



starting **P**oint

February 12th, 18th & 19th

Starting Point is intended to help new-ish people get to know us and our Unitarian Universalist tradition better. It is also an opportunity to meet some of our long-term members and our Minister. Starting Point is encouraged before signing our Membership Book and becoming a Member.

Anyone may attend Starting Point, whether you're new here, or not. All are welcome!

Sessions are held in person or by Zoom. Free childcare can be provided, if needed.

Starting Point takes place several times each church year. Our next session will take place in three parts in February of 2023:

1. In a **Spirit Zone on Sunday, February 12th** we'll learn more about each other, and how our spiritual paths have led us here.
2. In a **Saturday session on February 18th** from 10am - 2pm in the Sanctuary to explore where we're coming from religiously and theologically. We'll break for snacks, and then move into greater depth, meaning, and purpose in an exploration of our religious tradition and community.
3. In a **Spirit Zone on February 19th**, we'll wrap up with a deep dive into how we are organized and what it means to be a Member.

[Register HERE](#) or contact [Janni in the Church Office](#) to participate or ask questions.



Monthly Souper Sundays

You're invited to join us for home-made soup in the Fireside Room after church on these Sundays:

- December 18th
- January 15th
- February 12th



Mystery Pals January 15th-February 12th

This month-long activity will make connections across the generations. The Sign up form will be available in December. Contact [Laura](#), our Director of Congregational Life, for more information.



Donation Cut-Off for 2022: December 20th

Cheques received by end of day on December 20th will appear on end-of-year tax receipts. Please get your donations in by then, if you want them to appear on your 2022 tax receipt.

From Our Board President



Jonathan Fountain
Board President

I write this message in a somber and reflective mood, knowing our community has recently experienced deep losses. I contemplate the recent passing of Mark Mayall, a long-time member of this church, father, grandfather, partner, and a friend who welcomed me to this community, and the beautiful celebration of his life held on November 12th. We also feel loss for the tragic death of Maiken Cooper (formerly known as Dani Cooper), someone who many knew for years and watched grow in our children's and youth programs. Their family and friends are suffering in profound ways, and those who knew Maiken are shocked, and, angry, and saddened. Please grant each other grace, give each other care and compassion, and avail yourselves of the resources and gatherings at the church. And most importantly, be supportive of Maiken's family and loved ones, who have asked for privacy in this time.

I also reflect on the September 11, 2022, General Meeting, and Board activities since then. As a Board, we put forth a democratic process aligned with our bylaws and contractual obligations in which all parties had the oppor-

tunity to be heard and members the opportunity to vote. As a Board, we respect the result of that process – the special resolution did not pass, and a second motion to support healing and covenanting processes did pass – and focused our attentions accordingly.

We have heard many concerns about our congregation's process & behaviour over these past months, concerning the use of proxy votes, respecting the vote's confidentiality, communications outside accepted process, and harmful interactions among congregants and between congregants and the Minister.

The Board hears all these concerns and is setting priorities in our agenda to meet the highest needs, to bring healing, and to move toward covenanting.

Earlier in the fall we set three main goals for the Board this year. They are:

- Support the Covenanting Process, including education of the congregation on the purpose of the process
- Obtain assessment of the trends in our congregational behaviours that are supporting and impeding a healthy community.
- Discern next steps for NSUC's Ministry.

These are in tandem with the Ministry Goals:

- Enact a Covenanting process, including education of the congregation on the purpose of the process

- Refine and educate congregation on Ministry Policies and Procedures to clarify purpose, roles & responsibilities
- Leadership development focused on healthy and effective communications.

We are well on our way to supporting the initiatives of Ministry to enact such a covenanting process, but even this goal is responding to feedback that we first need to become ready for that work, so covenanting will be preceded by a healing and restorative justice initiative to bring us back together. Meanwhile, a few of us, myself included, attended the CUC fall gathering this weekend, which focused on Covenanting purposes and processes. Also, important and ongoing is our Stewardship campaign.

Please pledge—we have important work ahead and need your support to keep this congregation and all that we do together alive.

