



2022 FundFest

FundFest Spring 2022

after church
Sunday, June 5th



FundFest 2022 Homecoming

the evening of
Saturday, September 10th

Fundfest is on. It's a two-parter – one in the spring and one in the fall. And you are all enthusiastically invited. Not just to bid on things, but to offer your talent or your time or your treasure.

Mark your calendars: **FundFest Spring 2022** will take place Sunday, **June 5th**, immediately following church. There'll be a catered lunch and then a live and a silent auction. The live auction will begin at 12:15 in the sanctuary. There'll be Zoom access for folks not yet comfortable with in-person participation. Since we don't know how the pandemic situation will unfold, the items will be Covid-proof events. Think picnics, boat cruises, dog walking, hiking, pool parties, etc. Things that can happen outdoors through the summer and fall.

But wait there's more! On **Saturday, September 10th**, in the evening, at the church, the **SECOND** part of FundFest will take place: **FundFest 2022 Homecoming**. Again, it will include a live and silent auction, held in the traditional manner. We hope to serve dinner and move upstairs for the live auction in the sanctuary. And again, folks will be able to Zoom in. We hope by then offerings can include indoor events, like movie nights, dinner parties and the like.

The wheels are turning. The FundFest committee will soon be working the phones. Expect a call. We're soliciting offerings for both the June and September auctions. Donors receive a tax credit for the amount their donation raises.

Thank you so much in advance for your interest, your imagination, and your generosity. Questions? Contact Melissa at 604-649-0102 or sean_mel@shaw.ca.

~ Melissa Picher-Kelly
Chair of FundFest Planning Team

Wanted: FundFest Suggestions and Donations

We want to hear from you!

Offer FundFest Suggestions and donate items at

[https://
www.northshoreunitarians.ca/
fundfest-2022-donate](https://www.northshoreunitarians.ca/fundfest-2022-donate)

Donors receive an end-of-year tax credit for the amount their donation raises.

More info [HERE](#).



Service Awards

Each Spring, we collect nominations for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Awards. Nominate an outstanding volunteer [HERE](#) or using the paper forms on the foyer table by April 17th. We will recognize this year's outstanding volunteers on June 26th.

From Our Minister

I can feel it in my bones. My steps are lighter. My mood is brighter. Can you feel it?

Spring is coming! As a person raised much closer to the equator, this shifting light business takes some getting used to. That said, I will admit that the quickening of each season's approach is always scintillating... or at least effective.

It's not only the seasonal shift that has me more buoyant. There is also a congregational momentum underway. I feel that too. But before I start to sound like a superficial sunshine peddler, I'd like to address a persistent undercurrent of misgiving that seems to be making the rounds. I cannot be comprehensive about it here, due both to space limitations and the multidimensionality of the malaise's source. But I hope to do some work, and bring a little bit more ease, nonetheless.

Last year, a number of us got after each other over passionately held points of view. Every person engaged in that particular combat sustained wounds of some kind or other, myself included. That is the nature of combat. It is also true that, as the saying goes, hurt people hurt people. It's a negative feedback loop that sucked in more than a few of us.

It is difficult for hurting people to be at their best. I'd bet dollars to donuts that each of us at the center of the dispute would have proceeded more in line with the better angels of our natures had we been operating without pain. I know that is true for me.

It is difficult to be compassionate when you or those you love feel threatened. Yet, as it so happens,



Rev. Ron Phares

rev.phares@northshoreunitarians.ca

compassion is what is most needed. Those wounded directly will have a harder time coming to compassion. It's going to take some time. In the meanwhile, it is my hope that the rest of us may have easier access to compassion. For we all need it. It is time to feel for one another.

It might seem easier to withdraw. And it might be. But as you well know from every relationship worth having, sticking with it, with each other, and working together to emerge stronger from trauma and pain is far more fulfilling. It might even be said to be a spiritual path. And it requires, among other things, a shift from self interest to service. And that carries us back to compassion.

Compassion is easier when one sees the worth and dignity, the beauty and holiness inherent within those around us. Lucky for us, the beauty and holiness inherent within your fellow congregants is fabulously easy to see!

