

North Shore Unitarian Church Music Program

Welcome back to another year of community life at the North Shore Unitarian Church. As you know, music is a part of this community life, and September is a great time to renew our commitment to enhancing the Sunday Services with music, using music as a tool to bring people together in rich community life.

Our Music Program offers many ways for you to participate,

regardless of your stage of life, or your musical experience. If you want to be involved in the Music Program, please get in touch with me at alisonnixon@hotmail.com.

Here are some of the Musical opportunities we offer:

- **Vox Lumina** is a mixed voice choir of 35+ voices. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7-9 pm September to June to prepare a varied repertoire of music for the Sunday morning services. Repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary, popular classics to Buddhist chant.
- **NSUC Chamber Ensemble** is an opportunity for folks who would like a slightly more challenging repertoire, ranging from the Jazz to Palestrina. Rehearsals are from 6:15 to 7 pm on Thursdays.
- **Hand Bells / Chimes.** We are blessed to own a two octave set of beautiful sounding Hand Chimes. Those who are interested will rehearse for six weeks to prepare for a special performance.
- **Guitar/ Ukulele Classes** can be offered if there is enough interest.
- **Band instruments (guitar, bass guitar, drums, etc.).** Get in touch with Alison Nixon if you're interested in playing in a house band accompanying hymns and choral anthems.

~ Alison Nixon, Music Director

**Curious about the kinds of musical events
we offer throughout the year?**

See the article on page 7.



Town Hall September 24th

Come one, come all to a Town Hall at 12:15pm on Sunday, September 24th. The Board will review where we currently stand regarding membership, finances, Sunday services, stewardship, etc., and will outline plans for the near future. We'll have time for questions and input. Ask us anything and share your ideas. Do you agree with our goals and strategy? Where do you think we need to focus?

We look forward to seeing you there. (Lunch will be available before the Town Hall for a suggested donation \$5/person).

Scam Alert!

People
pretending



to be church staff or leaders may attempt to solicit personal information from congregants, or ask them to buy gift cards. **DO NOT FALL FOR THESE HOAXES!** If you're ever in doubt, phone the staff/leader to verify if the email was legitimate.

From Our Board President



Barrie Forbes

president@northshoreunitarians.ca

BELONG WITH HEART.

THRIVE IN SPIRIT.

ACT IN SERVICE.

We're back! After a hot, dry, and fiery summer we are ready to welcome everyone who wishes to live with greater depth, meaning and purpose. As we often say: "Come, come, whoever you are. Wanderer, worshipper, lover of leaving. Ours is no caravan of despair... Come, yet again, come." (Rumi)

What are we coming back to? Hopefully a community that is not afraid to live up to its long-established values of **tolerance** (to listen and respectfully engage people when we disagree), **freedom** (to think, speak and participate without judgement), and the use of **reason** (to substantiate our thoughts, ideas, or beliefs).

We'll come back to a community that *aspires* (sometimes imperfectly) to live up to its principles that include: the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; and a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. A community that knows "we need not think alike to love alike."

Your Board met regularly over the summer to prepare for the fall. The goals we've settled on are both aspirational and specific. Among them: to be transparent, communicative, and to focus on critical issues. We want to engage with as many congregants as possible as we nurture congregational health; *and* have fun together!

We have committed to:

- Keep our annual spending at or below budget.
- Offer engaging and diverse services (measured by a congregational survey in January).
- Solicit congregational input.
- Help teams establish priorities and measure progress.
- Support our staff and teams to the best of our abilities.
- Build trust.

We hosted two social events to keep members connected over the summer. The wine & cheese event in June and a Sunday brunch in July were well-attended and reminded us how we can connect and have fun together! The same was true of summer walks coordinated by Brian and Kay Welwood. In the fall, we'll look for more ways to connect outside of Sunday services, perhaps via monthly events such as musical or movie nights. Send us your ideas!