~ Jonathan Fountain
Board President

BUDGET
Meeting

Budget Meeting
12:15pm on January 29th
Watch for the Notice Packet
as the time gets closer.




Outreach

Each Sunday, 100% of our offering plate collections, unless otherwise marked, are given to the monthly Outreach Recipient. During the fall months (**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 will be reported in our next Newsletter.


In **December**, the Outreach Recipient is our Pastoral Discretionary Fund, which is used to help with a variety of needs in our congregation and the wider community.

January through May, in memory of Maiken (formerly known as Dani) Cooper, we will divide our Outreach collections evenly between these three organizations that provide mental health support. These organizations were chosen by our Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (JEDI) Team:




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: [housing](#), [support services](#), and [employment and education](#) opportunities. The people they serve take the lead in their recovery, working side-by-side with Coast's team to set goals and decide which services and programs will best help them meet these goals.

Phone
604-872-3502



For over 20 years, [Family Smart](#) has been 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. Family Smart provides Working Well Together Training, which brings together young people, parents/caregivers and professionals to learn with and from each other so we can improve our experiences together.

Phone
1-855-887-8004



[The Canadian Mental Health Association \(CMHA\), North and West Vancouver branch](#) provides a wide range of innovative and essential services and supports tailored to and in partnership with the communities of North and West Vancouver, Bowen Island, the Sunshine Coast and the Sea-to-Sky Corridor. They have been providing services to the North Shore community since 1958, empowering, supporting and improving the quality of life of mental health consumers and increasing the overall wellness of our communities.

Phone
604-987-6959

JEDI

Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion



This year, we continue to focus on **living the 8th Principle**, with an emphasis on **Indigenous rights**, and “**widening our welcome**” to ensure everyone feels welcome in our faith community.

In a January Spirit Zone, learn more about the **Inuit Winter games**, and even try out an Inuit style competition if you want!



We will continue to publicize **future opportunities for social action** in the weekly eBulletin, or you can contact [Robyn Newton](#) to be added to our contact list. New JEDI members always welcome!

~ Robyn Newton & Richard Kwan
Co-Chairs of the JEDI Team

Indigenous Rights

We continue to watch for opportunities to **support Indigenous rights**. In November, Robyn and her daughter joined [Decolonizing Solidarity](#) with about 200 advocates. They marched to the RBC Branch in Kitsilano to protest the drilling for the Coastal GasLink Pipeline project under the Sacred Wedzin Kwa river on the unceded traditional lands of the Wet’suwet’en. Lobbying efforts are ongoing; let [Richard Kwan](#) know if you want to be involved.

JEDI Spirit Zone: Widening our Welcome

In October, JEDI hosted a Spirit Zone on “Widening our Welcome”. Participants brainstormed who might *not* feel fully welcome here, and how we might fix that. We discussed ways to deepen our hospitality to **all** people who may benefit from finding a spiritual home in our congregation.

In addition to addressing physical accessibility, we identified some actions that could widen our welcome, including:

- Create a “culture of welcome” where each of us feels responsibility to make newcomers feel welcome.
- Explain our rituals and “church language” to newcomers.
- Explain “how NSUC works” to newcomers.
- Show curiosity (not judgment) when someone holds a belief system that differs from ours.
- Provide more “free events” (potlucks, game nights, movie nights, music nights).
- Unfilled spots in FundFest events could be offered free to new members and friends.
- Incorporate more elements from youth worship, rituals, and conferences into adult worship, as well as their “best practices” in communication and inclusion (Ouch! And Oops! And Robbie’s Rule).
- Renew our commitment to being a Welcoming Congregation.

WANT TO BE ADDED
TO THE JEDI CONTACT LIST?

CONTACT CO-CHAIRS

[ROBYN NEWTON](#)

OR [RICHARD KWAN](#).

“Our work to dismantle systems of oppression can be done in a loving and gentle way, recognizing that we all make mistakes. We should not be ashamed when someone points out our missteps. We can receive feedback with open hearts, apologize, and vow to do better. Blame and shame do not help us move ahead and should not be part of this work. At the same time, bad behaviour should not be tolerated and should be addressed by calling members back into covenant.”

