



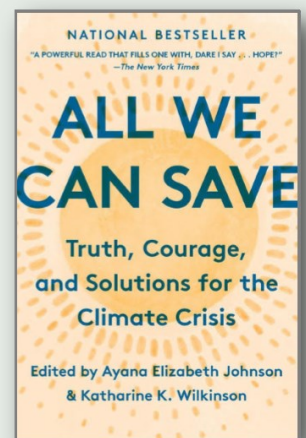
Cara Elrod's Retirement Celebration: 5pm Sat. May 13th

Cara is retiring in June, but we're celebrating her retirement with a potluck 5-8pm on Saturday, May 13th in the Fireside Room. Join us as we recognize Cara Elrod's many years of service to the church. Bring a potluck item with an ingredient list, if possible. We will honour Cara by sharing photos of and letters about her time with us. Send photos or letters celebrating memories with Cara to triciajaneedgar@gmail.com or the [Church Office](#).



“Circles” Zoom Series based on *All We Can Save* begins on Earth Day

Are you hungry for deeper dialogue about the climate crisis and building community around solutions? This question opens the description of the small-group discussion program *Circles*, based on the 2021 anthology *All We Can Save*. Learn more about the online resources and format of the series [HERE](#), and then join other Unitarians in a Zoom series of ten conversations.



For a sample of the thinking behind the program, watch this [this 2022 TED talk](#) by co-author [Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson](#). We'll kick off the sessions with a Zoom introduction on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22th (time TBD). We hope to finish by November, meeting about twice per month with optional summer breaks. Sign up for more information at <https://forms.gle/xFwGJuKjRJZDmkwL6>.

~ Marcia Stephenson & Mary Bennett



Rev. Ron Phares

rev.phares@northshoreunitarians.ca

“I AM PROUD OF
WHAT WE HAVE DISCOVERED,
ATTEMPTED, LEARNED,
AND ACHIEVED TOGETHER.
THE IMPACT
OF OUR TIME HERE
HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO
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. . . I LOOK FORWARD
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WITH CARE AND GRACE.”

Rev. Ron Phares Announces his Resignation

On January 25th, Rev. Ron Phares sent the following letter to the congregation announcing his resignation:

Dear North Shore Unitarian Church members and friends,

I am writing to inform you that earlier this week I submitted, and the NSUC Board has accepted, my resignation, effective July 31, 2023. At present, I foresee my last days of official duties being in early to mid June as I will take vacation and study leave at that time. In the meanwhile, and in consultation with the Board, my intention is to perform essential pastoral and administrative duties while working with the Board to establish a worship schedule. I will not likely begin any new endeavors, but continue to counsel and advise teams as needed.

My hope is that this gives all the people of NSUC some time to reflect without the need to make hasty decisions and, additionally, that this allows the Board some space to rest.

This letter is not the time for heartfelt goodbyes. Those will come in a more personal manner. That said, you may wish to know that I am proud of what we have discovered, attempted, learned, and achieved together. The impact of our time here has and will continue to resound beyond our corner of Unitarian Universalism. Further, I am confident in and excited about both the future of my ministry as well as Unitarian Universalism in this neck of the woods.

Lastly, I want to particularly thank Jonathan Fountain for his careful leadership. Jonathan has carried an inordinate amount of congregational weight these last months and done so with deep discernment and labor. He has served you with all his heart. His steady hand and principled leadership have been a mercy and boon to NSUC and to myself. He is due for much praise and thanks.

I look forward to winding down my ministry here with care and grace.

Yours in faith,
Rev. Phares

From Our Board President



Jonathan Fountain
Board President

Much has happened at NSUC since our fall newsletter. Our Director of Congregational Life, Laura McNaughton, resigned effective January 31, 2023. Her departure is a loss for our community, and her creative and engaging contributions will be sorely missed. We all wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors. Our Minister, Reverend Ron Phares announced his resignation effective July 31, 2023. It will not be an immediate nor an abrupt departure, but rather we will work together toward a winding-down of his ministry in a way that is fair to the Congregation, to the Minister, to our valued staff, and to the UU tradition of which we are a part.

Both departures leave, and will leave, significant voids in how NSUC delivers both programming and Ministry in the short, medium, and long-term. Voids that will have to be filled one way or another; voids that the Board is keenly aware of but is not yet able to offer concrete solutions for. This reality entails significant introspection on the part of the congrega-

tion and the Board as we attempt to move forward; that is not a short-term goal and will likely outlast this current Board as a primary topic of consideration.

I would like to acknowledge that our current staff are deeply affected by these changes. I hope that it is clear to all that the responsibilities of these valued and appreciated members of our community — Janni, Alison, Cara, Anabelle — are not changed as a result of these departures. This has and will continue to require more attention from the Board, but it will also require great attention from the congregation, and I thank you in advance for your consideration and your patience. I am so grateful for all they do to keep this community connected.