It is easy to see and heartwarming to boot. Not peddling superficial sunshine even one iota. Sit with anyone in this congregation

and, as you well know, their flowering self is readily sensed. To unfurl it may need a little water of attentive listening. It may need a sympathetic smile to blossom.

Or... I don't know... maybe there is a kind of signal where the flowering of one calls forth the flowering of another. (I'm aware I may have just made up some science). I've seen your hearts! You are surrounded by loving hearts here.

Thus, you are worthy of each other's trust. If I am not now, I hope to be included in that trust in due time. It's okay if it takes a little time to blossom. We've got time. But sooner is better, no? We've got to start sometime. Let us begin again in love.

If you've withdrawn some, if you find yourself worried about this community, I bid you peace. Come. Be a blooming thing with one another and see what occurs.

In fact, I already I see this happening. Everywhere I look, the congregation is functioning well. Your Board is clear of vision and hopeful in heart. The teams are filled with caring, dedicated, inspiring people. The book groups are locations of connection, sharing and cooperative struggle. There are multiple social and spiritual events on the horizon.

It all converges in a kind of momentum reminiscent of spring itself. Perhaps it is harder to see if your engagement is primarily in a single aspect of congregational life. But from where I sit, I can sense a flowering is on the way at NSUC.

Perhaps all it needs is a sympathetic smile to blossom. That's you.

~ Rev. Ron Phares

From Our Board President



Ryan Guenther, Board President
president@northshoreunitarians.ca

It seems fitting that the latest wave of covid happened during winter, since the pandemic itself is like a metaphor for winter. Life slows down, a darkness settles over the land, and we spend more time at home because events are delayed and travel is more difficult. And it's a good excuse to eat mandarin oranges.

But now, as case counts thaw and hospitalizations melt away, we burst forth like crocuses reaching for the sun again. Or, perhaps more accurately for some, we emerge from our burrows like groundhogs tentatively testing the air.

After the omicron-induced extension of the winter break through January, spring feels even more like spring this year. And not just because we're back in our beautiful sanctuary on Sunday mornings, other aspects of church life are returning like migratory birds. The choir is back. Spirit Zones are back. There will be karaoke and a movie marathon and a ceilidh. Our church will host the annual CUC young adult conference in May.

And in June, FundFest makes its triumphant return.

There is a very springlike energy in the church, which in the fall felt tightly wound, like it was vibrating under the surface, but now feels ready to uncoil. By the time you read this, we may already have a new website, and the launch of our Instagram feed and re-vamped Facebook page will be imminent. There are plans to partner more and build relationships with our Outreach recipients, beyond just sending them money. And the butterfly garden, which was conceived almost a year ago, will quite literally take root this spring.

In every area of the church, there is energy and optimism. People say yes when asked to do something. Some people ask if they can do something, while others just see something that needs to be done and do it.

Perhaps the best example of this attitude was the debate over extending our development agreement at the January Budget Meeting. The arguments against extending for another year weren't based in resignation or defeatism, but rather impatience. There is so much more we could be doing, if we weren't sitting on our hands waiting to move. And the argument for extending was equally positive: we can do both!

And why not? Flowers are sunning themselves, groundhogs are blooming, spring is in the air, and anything is possible.

~ Ryan Guenther, President

A Call for Nominations



The Nominating Committee is preparing a list of nominees for elected positions on the Church's Board of Trustees. A new Board will be elected at the Church's AGM on Sunday, May 29th. Serving on the Board of Trustees supports the life of the Church, and contributes to our vibrant community.

The vacant positions are for 1-year and 2-year terms. Currently, the Nominating Committee is approaching existing Board Members to stand for re-election. The Nominating Committee welcomes Members to nominate themselves, or to suggest names of other Members to be considered. All suggestions are treated with confidence.

Please contact any of us to nominate a candidate.

~ Nominating Committee:
[Michael Watson](#)
[Robyn Newton](#)
[Gail Lehman](#)

AGM

Annual General Meeting

Members, mark your calendar for Sunday, May 29th and watch for the Notice Packets, which will be distributed on May 18th.