~ Robyn Newton



Christmas Hampers

Again this year, our JEDI Team is collecting Christmas gifts for a senior and family as part of the **Christmas Hamper program** of North Shore Family Services.

Please see how you can help on the bulletin board in the stairwell or on our website. On December 11th, JEDI will host a Spirit Zone to wrap the presents. Come join us!

From the Library

Twenty books were added to the church library this fall. Please check them out!

Donated by Joy Silver: *Worship that Works* (Wayne Arnason), *What Do Jews Believe?* (Edward Kessler), *What Do Pagans Believe?* (Graham Harvey), *Questions For The Religious Journey* (George Beach), *Rumi Hidden Music* (Maryam Mafi), *Dancing on our Turtle's Back* (Leanne Simpson), *In This Very Moment* (James Ishmael Ford), *The Spirit Level* (Richard Wilkinson), *Little Book of Big Ideas*, *Religion* (Jeremy Stangroom), *A New Religious Dimension: Towards Interdependent Faiths* (Julian Fears), *Life, Money and Illusion* (Mike Nickerson), *Joining Hands and Hearts* (Stefanachi Macomb).

Donated by Karen and Brian Funt: *In The Rapids* (Ovide Mercredi).

Donated by Nora Coates: *The Comfortable Pew* (Pierre Berton).

Donated by Shelley Hrdlitschka for the children's collection: *West Coast Wild At Low Tide* (Deborah Hodge).

Other donations: *Here We Are* (Oliver Jeffers) (children's collection), *Amish Grace* (Donald Kraybill), *The Art of Living* (Dalai Lama). Sponsored by Sara Stevens: *UUA: Unlocking the Power of Covenant*.

The books on the Used Book Trolley change frequently. At 50¢ each they are real bargains! ~ Shelley Hrdlitschka, Librarian



A new Board of Trustees is elected each year at the Church's Annual General Meeting. The next AGM will be held in May or June of 2023. That may seem to be a long way off, but your Nominating Committee would like Members to think ahead about whether they might like to be on the Board next year.

Serving on the Board of Trustees supports the life of the Church, and contributes to our vibrant 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. All suggestions are treated with confidentiality.

Please contact any of us to nominate a candidate.

(And thank you to the Members who recently offered their services to fill 2 Board vacancies. Your support helped the Board make the final selection).

~ Nominating Committee:
Michael Watson
Jacky Coates
Ryan Guenther



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/>.

WELCOME Team

The Welcome Team members meet new people, introduce them to others, and share our church history through Starting Point. A group of 7 new people and 4 Members participated in Starting Point in October. Our next Starting Point is scheduled for February 12th, 18th and 19th, for those who want to learn more about our faith.

We're looking for new Ushers and Greeters. Contact the [Church Office](#) if you are interested.

In November, Robyn Newton from the JEDI Team participated in our Welcome Team meeting as she discovered through a Spirit Zone that some JEDI discussions included what the Welcome Team could benefit from. There is strength in numbers.

We thank Merrick Walsh for providing food at Starting Point. He is planning a Christmas Potluck on December 3rd. Watch for details in future eBulletins.

“Hallelujah” as Leonard Cohen would say — and long live the new King Charles.

~ Joanna Vaughan, Chair

PRODUCTION team

Hi from the Production table! As you may have noticed, due to the fall turmoil as well as people moving, we lost most of the Team. The rest of the stalwart folks at the back table are our wonderful Sound Board volunteers — but the Production Team does all of the camera work, YouTube streaming and slides. I have been doing it weekly now, on my own since the fall started. Recently, we welcomed Liam Patterson-Morris, who is helping out when he can. He is a cracker jack Power-Point person to boot! We have it down to a science now, and simplified the process. If you love to play with cameras, perhaps know a bit about YouTube, and are willing to help us (or know of someone else who might be), please let me know so we can take turns on Sundays. I am willing to teach!

Thanks for considering,
~ Cynthia Becker, Production Chair
production@northshoreunitarians.ca



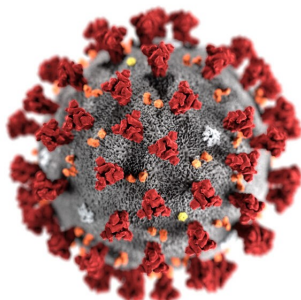
Holiday Office Closures

Our Church Office will be closed for winter holidays December 26th to January 2nd. Staff will return to regular hours the week of January 3rd.