Many are rightly concerned about what this means for our children's programs; our youth programs; our intergenerational programs; our Sunday services, and what level of professional ministry will be both desired and supported by this Church; about the future path our Church will take. Many are also rightly concerned with how the next several months will play out, and how the transition into the 2023-2024 church year will occur with neither a DCL nor a settled Minister.

To address the short and medium term, Reverend Ron has provided an outline schedule of services between now and the end of April. At our February Board meeting, that schedule was agreed to by the Board through the end of March, so as to provide opportunity to revisit and finalize at our March Board meeting and discuss for the April - June time frame.

For the long-term approach, Kathryn Nicholson has agreed to the Board's request to chair a Sunday Services Task Force. This task force will plan services when our

Minister is not available prior to July 31st, and will plan for services in the fall when we no longer have a settled minister. We will continue to engage with these issues as a Board, but as of July 31, 2023, NSUC will likely be lay-led for the medium-term, through

the 2023-2024 church year.

I recognize the tremendous commitment made to NSUC by so many over the decades — but all should be aware it will once again require significant volunteer commitment to keep things running.

I have been and remain so grateful for this community, and those who have contributed to it.

~Jonathan Fountain
NSUC Board President

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JEDI

Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion



Help Get Justice for Dani

On the night of November 12, 2022 Dani Cooper, a young member of our congregation, was killed by the North Vancouver RCMP. Dani's family and friends are looking for answers about what happened that night and why five officers were not able to use non-lethal methods to

subdue an unarmed, petite, 5-foot, 90-pound individual. Dani's family has still not been given a detailed account of what happened that night and they have not been given Dani's personal possessions.

Friends of Dani formed a group called *Justice for DeeCee* and they have drafted a letter to the Attorney General of BC, the Premier of BC, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the North Vancouver RCMP, the City and District of North Vancouver Mayors and Councils, the North Vancouver MP and the North Vancouver MLA.

The family and friends of Dani are asking Unitarians and their friends to write a letter on the 12th of each month as a way to raise awareness of this tragedy and suggest changes that could lessen the chance of future similar tragedies.

You can write your own letter or copy some or all of the wording from one of these templates:

- [Template letter written by Friends of DeeCee.](#)
- [Template letter from the Unitarian Church of Vancouver's Social Justice Team.](#)

Send your letter to these emails:

- AG.Minister@gov.bc.ca
- susie.chant.MLA@leg.bc.ca
- premier@gov.bc.ca
- PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca
- nvanrcmp@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
- CityCouncil@cnv.org
- mayor@cnv.org
- council@dnv.org
- mayor@dnv.org
- jonathan.wilkinson@parl.gc.ca
- Bowinn.Ma.MLA@leg.bc.ca



Dennis Cooper, a Member of NSUC, holding a picture of Dani

More Information on the JEDI Webpage

Additional information is available on our [JEDI webpage](#):

[https://
www.northshoreunitarians.ca/
jedi-team](https://www.northshoreunitarians.ca/jedi-team)



Home on Native Land: a self-guided course sponsored by RAVEN

Our JEDI Team recommends this self-guided (free) course about Indigenous justice in Canada. Through a series of 10 videos, cartoons & lessons, you'll take a walk down the back alley of history — and the frontlines of legal action — with Anishinaabe comedian Ryan McMahon. [Details & registration HERE](#) and on the [JEDI webpage](#).



Nominate a Volunteer now through April 17th

We appreciate our volunteers! Each Spring, we collect nominations for our annual Volunteer Appreciation Awards. Nominate an outstanding volunteer online [HERE](#) or use the paper forms on the foyer table by April 17th. We will recognize this year’s outstanding volunteers during a service in May or June.

Recent Outreach Collections

Each Sunday, 100% of our offering plate collections, unless otherwise marked, are given to the monthly Outreach Recipient. During the fall of 2022 (**September—November**), we collected for these four organizations selected by our Environmental Action Team: [The Edible Garden](#), [Food Stash](#), [Seed Change](#), and [Quest Food Exchange](#). The total collected was \$3,713.10 (\$928.28 each).

In **December** of 2022, we collected \$1,228.61 for our Pastoral Discretionary Fund, which is used to help with a variety of needs in our congregation and the wider community.



January through May Outreach

For the first 5 months of 2023, we will divide our Outreach collections evenly between the following three organizations chosen by our Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Team. These organizations provide mental health support to families in our community. These donations will be made in memory of Dani (also known as Maiken) Cooper:



For 50 years, [Coast Mental Health](#) has empowered people living with mental illness. A Vancouver based non-profit, Coast knows that people living with mental challenges can thrive in our communities if they are given the right resources and support.



[Family Smart](#) is committed to child and youth mental health and/or substance use challenges. They assist children and young people by providing their family and other caring adults with emotional support, information, and resources.



The [Canadian Mental Health Association \(CMHA\)](#), [North and West Vancouver branch](#) provides innovative and essential services and supports tailored to and in partnership with North Shore communities since 1958.