In July, the Board participated in a lengthy transition review with Rev. Anne Barker, the new Western Region Congregational Life Co-ordinator for the CUC. She collected feedback about our shared experience with our former minister, Rev. Ron Phares. She also interviewed Ron, and some former members of NSUC, planning to form a new fellowship. Separately, she spoke with Alison and Janni. As we look ahead, her admonition to the

Board — "You are **not** broken!" — will reassure us all. The Board and Ron see the final report, which will reside in the UUA and CUC files.

During the summer months I met one-on-one with several congregants. They all had questions and opinions about what happened. The conversations helped me contextualize events and fill in some of the missing pieces. (Please reach out to me or any Board member for similar discussions. Your input will help us move forward.)

Our Sunday Services team has many engaging (and transformative) services planned for the fall. (See Rebecca Lindley's update in this newsletter.)

On Sunday September 24th, the Board will host what may be the first of several Town Hall meetings, after the service and lunch. We want your feedback on the Board's expectations and specific plans for the coming year.

Do you agree with our goals and priorities? How do you see us moving forward? What's most important to you as we practice better ways to discuss complex issues? What can we learn from our mistakes? How might we serve the greater community, and many other questions. Our future will evolve as we experiment and get your feedback *and* participation. We need everyone's involvement.

Throughout the year, your Board will strive to connect and communicate regularly with you. Engage with us please, as we work towards a renewed NSUC. On Sunday mornings at least one board member will greet you at the door. Liz Moffitt and I look forward to greeting you at our *Stronger Together* service on September 10th. Come, come whoever you are.

Sunday Services



Updates from the Sunday Services Team

The Sunday Services team has been hard at work preparing for a series of inspiring services. Sue Forbes, Bruce Grierson, Dennis

Cooper, Kerry Burke, Leslie Whyte-Gibbons, Alison Nixon and Rebecca Lindley will each be the "Service Coordinator" (yes, a new title) for different services in the coming months.

The team already has a plan for the entire year. The services will connect to our principles and sources and will vary in content, structure and focus. Some services will have an outside speaker, and some will have a "talk-back" session afterwards. We hope you will find Sunday mornings to be engaging, thoughtful and wholehearted.

The first four services of our new church year are provided on this page to give you a feel for what we have in mind for the coming weeks — but please subscribe to (and read) our weekly eBulletins for up-to-date info about each Sunday's service along the way.

We look forward to hearing your reflections and feedback on the variety of services you will experience this year. ~ Rebecca Lindley

September 10th, 10:30am "Stronger Together"

We hope to see you at the first service of the season, on September 10th. This service will be spearheaded by Kerry Burke with many other talented church musicians and leaders who will celebrate our community. We will highlight Alison Nixon's TWENTY years as our Music Director, and Janni Kretlow's TEN years as our Church Administrator. (Our church is so fortunate that Janni & Alison will continue to share their many talents with us into the future!) After the service, you are welcome to stay for a delicious corn roast and BBQ, where we can all connect and share our summer memories.

September 17th, 10:30am "Road Less Travelled"

Leslie Whyte-Gibbons will lead the second Sunday in September, which coincides with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year celebration. The service asks these questions: Was there a moment — a decision made — that determined the course of your life? Have you ever wondered what would have happened had you made a different choice?

Life is full of those moments and it can be exciting to realize that it's never too late to alter course. Reflection and atonement, compassion and understanding are always options - not just today, but every day.

September 24th, 10:30am "Grief is the Price We Pay for Love"

In this service, Kathryn Nicholson (assisted by Sue Forbes) will reflect on cultivating resilience in the face of loss and grief.

How does one find hope, peace and happiness — individually, in our families, and in our communities — despite the inevitable challenges, losses, and conflicts that life sends our way? How do we embrace our values in ways that guide us toward a stronger and wiser future?

This service will have a mix of beautiful music, reflections and meditation.

October 1st, 10:30am "Honour to Senator Murray Sinclair"

Sue Forbes believes that if anyone qualifies to be a saint it's Senator Murray Sinclair, Chair of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Sue was moved to tears by a recent NFB film that honoured Sinclair — not just his work, but his determination, wisdom and kindness.

