

## **Meaning Making in Liminal Times**

### **Dates and Topics**

#### **October**

**Live service - Sunday, October 1, 2023, time TBA**

Recording available Sunday, October 1, time TBA

**Deeper Dive - Saturday, October 21, at 10am Pacific/11am Mountain & SK/12 pm Central/1 pm Eastern/2pm Atlantic time**

*Topic:* Can We Give What We Get?

*Speaker:* Rev. Debra Faulk

*Description:* In these liminal times how does our Unitarian Universalist faith sustain us? So much loss and change has diminished our feelings of wellbeing and connection while heightening the sense of scarcity and amplifying anxiety. What commonly held values can we call on to inform our responses, motivate actions and provide some ease? Could generosity be a response that expands to reciprocity?

*Speaker bio:* Rev Debra Faulk, a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, retired in 2021 as Minister Emerita after 11 years with Calgary Unitarians. She received a BA in psychology and anthropology from UVic and a Master of Divinity from Vancouver School of Theology. She has served as chaplain at Vancouver General Hospital, Director of Religious Education in Victoria and Parish Minister to congregations in Alberta and Ontario.

Previous Board experience includes both the Toronto and Calgary Interfaith Council and the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good, working to collaborate with labour and non-profits to address systemic social change in the city. Currently she is one of the two BC reps to the CUC (Canadian Unitarian Council) Board of Trustees.

Debra, as a single mom, raised two children who have blessed her with 5 grandchildren. Currently she is excited with the adventure of co-ownership of her new home in Victoria, building community and being close to family.

#### **November**

**Live Service - Sunday, November 5, 2023 time TBA**

Recording available Sunday, November 5, time TBA

**Deeper Dive - Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 10 am Pacific/11 am Mountain/12 pm Central & SK/1 pm Eastern/2pm Atlantic time**

*Topic:* In this polarized world...can we just talk?

*Speaker:* Rev. Brian Kiely

*Description:* Conversation has become a dangerous thing! Will I offend if I speak? Will I get attacked for voicing an opinion? Speaking is becoming scary. Unitarian Universalists have always prided themselves on freedom and rational discourse. I believe it's the only way out of this polarized age.

*Speaker bio:* Brian Kiely has been a Unitarian minister in Canada for 35 years including 22 spent at the Unitarian Church of Edmonton. He is a past president of the CUC and the ICUU. He is sort of retired, but will be starting his second year working with Kelowna Unitarians in the Fall. Declan Kiely is a recently graduated dental technician living in Edmonton.

**January**

**Live Service - Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 10:30 am Central Standard time**

Recording available Sunday, January 7 at 2:30 pm Central Standard time

**Deeper Dive - Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 10 am Pacific/11 am Mountain/12 pm Central & SK/1 pm Eastern/2pm Atlantic time**

*Topic:* To be or not to be and ChatGPT

*Speaker:* Rev. Karen Fraser Gitlitz

*Description:* In what ways is artificial intelligence pushing us to deepen our ethical and theological muscles? The advent of AI chatbots has opened a whole new area of ethics as we figure out when and whether it is ok to use artificial intelligence. Underneath these ethical questions are statements of belief and values about what it means to be human and our place in the world.

*Speaker bio:* Karen Fraser Gitlitz is Saskatoon Unitarians' parish minister and a professional Art Therapist. For the past three summers, she has been a participant and a core walker with the Water Walk for the North and South Saskatchewan River, following Indigenous leadership by walking the river in Ceremony for the healing of the water. In all of these activities – ministry, art therapy, and water walking – she is drawn to the healing that comes when we are able to connect to ourselves, our communities, and the land.

## **February**

**Live Service - Sunday, February 4, 2024, 10:30 am Pacific**

Recording available Sunday, February 4 at 2:30 pm Pacific

**Deeper Dive - Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 10 am Pacific/11 am Mountain/12 pm Central & SK/1 pm Eastern/2pm Atlantic time**

*Topic:* What Sustains and Inspires Us in this Climate Emergency?

*Speaker:* Rev. Meg Roberts

*Description:* In this time, we are facing multiple climate crises. It can be frightening and dispiriting. How can our values and practices sustain and inspire us - as individuals and as a Unitarian community? How can we get from despair to hope?

*Speaker bio:* Rev. Meg Roberts has served congregations in various parts of Canada during the last 20 years: Edmonton, Montreal, Calgary, Vancouver Island, and now with Beacon in New Westminster and the Tri-cities area in BC. She also does community ministry using interactive theatre techniques with groups who want to deal with challenging social and organizational issues, and find practical solutions.

## **March**

**Live Service - Sunday, March 3, 2024, 4:00 pm Pacific**

Recording available Sunday, March 3 at 8:00 pm Pacific

**Deeper Dive - Saturday, March 16, 2024 at XX at 10 am Pacific/11 am Mountain & SK /12 pm Central/1 pm Eastern/2pm Atlantic time**

*Topic:* In times of great change, what can the wisdom of our bodies offer us?'

*Speaker:* Arran Morton

*Description:* Our bodies gain information from and engage with the human and non human world in ways our conscious mind is often unaware of. Let's explore how developing a deeper relationship with our bodies' wisdom can support us in navigating challenging transitions.

*Speaker bio:* Arran Morton currently lives in Victoria, BC - though he is from Scotland and came to Victoria via the 'scenic route'. He loves to be near the ocean, the trees, and (Vancouver) island life generally. His work has focused on love-based community building as well as training

and facilitation on issues related to healthy relationships, sexuality, conflict resolution and restorative justice/practices. Arran was the Director of Spiritual Exploration at First Unitarian Church of Victoria until he adopted his daughter in 2021. He is currently the Minister at Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship.

## **April**

**Live Service - Sunday, April 7, 2024, 10:30 am Mountain time**

Recording available Sunday, April 7 at 2:30 pm Mountain time

**Deeper Dive - Saturday, April 20, 2024**

*Topic:* Who do we choose to be?

*Speaker:* Rev. Samaya Oakley

*Description:* That we live in unprecedented times is a refrain we often hear too often these days. All the ways of living and being in the world have fallen away. As we begin to make our way forward into who knows what, how is it that we can love ourselves, our congregations, and our communities into a new wholeness. What do we want to be remembered for? Who do we choose to be in these times.

*Speaker bio:* The Rev. Samaya Oakley serves as the Minister for Calgary Unitarians. Once Rev. Samaya started attending a Unitarian Universalist congregation, she quickly became active continentally through the Youth Office of the UUA. After fifteen years of youth ministry, she entered ministry ten years ago. In that time, she has been involved in the CUC's Truth and Healing and Reconciliation Reflection Guide team as well as the Canadian Widening the Circle team. She holds at the heart of her ministry the importance of relationships and compassion. Rev. Samaya is a strong believer in social justice and believes that our theology calls us to be active agents for love and justice in the world.