Snow Closures

On rare occasions, church services and other events may be cancelled due to snow, loss of electricity, or other emergency situations. Staff will likely work from home when it snows. See our website for more info: <https://www.northshoreunitarians.ca/>



COVID-19 Updates

Please watch our [website \(HERE\)](#) and eBulletins for updates regarding 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.



Artarian News

The online and Sanctuary Art Show for December features **Jackie Conradi Robertson** and **Farahnaz Samari**. Both artists are scheduled to speak at upcoming Spirit Zones (Farahnaz on December 4th, and Jackie on December 11th).

In January & February, the **Artarians** will display their art in a group show. A portion of art sales is donated to North Shore Unitarian Church. Watch your eBulletin for announcements about Spirit Zones featuring an artist tour of the Sanctuary art, and our annual card sale in the Fireside room on December 4th.

~ Beverly Grice, Artarian Chair



Cronies

Join us for our Christmas goodies and eggnog on December 15th, instead of our usual second and fourth Thursday of the month. In the new year, we will meet on January 12th & 26th and February 9th & 23rd at 12:30pm. Bring your bagged lunch and stories to tell beside a warm flickering fire.

~ Joanna Vaughan, Coordinator



Music & Reflection 7pm on Wed. December 7th

Hosted by one of our long-standing women's groups, this gathering will use simple readings and music to explore what it means to live with greater purpose. Participants are welcome to share an anecdote, poem etc. of their own related to the topic.

Everyone is welcome. Contact [Kathryn Nicholson](#) or the [Church Office](#) if you need a ride or have questions.



Christmas Choral Service Sun. December 11th

At this choral service featuring our very own Vox Lumina choir, hear memories of celebrating Christmas in countries around the world, and hear carols from those countries.



Christmas Eve Sat. December 24th

You're invited to join us for a traditional Christmas Eve service featuring stories, carols, and candles. Watch for more information as the time gets closer.



Volunteer Located for our Grocery Receipt Program

Many thanks to Nora Coates for running this program for so many years! Since 1999, this program has earned over \$8,000 for the church.

Tom Fullerton, our Custodian, has agreed to run our 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 will exchange them for a gift card, and convert it into cash for the church.



Circle Dinners & Lunches

Joy Silver is our Circle Dinner and lunch coordinator. She is excited to restart our potluck social lunches and dinners after a long furlough of COVID restrictions.

Monthly potlucks are held on the **last Saturday of each month of**

October, November, January, February, March, April and May unless otherwise indicated in our eBulletin. These social gatherings are designed to engage small groups of 6-8 folk in fun and often meaningful conversations. The meals are hosted in rotating members' homes, or with a host at church in the Fireside Room. Joy contacts the hosts and the hosts contact their guests. We have had up to six different dinners on the same night! Family Meals are organized when there are at least two interested families.

When there are enough participants, Joy will do her best to circulate the hosts and the guest lists so hosts can become guests at another meal and guests can become hosts in a month of their choice. Food sensitivities will be considered and carpooling can be arranged.

Our November 2022 dinner was held in our church Fireside Room and organized as a welcome meal to our regular new-comers, our new members, and soon-to-be new members. New members *love* to get to know our seasoned members more personally.

Consider joining in one or more of our meals to "break bread" with each other. Let Joy know of your interest by connecting with her at church or by phone (604-941-2606), text (604-329-8073), or at odetojoy@telus.net.

~ Joy Silver, Circle Meal Coordinator



Care & Concerns Team Update

*You share your need,
we care as we are able.*

Care and compassion were extended to members on many fronts over the summer and throughout the fall.

Our Team includes three executive and a number of adjunct members who have chosen to do dedicated care. These care givers include phoners of shut-ins; Birthday Angels, who send birthday cards to our seniors; and card writing by Julia Covell who sends notes of care on behalf of our Team.