WELCOME Team

The Welcome Team helps to greet new people who come to our church. We look for new faces that look somewhat lost and greet them. But we all need to have that

amicable face and smile to greet newcomers. The Welcome Team is drafting some possible Bylaw changes relating to Membership, and will recommend them to the Board at some point. We hope to offer Starting Point in March (watch the eBulletin for details). Some congregants need us to make a phone call or two to keep them up to date with the changes that are happening around the church. They feel much more a part of the congregation knowing about new events. We thank Merrick Walsh, who has helped us when food is involved — including tasty cake for new Members. The Welcome Team welcomes new people on our Team.
~Joanna Vaughan, Chair



Artarian Team is Disbanding

For many years the Artarians have displayed artwork on the Sanctuary walls for the congregation's enjoyment. We have invited other local artists to display their work, as we knew it would be welcomed. In return, we have appreciated the congregation's support and feedback. Unfortunately, in light of the current situation, we have lost several Team members and those of us remaining have decided we need to disband for now.

Beginning in March, we will display the "Firebird Rising" a felted artwork that was created by Rose Nauman (a founding member of NSUC). We think that this is a fitting symbol for the present situation of transition/transformation and the future.

There are many legends about the Firebird or Phoenix... most of them involve some form of transformational magic to create something good or helpful for people.

We hope that displaying this symbol again will set the stage for positive transformation and renewal.

Information about the team details and processes we used will be available from the Church Office. Thank you.

~ Beverly Grice
Chair of the Artarians

Cronies

Cronies are dynamic and wise people who meet at the church twice monthly to visit while eating their brown-bagged lunches. It is an honour to be in their presence every 2nd and 4th Thursday at lunchtime (12:30pm). Sometimes, people walk by and greet them, glad to be in the space of these elders who support and guide our church. Bel Izat comes with her dog, telling the Cronies how taking care of a new dog can be challenging and rewarding. You're invited to join this gathering to see what we are all about. Our spring dates are March 9th & 23rd, April 13th & 27th, and May 11th & 25th. Call Joanna Vaughan if you need a ride (604-904-9535).
~Joanna Vaughan, Coordinator



Holiday Office Closures

Our Church Office will be closed on Friday, April 7th (Good Friday) and Monday, May 22nd (Victoria Day).

Library *news*



News from Our Library

New in our Adult collection: *The Deeper Wound: Recovering the Soul from Fear and Suffering* (Deepak Chopra).

New in our Children's Collection: *Lifetimes: The Beautiful Way to Explain Death to Children* (Bryan Mellonie and Robert Ingpen), *Can You Say Peace?* (Karen Katz), *Taan's Moons: A Haida Moon Story* (Alison Gear), *Each Breath A Smile* (Thich Nhat Hanh), *Bonniema and Fredpa's Big Family!* (Shelley Adam), *What Is God?* (Etan Boritzer), *I Miss You: A First Look at Death* (Pat Thomas), and *Guan Yin: The Buddha's Helper* (Bhikshuni Jin Rou and Terri Nicholson).

Sponsored by Jasha Ramsay: *This Is Assisted Dying* (Stefanie Green, MD).

The books on the Used Book trolley change frequently. At 50 cents each they are a real deal. ~Shelley Hrdlitschka, Librarian



A new Board of Trustees is elected each year at the Church's Annual General Meeting. The next AGM is due to be held in May 2023.

Your Nominating Committee would like Members to think ahead about whether they might like to be on the Board after the AGM.

Serving on the Board of Trustees supports the life of the Church, and contributes to our community.

There will be vacant positions for 1-year and 2-year terms.

The Nominating Committee welcomes Members to nominate themselves, or to suggest names of other Members to be considered.

Nominations are also invited as a potential Member of the Nominating Committee.

All suggestions are welcomed, and will be received in confidence.

Please contact any of us to nominate a candidate.

~ Nominating Committee:
Michael Watson
Jacky Coates
Ryan Guenther

AGM

Annual General Meeting Sunday, May 28th

Special Thanks to Trail Appliances



for giving us a discount on our new refrigerator!

Grocery Receipt Program

Many thanks to Nora Coates for running this program since 1999! During that time, this program has earned about \$300/year. Tom Fullerton has agreed to run our Grocery Receipt program going forward. 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 exchanges them for a gift card, and convert it into cash for the church.

Do you shop at IGA? If so, please let me know. (We're looking for someone who can help us cash their gift cards). ~ Janni Kretlow





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/streams>
2. Click on the video you want to watch.

It's really that easy!



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)

STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Minister:** [Rev. Ron Phares](#)
Affiliated Community Minister: [Rev. Arthur Berman](#)
Lay Chaplain: [Barb Moore](#)
Congregational Life Assistant: [Cara Elrod](#)
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:

- [Jonathan Fountain](#), President
- Kit To, Vice President
- [Brian Funt](#), Treasurer
- Elain Duvall, Member at Large
- Marga Hanna, Member at Large
- Cindy Leitner, Member at Large



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