Environmental Action Team



From Our Environmental Action Team

The EA Team welcomes everyone in the NSUC community to join us in mutual support as we share our concerns, help each other make sense of the news, and get involved in advocacy for the planet. We strive to raise awareness of key issues and actions we can take at the personal, community, provincial, national, and international levels.

Our drop-in Meetings on Zoom are open to all at 7:15pm on the 4th Wednesday of every month. The spring dates are: March 23rd, April 24th, and May 25th. During Spirit Zones we feature guest speakers, hands-on projects, or discussions on specific environmental topics. Watch the [eBulletin](#) for updates. ~ Marcia Stephenson, Chair

E-UPDATES



EA Team News

To receive twice-monthly updates in your inbox with links to info sources and opportunities for action keyed to your city, contact the [Church Office](#) to be added to our EA Team email list.



Informational Links

Check out these BC hubs with links to informational webinars and action alerts:

- [Creativity United](#)
- [West Coast Climate Action Network](#)



1pm on March 12th: Day of Action for a Just Transition

Many of us will be participating in a nationwide Day of Action for a Just Transition away from fossil fuels at MP's offices at 1pm on March 12th at 1pm. For more information see <https://350.org/just-transition-day-of-action/>. Barb Kroon is working with reps from other local Unitarian congregations to strengthen our collaboration on environmental initiatives—stay tuned for details.

Butterfly Garden

Curious about our Butterfly-Friendly Garden under wraps near the church entrance? Find out more at our Open Meeting on Zoom February 23rd. Jean Prescott is taking the lead on this project, drawing on advice from master gardeners in the community.

Her plan sees us preparing the ground with delivery of soil in March, followed later this spring by Spirit Zone sessions about pollinators and opportunities for all ages to get their hands dirty when it's time to plant.



March 12th Butterfly Garden Work Party

All ages are invited to the church anytime between 10am - 4pm on March 12th to help us move soil and build up the garden bed. Knee pads and gloves are encouraged. Bring these tools if you can: metal rake, shovel, spade, trowel (clearly label your tools with your name). We'll provide tea, coffee and snacks. You are welcome to bring a lunch.

JEDI

Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion



Team

Did you know that Indigenous children in Canada receive less financial support from the federal government than non-Indigenous children? Half of First Nations children live in poverty. Children living on reserves fare worse than others, largely because the federal government underfunds education, health care and social services on reserve. Find out more [HERE](#).

Last November in a Spirit Zone, we sent letters to the PM asking him to halt his appeal of the 2016 decision of the Canadian Human Rights Commission (awarding damages to Indigenous families who were harmed by a discriminatory child welfare system). I like to think our letters helped nudge Trudeau to make the right decision, as he reached an agreement at the end of December. We followed up on February 13th by sending Valentines to government officials letting them know we are watching their progress on negotiating final agreements with the First Nations, and asking them all to “Have a Heart” and provide equitable funding for Indigenous children and their communities.

In an upcoming Spirit Zone, we will host an open discussion with our members to explore how our congregation wants us to move forward to “widen our circle” now that we have an 8th Principle. We hope to organize some special speakers and events to help us move forward with Truth, Healing and Reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours.

During February (Black History Month), our outreach collection was for the Black Students in Canada Fund, whose goal is to raise an endowment fund to support Black students attending Canadian post-secondary institutions, providing \$5,000 in grants every year in perpetuity.

~ Robyn Newton & Jacky Coates
JEDI Co-Chairs

In March, April and May we will collect donations for these two organizations as part of our Outreach Program (see also page 9)



RAVEN (Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs) raises funds to cover legal costs for Indigenous communities in Canada who are fighting for their Aboriginal rights in court. Wetsuwet'en and Site C Dam are two of their campaigns. Hear Metis author, lawyer and Vancouver Unitarian Bruce McIvor in our pulpit this spring. He will tell us more about the legal battles over Indigenous rights.

Impact North Shore (formerly, the North Shore Multicultural Society) began in 1991 with help from our then-Minister Rev. Harold Rosen and many dedicated members of our congregation. Today, Impact provides programs to help immigrants have a successful start in Canada. We will identify opportunities to volunteer in helping them fulfill their mission. We hope that our congregation, Impact North Shore, and their clients, will all be transformed by the experience.