Rev. Ron is an ex-officio member of our Team. He attends to our members who have asked for spiritual care and guidance. He visits members who have suffered a deep loss, a serious illness, declining health, and serious surgeries. As well, Rev. Ron enjoys the *getting-to-know-each-other* conversations over his **Bag Lunches on Fridays**.

If you like engaging in the kind of work we do, please consider looking in on us at one of our online Team meetings by connecting with Joy at church or by home phone 604-941-2606, cell phone 604-329-8073 or e-mail at odetojoy@telus.net.

~ Joy Silver, Chair

Christmas Potluck at the Church 6pm Sat. December 3rd

You're invited to participate in a family potluck in the Fireside Room on Saturday, December 3rd. Roasted turkey will be provided. Contact Merrick Walsh or Janni in the Church Office to find out which additional side dishes and desserts are still needed.



B&G

Building & Grounds

Brian Welwood is the Building and Grounds Chair/contact person during summer months, with **Paul Symons** covering the balance of the year.

Here are some of the issues that we dealt with in the last 5 months with the help of Tom Fullerton, our church Custodian:



Drainage Issues

- After last November's atmospheric river caused a "small" flood in the church basement we bought inflatable "dams" to divert water away from the church basement door.
- Perimeter Drainage Ltd. scoped and cleaned our exterior drainage system, removing several small incursions of roots close to the building and a much larger one near the back of our property.
- The pump alarm had been sounding intermittently in the Rod Stewart Building (RSB), even though no rain had fallen in weeks. As far as we could tell, the pumps in the RSB sump had not been serviced in 10 years and were over 20 years old. One was failing badly and the other slightly. Since the RSB is an important source of revenue for the church, we replaced both pumps, controls, etc.



Heating Problems

- Church heaters did not come on this fall when needed. Lime Services replaced parts to fix the problem and did a thorough servicing.
- Lime also serviced two of the older furnaces in the RSB and advised that they should be replaced soon.
- Lime Services found that the expansion tank in the Chelsea House building was leaking and the pump was on its last legs. Parts have arrived and will be installed soon.



Other Items

- Tom power washed the parking lot and repainted the lines and curbs. I'm sure you noticed!
- Old cedars along the east side of the RSB were an eyesore and blocked the neighbor's sunlight. Tom and the neighbour topped or removed them.
- Tom removed a large branch that had fallen on the fence .
- Many other issues were handled by Tom with little or no B&G involvement. We appreciate his willingness to take on additional tasks.

Help Needed!

It has been a busy period for B&G, and expensive too. We are well over budget this year, and our buildings are not getting any younger. We anticipate similar or greater costs next year and into the future.

We lost Mark Mayall to cancer in October. He was a great friend, and also an active and valuable member of the B&G Team. We acknowledge all of his hard work and professional advice over the past 30 or more years. The average age of the active B&G members is over 70, so please contact [Paul](#) or [Brian](#) to offer your help.

8 Principles

Of Unitarian Universalism

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote 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.



Did you know that you can watch past services on our YouTube channel?

1. Go to our [YouTube Channel](https://www.youtube.com/user/NorthShoreUnitarian) at <https://www.youtube.com/user/NorthShoreUnitarian>.
2. Click on the video you want to watch.
3. To see older videos, click on "Videos" at the top of the screen.



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-Fridays
8am to 2pm

STAFF AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minister: [Rev. Ron Phares](#)

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

Lay Chaplain: [Barb Moore](#)

Director of Congregational Life: [Laura McNaughton](#)

Assistant to Director of Congregational Life: [Cara Elrod](#)

Music Director: [Alison Nixon](#)

Accompanist: Catherine Tseng

Church Administrator: [Janni Kretlow](#)

Financial Administrator: Anna Biesiada-Panas

Custodian: Tom Fullerton

Sunday Facilities Coordinator: Annabelle Coward

Board of Trustees:

[Jonathan Fountain](#), President

Kit To, Vice President

[John Duffy](#), Secretary

[Brian Funt](#), Treasurer

Elain Duvall, Member at Large

Catarina Gomes, Member at Large

Marga Hanna, Member at Large

Cindy Leitner, Member at Large

Alice McSherry, Member at Large



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