On the weekend of our National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, Sue will lead a service centred on this beautiful film, that both informs and leaves viewers with a profound feeling of hope for a better future.

Environmental Action Team



Environmental Action Team

As wildfires and extreme weather events continue to dominate the headlines, media reports can seem overwhelming. How can one person make a difference for the planet? Our EA Team was formed at NSUC in late 2020 to help members learn more about the

climate emergency and support each other in taking action on environmental issues.

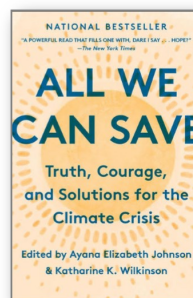
On September 17th, Barb Kroon will host an open meeting in the Sanctuary after church to review our Team's mission and set priorities for the coming year. All are invited to this roundtable discussion: bring your questions and ideas to the brainstorming session.

A few examples of our collective action since we came together:

- Creating our NSUC butterfly garden from a patch of grass,
- Participating in an eco-challenge to reduce plastic in our lives,
- Attending protest rallies together,
- Submitting advocacy letters to regulatory bodies and elected officials.

This fall, we'll reconnect with leaders from the non-profits we support with our Outreach donations and explore volunteer opportunities with groups working to reduce food waste and strengthen food security for those at risk.

~ Marcia Stephenson



All We Can Save Circles Discussion Group

We're currently hosting a bimonthly Saturday Zoom series to discuss chapters from the 2021 anthology *All We Can Save*.

At our noon meeting on September 9th we will focus on Chapter 4. But it's not too late to join the book club for the remaining 6 sessions, or to form a new group starting with Chapter 1.

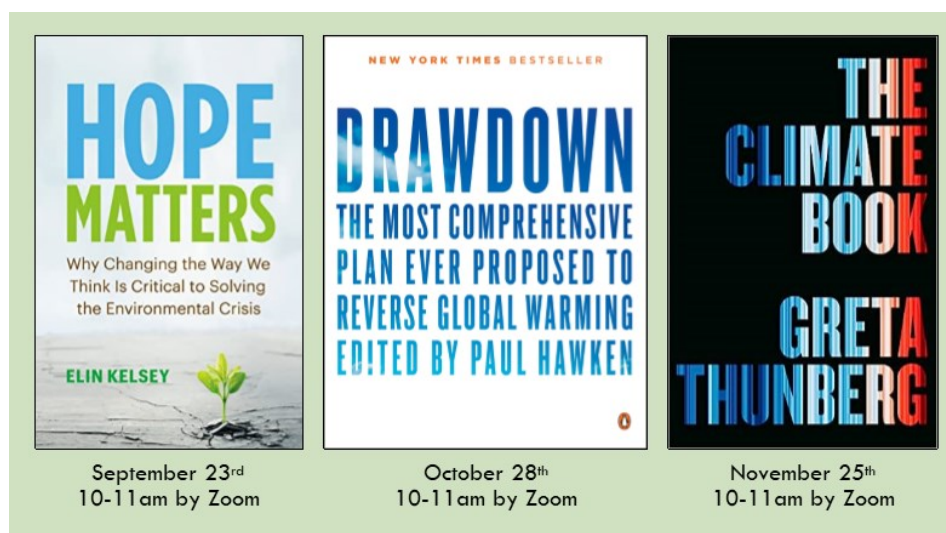
Contact the [Church Office](#) or Marcia Stephenson for the zoom link, or to receive monthly email updates from the EA Team.

Find out more about the Circles discussion approach at www.allwecansave.earth/circles.

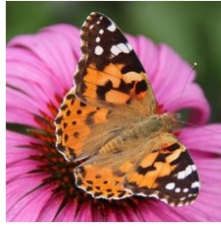
Climate Sharing Circle

You're invited to join Unitarian friends in a small group ministry that uses climate books as springboards to explore our concerns around climate change. Through personal reflection on what we have read and/or viewed, we encourage and support each other as we expand our knowledge, develop coping strategies and discover effective action.