To Receive Email Updates on Social Justice & JEDI News

email robyn.newton.mail@gmail.com with “JEDI mailing list” in the subject line.

Wholly DAYS HOLEY & HOLY

You are invited to find time in your days through the early spring to contemplate the **holey**, **wholly** and **holy**. Join Rev. Ron and Laura as we make space in our days and weeks from March 1st (Fat Tuesday) to April 17th (Easter) to think about our **holes** (what's missing), what makes us **whole**, and what is **holy** to us. We'll begin Wholly Days on the evening of Tuesday, March 1st with a brief Donut Communion and conclude at Easter with a pageant and Wholly Days Jam! Rev. Ron and Laura will post weekly messages with ideas for making space each day for contemplation and connection. Please join us for Wholly Days this year!



Wonderdome

You may have noticed an area in the back of the Sanctuary with a small table, chairs in a cozy grouping, books and baskets of stuff. We're calling this our Wonderdome. It's a place for little ones and parents to occupy themselves quietly during the service. It's a place for older children and adults to keep their hands busy while staying engaged with the service — with knitting, crochet, origami, macramé, and other activities. I'm planning to create some felt board pieces for quiet, visual storytelling. I'll rotate through a few different activities each month. If you have ideas for quiet activities we can add to our Wonderdome, please let me know!

~ [Laura McNaughton](#), Director of Congregational Life

Care & Concerns Team



We've had a busy winter, checking in with folks to find needs and provide support. Ken Screpnek is available to pick-up groceries or prescriptions in a pinch; and to drive members on the North Shore to and from Sunday Services, dependent on timing.

We continue to welcome senior members who would enjoy receiving birthday cards from our children or members of our Care Team. Let us know if you would like to receive a birthday card.

Please call one of our Team members if you feel the need of support, or know of someone who might appreciate a call for conversation or care for a specific need: Joy Silver (Chair), Arthur Berman, Julia Covell, Janell Hilton, Bel Izat, Barb Kroon, Jean Prescott, Jasha Ramsay Latter, Doug & Lynn Sabourin, Ken Screpnek, Ruth Sherwood, Joanna Vaughan, and ElJean Wilson.



Milestones

This brief ritual in our services is simple yet powerful. It is a lovely way to learn about one another and connect. Fill in our online announcements form ([HERE](#)) with your name, your milestone and when you'd like it shared with the congregation during a Sunday Service, or contact me by phone or [email](#).

~ [Laura McNaughton](#), Director of Congregational Life

55th Birthda

Our church will celebrate its 55th birthday on Saturday, March 19th!

Join us for a fun Birthday Celebration that evening, 6-8:30pm!



All-Ages Potluck & Ceilidh 5pm on Saturday April 10th



Bring the whole family for some good old fashioned fun! We'll have a potluck at 5pm, followed by a Celtic jam and dance hosted by our Music Director Alison Nixon and Bob Rentz. Live fiddle music will be provided by Alison's students. This is always a fun event!



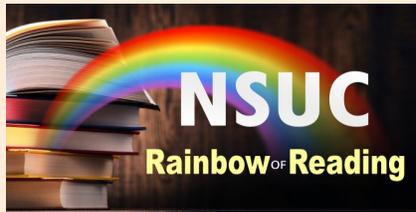
Want to Know What's Happening at Our Church?

Sign up for our church's quarterly newsletters, and our weekly eBulletins and Sunday Invitations by clicking [HERE](#) or contacting our [Church Office](#).

Grocery Receipt Program



City Market at Park Royal and IGA Dundarave participate in our Grocery Receipt Program. For each \$5,000 worth of receipts, they give us gift cards that Nora Coates converts into donations to the church. Since 1999, this program has earned over \$8,000 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!



