Jessica enough for their wisdom, patience, creativity and enthusiasm! Here is what Jessica said just before leaving for the summer: "This class — going into a pandemic — has been a one-of-a-kind, scrambling, experimenting, failing, laughing, thrilling adventure with darling kids who brought their best to every class. We feel honoured to have been part of this adventure!"

In planning for the fall, we are exploring ways to safely have Church School. We will continue to heed the advice of Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, as we consider alternative ways of coming together. While the weather is still agreeable, we may be able to meet outside, we may have small family circles meeting offsite, and we may have a combination of online and social distancing in-person meetings. Given the cleaning protocols required for the daycare classrooms, we want to avoid using those rooms as much as

possible. Besides, social distancing is difficult in those small spaces. We are open to your ideas! Phone me at 604-926-1621 or email me at lsabourin@northshoreunitarians.ca. Safety is of the utmost importance.

~Lynn Sabourin





**Unitarian A – Z
4pm on select Tuesdays
June 28th to August 25th**

Looking for something a little different this summer? The CUC invites us to join John Sproule on the Don Heights Congregation Zoom Channel for a light-hearted PowerPoint show on Unitarian, Universalist and UU biographies. Offered at 4 pm PT on these select Tuesdays: June 28th, July 14th, August 11th & 25th. Each session will focus a different section of the alphabet and will feature audience participation! Details [HERE](#) (cuc.ca “events”).



Lunch Bunch

Many of us miss our church friends and would like to share time in full view of each other. Join us at the church outside (or in the Fireside Room during inclement weather) — 6 feet apart either way. Bring a brown bag lunch and a travel mug of tea. We meet on Thursdays: June 25th, July 9th & 23rd, and August 13th & 27th. Hope to see you there! Call Joanna for more info or questions (604-904-9535).



Soul Matters

Soul Matters is a small group ministry program that uses a finely crafted curriculum put together by a focused professional group of UU ministers. This program has run for three years and will continue again in September.

Study packets (which include readings, questions and resources) are sent out monthly, and then groups of 6 -10 people meet once a month (by Zoom or in person, maintaining physical distance) to share their reflections. The process focuses on a practice of deep listening and validating each other’s experience. Contact Anne Mayall (778-686-3643

or annemayall51@gmail.com) to join or facilitate a group.

Each month we focus on a new topic, which is usually also reflected in the service sometime in that month. During July and August, many groups may take a break — but if you’d like to continue (with self-study or a group), the themes are “Embodiment” (July) and “Covenant” (August). Printed copies of these packets are available on the foyer table, or you can access them online using the links provided in each eBulletin. These are available to all, whether or not you’re in a Soul Matters group. For more information or to have the packets emailed to you monthly please contact the Church Office (604-926-1621 or info@northshoreunitarians.ca).



Statement Against Systemic Racism

Your Board is working on a public statement to condemn systemic racism in Canada. To provide input, please email Robyn Newton. Congregation members have said that our statement needs to

be supported by clear commitments to action, including learning more about the issues, and uncovering our own unconscious biases. While the statement will be made on behalf of the Board and the Minister, we wish to engage all congregation members who wish to be involved in our journey to deeper understanding. We will explore our next steps over summer. Look for more information in the fall newsletter.



Volunteer Awards

We appreciate the many, many volunteers who give of their time and talent to help our church run smoothly. Each year, we recognize several outstanding volunteers. In our May 24th service, we presented Paul Symons with the Mary Segal Distinguished Service Awards for his many years of

volunteering in our Youth Program, as well as being a Sound Board Operator and Building & Grounds volunteer. Service Certificates were issued to Kerry Burke, Nicole Hostinsky, Ross Harvey, Cynthia Becker, Jean Prescott & Barb Kroon — all of whom have provided invaluable service to our church. Special thanks to all who have volunteered this past year!

Grocery Receipt Program



City Market and IGA Dundarave participate in our Grocery Receipt Program. For each \$5,000 worth of receipts, these stores give us gift cards that Nora Coates converts into cash donations to the church. Since 1999, this program has earned over \$7,000 for the church! If you shop at these stores, put your receipts on the bulletin board in the stairwell. It results in “free money” for the church!



Do You Receive Our Weekly eBulletins?

Subscribe to our eBulletins to receive weekly updates such as:

- Sermon titles, descriptions and speakers.
- Church news and events.
- Invitations to Canadian Unitarian events.
- General meeting & Town Hall invitations.
- Social Action events.
- Library news.
- Sunday lunch invitations.
- Links to Zoom events.
- And more!

If you're not receiving these weekly emails, please contact [Janni in the Church Office](#) to be added to the list.

From Our Cares & Concerns Team

This spring, everything shifted. Suddenly many of the ways in which we care and support each other were no longer safe. Zoom became our virtual reality for meeting with each other. The connection we found in being in the sanctuary and meeting for coffee afterwards transformed into an online, YouTube presence. We hear and see each other, and for the most part, this is enough for now.