We meet at 10-11am by Zoom on the 4th Saturday of each month. All are welcome! This group is sponsored by the Metro Vancouver Unitarians Zero Waste Group. Send questions and suggestions to zerowasteunitarian@gmail.com.



The graphic above shows the book titles and dates. See [YouTube videos](#) with interviews about these authors and books. [Registration](#) is appreciated. You can also join our Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/greenunitarians/.



Butterfly Garden Work Party 9:30am Sat. September 30th

Join Jean Prescott and friends at our butterfly garden Work Party Saturday morning from 9:30 to 11:30am on Saturday, September 30th (weather permitting). Watch the eBulletin for updates.

~ Jean Prescott, Butterfly Garden Ranger



Social Justice Team

What Does Social Justice Mean to You?

We have an active Environmental Action Team but want to continue work in our rich tradition at NSUC of participating in other social action activities.

Instead of activating another Social Justice Team, we would like to offer members an opportunity to create an event or activity in an area of special interest or passion to them.

Some areas of past work or possible issues of interest include:

- Refugees
- Homelessness
- Domestic violence
- Poverty
- Food bank
- Overdose crisis
- Socially responsible investing
- Reconciliation
- or others.

What are you passionate about? Rather than a commitment to serve on a Team, please suggest an activity or event you would like to spearhead and contact me.

~ Elain Duvall, Board Liaison for the Social Justice Team

WELCOME Team

News from the Welcome and Hospitality Teams

Your Welcoming Team is organizing to welcome you as we begin a new church year at

our NSUC! This fall you will see that a Board member will be personally greeting you each Sunday as you come through the doors again. And most Sundays you'll find Pat Meyer in the lobby, ready to meet visitors and to chat with them (and with anyone, actually) after the services in the Fireside Room downstairs.

Speaking of downstairs, coffee will be waiting there for you, along with good conversation. Dianne Hicks (our Hospitality Chair), assisted by Annabelle Coward, will be offering soup or sandwiches twice a month in addition to our weekly coffee and tea.

We are excited to be in action again, and look forward to seeing you. If you are interested in joining our Team, or if you have feedback for us, we are always happy to welcome you and your suggestions!

~ Liz Moffitt, Chair

Librarian Wanted

Shelley Hrdlitschka has stepped down from the role of Church Librarian. If you are interested in filling this role, please contact Marga Hanna (the Board Liaison for the Library Team) or Janni in the Church Office.

Library news





Hire-A-Member Directory

Have you seen the new Hire-A-Member Directory on our website? (www.northshoreunitarians.ca/hire-a-member).

Here, we list businesses and services offered by staff and congregants. Pet sitting, piano lessons, piano tuning, real estate, and a variety of other services are already listed there — but there's plenty of room to add additional contacts!

If you want to offer your service to the congregation on this page, please contact [Janni in the Church Office](#). There is no charge for adding your listing to this Directory.



Grocery Receipt Program

Please continue to save grocery receipts from **City Market at Park Royal** and **IGA Dundarave**, and leave them in the folder on the bulletin Board in the stairwell. When receipts total \$5,000, Tom Fullerton exchanges them for a gift card, and convert it into cash for the church.

~ [Janni Kretlow](#)

Cronies

The Cronies meet in the Fireside Room on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 12:30pm. We bring brown bagged lunches to eat, while sharing a pot of tea and chit chat with our church friends.

All are welcome to join us. Our fall dates are: September 14th & 28th, October 12th & 26th, and November 9th & 23rd. Call [Joanna Vaughan](#) if you need a ride (604-904-9535) or take a free taxi as part of our taxi club. (Sign up for the Taxi Club with [Janni](#) or [Leslie Gibbons](#)).