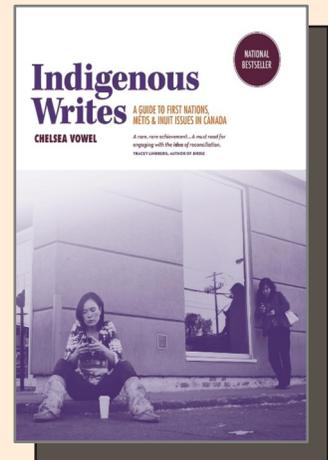
Rainbow of Reading

This church year, we're doing three "common reads" as a church, and meeting monthly to discuss them in small groups.

Visit our website [HERE](#) or contact our [Church Office](#) for more information about our Rainbow of Reading program, or to join a discussion group.

Indigenous Writes

Indigenous Writes, by Chelsea Vowel, is the book our JEDI Team selected for our Rainbow of Reading program. Vowel discusses culture and identity; myth-busting; state violence; and land, learning, law and treaties, along with wider social beliefs about these issues. Most groups are reading this book in March. JEDI has two copies to lend out and to donate to the Church Library at the end of the year. Contact [Robyn](#) to borrow one of these books.



Spring Office Closures

- We're closed on Mondays & Tuesdays while our Church Administrator continues to work from home while caring for her husband, who is battling cancer.
- Friday, April 15th Good Friday.
- Monday, May 23rd Victoria Day.

Connections Team

Through connecting with others, we feel a sense of belonging, closeness, and sharing — which nurtures our spirituality. We are gathering more fully once again — and it feels good! Soon, we will be able to eat together again, too.



We held a Starting Point series in February with three curious folks wanting to learn about Unitarianism. March 13th is "Bring a Friend Sunday"; April 10th is "Homecoming Sunday"; and May 22nd will be our "RE Alumni Celebration". Thank you to those who have planned so many fun activities to look forward to!

~ Joanna Vaughan, Connections Chair



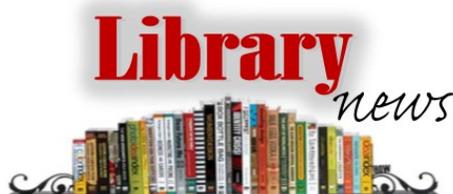
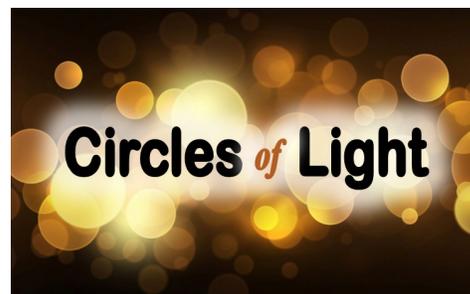
Inward Bound

Inward Bound is designed to enrich our quest for spiritual meaning and purpose. Facilitator [Leslie Gibbons](#) invites all to this once-per-month Saturday morning meeting. Each session will have a specific theme of common interest. Look for dates, times, and topics in the [eBulletin](#).



Soul Matters & Circles of Light

The "[Soul Matters](#)" program continues to be sponsored by Heart Mind Spirit Team. It provides rich and meaningful material for in-depth discussion among members of the various established groups. The "[Circles of Light](#)" program offers a lighter version of these groups. To join either of these groups, contact coordinator [Anne Mayall](#) or the [Church Office](#).



News from Your Library

Laura has moved some books from Lynn's resource collection to the library shelves. They are for parents who want to talk to their children about spirituality and other faiths. They will be displayed

on top of the children collection. They are: *Harmony: A Treasury of Chinese Wisdom for Children and Parents* by Sarah Conover and Chen Hui; *Kindness: A Treasury of Buddhist Wisdom for Children and Parents* collected and adapted by Sarah Conover; *Ayal Jamilah: Beautiful Signs: A Treasury of Islamic Wisdom for Children and Parents* collected and adapted by Sarah Conover and Freda Crane; *Chaos, Wonder and the Spiritual Adventure of Parenting* by Sarah Conover and Tracy Springberry, eds.; *Peace* by Wendy Anderson Halperin; *Faith* by Maya Ajmera, Magda Nakassis and Cynthia Pon.

Also added to the adult collection are the following books on racism: *Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor* by Layla F. Saad; *The Skin We're In: A Year of Black Resistance and Power* by Desmond Cole; *How to Be an Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi; *Speaking our Truth: A Journey of Reconciliation* by Monique Gray Smith.