Our Cares & Concerns Team has been calling many of our members and friends. We welcome anyone who feels they could benefit from a regular call or check-in to let us know. Many community organizations have stepped up to provide additional services to help with shopping, meals, and other resources during this pandemic.



A link to many can be found on our website. Click [HERE](#) to review the Community Resources at the bottom of the webpage.

We know this is a challenging time for many of us who may feel overwhelmed, isolated and concerned about our future. We try to be aware of those among us who need extra support or are in vulnerable situations.

If we can assist you or someone you know, we care and we are here to help. Please contact our Co-Chairs: [Barb Kroon](#) (604-986-3166) and [Jean Prescott](#) (604-924-6006).



Artarian News

We hope artists are enjoying the sun and able to get out of the studio to their favourite spots for outdoor painting, sketching or photography. Because we have not been meeting in the Sanctuary, you will notice the bare walls with no art on display. The Artarians have instead been focusing on a digital monthly art show on our website and Facebook page. After some trial and error, we have a system that will work now and for the future.

Once we are back to meeting in the Sanctuary, we will have both a physical display on the Sanctuary walls as well as the digital version on the website. Also, many of artists will have given permission for their digital images to be used during the services if appropriate.

We have made one small change in our display schedule. We will be changing up the art every two months starting this September. Our June art show on the website will continue through August.

Things to watch for in the future:

- Opening events for the art shows in the Sanctuary with the artist present.
- Our Christmas sale of wreaths.
- Art cards and other artworks for display and sale.

~ Beverly Grice
Artarian Chair

Outreach

Each Sunday, 100% of our offering plate collections, unless otherwise marked, are given to the charity featured that month.

Recent Outreach Recipients and amounts (rounded to the nearest dollar) are:

February: [Rainbow Refugee](#) (\$1,453)

March: Our Partner Church in Hungary (\$1,339)

April: [Edible Garden](#) (\$573)

May: [SOS Children's Village BC](#) (\$465)

During **June, July** and **August**, our Outreach Recipient is [RAVEN](#) (Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs). RAVEN raises legal defence funds to assist Indigenous Peoples who enforce their rights and title to protect their traditional territories. To donate, send your cheque or eTransfer to our Church Office (clearly labeled as a "RAVEN" donation). Contact Janni for additional details.



Keeping Our Staff and Congregation Safe

During the summer, our Board and staff will put together a Covid Safety Plan using the template required by WorkSafe BC and Vancouver Coastal Health. The Plan will outline the policies, guidelines, and procedures that will reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission at church. We will post the Plan in our foyer and on our website, and will distribute it to congregants via email once it is complete. In the meanwhile, our staff have implemented some extra cleaning procedures that will help them to stay safe while at work. We encourage everyone to continue general recommendations such as hand washing frequently, avoiding contact with shared surfaces, staying home when sick, social distancing, and wearing a mask when in public places.



Summer Eliot sessions are online!
More info and registration at
<https://www.eliotinstitute.org/>.

July 11-18, the theme is "Lifting Up the Sky: Myths, Poems, Songs, and Rituals of Healing and Renewal" with Storyteller Will Hornyak. In challenging times of radical change when collective despair and grief can seem to overwhelm the spirit, deaden the soul and impair vision, the ancient medicines of story, poem,

song and ritual are essential in healing and renewal. As well as reweaving the torn fabric of communal life, these age-old practices can remind us of the unique medicine we each carry and inspire us to come forward with the healing and blessing that we alone can bestow to the world.

August 1-8, the theme is "The Storyteller's Compass: Meta-physical Orienteering and Narrative Wayfinding" with Story-

teller David Novak. The same need that brought about the search engine has brought about the revival of storytelling. The Storytellers' Compass orients us to ourselves and each other. By exploring the role of storytelling in our lives, we can deepen our understanding of who we are and where we may be headed. Telling stories gives us the cognitive tools and the story constellations that we need to find our way. The art of the storyteller is the art of the wayfinder.



North Shore Unitarians
370 Mathers Avenue,
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Phone: 604-926-1621
Website: northshoreunitarians.ca
Email: info@northshoreunitarians.ca

... meeting in Squamish
and Tsleil-Waututh
traditional territory

STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minister: [Rev. Ron Phares](#)

Affiliated Community Minister: [Rev. Arthur Berman](#)

Lay Chaplain: [Lindsay Hindle](#)

Director of Lifespan Learning: [Lynn Sabourin](#)

Children's Program Assistant: [Cara Elrod](#)

Music Director: [Alison Nixon](#)

Accompanist: Catherine Tseng

Church Administrator: [Janni Kretlow](#)

Financial Administrator: [Marge Zieroth](#)

Custodian: Tom Fullerton

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Ross Harvey, Member at Large

Susanne Krebs, Member at Large

Judith Radford, Member at Large

Kit To, Member at Large



We actively welcome
all genders
and sexual orientations
in our faith community.