~Joanna Vaughan, Coordinator

Recent Outreach Collections



Each Sunday, 100% of our offering plate collections, unless otherwise marked, are given to the monthly Outreach Recipient. During June, July, and August, we collected \$680 for the Indian Residential School Survivors Society. Here are our Outreach Recipients for the Fall:

- September:** [Edible Garden Project](#)
- October:** [Seed Change Canada](#)
- November:** [Food Stash Foundation](#)

Church Office Closures



Our Church Office will be closed on:

- **September 18th-25th**
(Janni's vacation)
- **September 29th**
(Reconciliation Day observed)
- **October 9th**
(Thanksgiving Day)
- **November 10th**
(Remembrance Day observed)



From the Art Appreciation Team

Do not miss our "art a la carte" fundraiser this fall. See the beautiful original art pieces for sale on the Sanctuary walls — all by local artists and for affordable prices.

Treat yourself to inspiring original art. Twenty-five percent of the proceeds will help support NSUC. [Contact me](#) for more info or to purchase a piece of art on display.

~ [Inga Puhmann](#),
Chair of the new
Art Appreciation Team



Request from Our Treasurer

If you were not satisfied with how things were going at NSUC and therefore reduced your pledge for 2023, I encourage you to consider making a further contribution to our 2023 budget now.

Many people have already sent in updated pledges to Janni, which is very much appreciated.

The 2023 Budget passed at our January Congregational Meeting projected a deficit of \$41,648 so NSUC really does need your continued financial support, both now (for 2023) as well as during the fall Stewardship campaign for 2024.

~ Brian Funt,
Treasurer

NSUC Musical Events

We typically offer several choral productions throughout the year, including:

Christmas Carol Service

This special service weaves Christmas music around a theme rich in the holiday message.

Christmas Eve

While Unitarians cherish a contemporary, liberal understanding of religion, they also value the traditions of the season. So our Christmas Eve service is a glorious celebration of traditional carols, choral anthems, and a contemporary take of the Christmas message.

End of the Year Choral Concert.

For most of the year, the choirs offer music that enhances the theme of the service. But the year-end concert digs deep into a classical repertoire or revisits favorites from the year.

Christmas Pageant.

Our Christmas event ranges from the traditional pageants to the Grinch, to Amahl and the Night Visitors.

New Ideas Welcome!

We respond to the interest and curiosity of those in the congregation. So we can create other musical events as the interest arises. Let us know if you have a suggestion. The congregation delights in encouraging the talent and hard work of children, youth, and adults alike.



CUC eNews

Interested in knowing more about the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC)? Sign up for their eNews at <https://cuc.ca/about-cuc/communications-publications/>.



Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote these eight Principles:

- 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;
- Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions.



Watch past services on our YouTube channel:

1. Go to our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@NorthShoreUnitarian/videos>
2. Click on the video you want to watch. (If you don't see it listed, click on the "Live" Tab or check with the Church Office.)
3. Enjoy!



North Shore Unitarians
 370 Mathers Avenue,
 West Vancouver, BC V7S 1H3
 Phone: 604-926-1621
 Website: northshoreunitarians.ca
 Email: info@northshoreunitarians.ca
 Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/NorthShoreUUCanada/>

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



Most Mondays-Thursdays
 7am to 2pm
 (Janni works from home on Fridays but is still available by phone and email those days).

STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Affiliated Community Minister:** [Rev. Arthur Berman](#)
Lay Chaplain: [Barb Moore](#)
Sunday Facilities Coordinator: Annabelle Coward
Music Director: [Alison Nixon](#)
Accompanist: Catherine Tseng
Church Administrator: [Janni Kretlow](#)
Facility Rental Coordinator: [Dianne Hicks](#)
Financial Administrator: Anna Biesiada-Panas
Custodian: Tom Fullerton
Board of Trustees:

- [Barrie Forbes](#), President
 Rebecca Lindley, Vice President
[Brian Funt](#), Treasurer
[Leslie Gibbons](#), Secretary
 Elain Duvall, Member at Large
 Marga Hanna, Member at Large
 Barb Kroon, Member at Large
 Liz Moffitt, Member at Large
 Brian Welwood, Member at Large



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