~ Nicole Hostinsky, Librarian

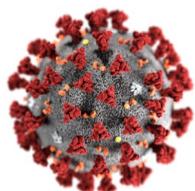


Artarian News

We display art in the Sanctuary Gallery and on the website in the Monthly Art Show page. March and April's show features Ann Eynon, Marje-Lease Oksanen and Elizabeth McLaren. Meet these artists in a Spirit Zone on April 9th. In May we will feature a collaboration between artist Jilly Watson and poet Cynthia Sharpe.

Watch the eBulletin for art show opening events, and artist tours of the art in the sanctuary. A portion art sales is donated to North Shore Unitarian Church.

~ Beverly Grice, Artarian Chair



COVID-19 Updates: Please watch our [website \(HERE\)](#) and eBulletins for updates on our [Covid-19 Protocols](#). We will continue to comply with all local, provincial, and federal health orders to help keep our staff and congregation safe.



Outreach

Each Sunday, 100% of our offering plate collections, unless otherwise marked, are given to the Outreach Recipient. In December, we collected \$2,699 for [Red Cross Flood Relief in BC](#). In January, we collected \$870 for the Pastoral Discretionary Fund.

In February, we are collecting for [The Black Students in Canada Fund](#). March, we will collect for our [Partner Church in Hungary](#). April and May's total will be divided equally between [RAVEN](#) and [Impact North Shore](#) (formerly called the North Shore Multicultural Society).

We're Hosting Chorus Young Adult Conference May 20th - 23rd



Our Church is hosting Chorus, the national young adult conference that happens over the May long weekend. This coincides with the Canadian Unitarian Council annual meeting and the national youth conference, CanUUdle. All will be happening in Vancouver this year and I'm super excited to host this connecting and rejuvenating event for Canadian UU young adults (ages 18-35).



At Chorus, Canadian Unitarian Universalist young adults gather to build beloved community, deepen our cross-country connections, and grow as spiritual beings. In the words of a past attendee: *"My favourite part about Chorus is getting to spend time with like minded, positive young adults. Overall, the weekend creates a sense of community for me that carries on past the weekend, and reminds me that there is a place I belong."* More info at <https://cuc.ca/events/chorus-2022/>

This will require a number of volunteers, in particular someone as our liaison with the CUC, and folks interested in managing food service and transportation for the conference goers. If you'd like to help us host an amazing group of young adults over the May long weekend please let me know!

~ [Laura McNaughton](#), Director of Congregational Life



Cronies

Seeing each other in late January was such a gift to the Cronies,

who finally met after a 6-week wait. They were jubilant, chatty and comical with stories about being with friends over the holidays. We continue to meet at 12:30pm on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Come and enjoy a chat! Don't let the name put you off; cronies are friends — and you could be one of them. If you need a ride, call Joanna at 604-904-9535.

~ [Joanna Vaughan](#), Coordinator



Circle Lunches and Dinners

were on hold this winter due to COVID restrictions. There is new hope for opening up our homes and social rooms, making Circle Meals possible this spring. Circle Dinners will take place in members' homes/social rooms on these Saturdays: **March 26th**, **April 30th**, and **May 28th**. Lunches will be scheduled if folks are interested. Attendees will be limited to six, including host(s). COVID vaccinations are required. Contact [Joy Silver](#) (604-941-2606) with questions or to let her know your interest in hosting and/or being a guest. ~ [Joy Silver](#), Coordinator

NEW Social Media Team is now working with our Production Team!



We have a Social Media Team working in conjunction with our Production Team! Enormous thanks to Erin McNeill who has been valiantly helping as she can with our Facebook posts. Now an expanded team including Erin, Yette Gram, Katie Phares, Ryan Guenther and Cynthia Becker are hard at work on plans for regularly putting out exciting new content through our social media channels, starting with Instagram and Facebook. There are also plans for a more streamlined website, as well as more regular updates to the congregation than just the eBulletin and newsletter. Stay tuned for updates!

~ Cynthia Becker,
Production Team Chair



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

STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Catarina Gomes, Member at Large



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