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**Contact:**  
**111 Superior St.**  
**Victoria, BC V8V 1T2**  
**250-999-1064**  
<http://cotvictoria.ca>

**THE OPENING OF MANY PATHS**

March, the month when Spring officially arrives. The month of varied winds. Traditionally, the month of change, and promise. Associated with the astrological sign of Pisces, it can be seen as the month where many waters begin to flow, many paths begin to open up. These may be the path of dreams, the path of following the promptings of one's art, the path of opening up to the wisdom of young people, or of one's environmental conscience, or consciousness of connection. March beckons to us. How shall we respond?

The Lighthouse January 2019  
A Newsletter for Friends of the Church

We are a spiritual community supporting each other in exploring our personal journeys regardless of spiritual path or belief. Our community is comprised of a rich field of individual and collective energies that is ever changing and evolving.

While we are accepting of diverse expressions of belief, we recognize the interconnectedness of all things and the power of love and appreciation. We hold reverence for all life.

We welcome those who wish to share their journey with us through their insights, reflections, experience and creative self-expression.

We are open to inspiration and recognize that our openness to others' ideas enhance our own awareness and expansion.

We meet our basic human need to socialize, bond, cooperate, celebrate and have fun, in a warm-hearted way, through a variety of events and activities.

We acknowledge our opportunity to be agents of change in the world and we encourage and support service to others through individual and group activity.

We share our sacred space with the larger community.

With gratitude, we live thoughtfully on the Earth with kindness and compassion for all.

We welcome you.

Working for You  
Your Board of Directors

President	Brian Martin	778-430-1872
Vice President	Troi Leonard	250-532-3442
Inside Maintenance	Lorna Rennie	250-361-2079
Secretary/Treasurer	Ron Rayner	250 474-2715
Outside Maintenance	Ron Rayner	250 474-2715
SDC Liaison	Peggy Muncaster	250-888-7664

Your Spiritual Directions Committee

Laurence Beal	250-380-6429
Sharon Ford	
Chris Bullock	250-384-8241
Marilyn Smando	250-516-9687
D. Joan Thomas	250-721-4054
April Hambly	

Rentals Esther Hart 250-896-5933

Newsletter [cotoffice2017@gmail.com](mailto:cotoffice2017@gmail.com) Submissions due by the 21<sup>st</sup>.

**SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE**  
**for March**  
**THE OPENING OF MANY PATHS**

**March 3rd. Deep Listening With Compassion**

Moderator: April Hambly  
Greeter: Tba  
Meditation: Tba  
Speaker: Pearl Gregor  
Coordinator: April Hambly

**March 10th: Healing Sound**

Moderator: Lorna Rennie  
Meditation: Eleanor McKinnon  
Speaker: Laura Lane  
Greeter: Marie Logan  
Coordinator: D.J. Thomas

**March 17.**

Moderator: TBA  
Presentation: Dreanna Picard  
Meditation: Sean McLaughlin  
Greeter: TBA  
Coordinator: Chris Bullock

**March 24. Theme. Art Therapy**

Moderator: April Hambly  
Meditation: Marilyn Smando  
Community Service  
Greeter: tba  
Coordinators: April and Marilyn

**March 31. Creativity builds social integration - Community service**

May the Holy Spirit bring us into a rolling, dynamic exploration and precipitate insights and directions  
Coordinator: Laurence Beal  
Moderator: Laurence Beal  
Meditation: silent

## **INSPIRATIONAL EXPLORATIONS WEDNESDAYS: March 2019**

All sessions begin at 7.15, unless otherwise indicated

March 6: Peggy Muncaster presents the continuing series, “Manifesting the Divine.”

March 13: Sean (“Wool”) McLaughlin leads an exploration of the topic “Distraction versus Intention.” Facilitator: Chris Bullock. There will be a brief future program discussion immediately after this session.

March 20: Edward Butterworth presents “Paradigm Shift,” an exploration of social, cultural and environmental change. Facilitator: Marvelous Trudeau.

March 27: Frances Litman will facilitate discussion around a fascinating six part series that explores higher consciousness and the interconnectness of inner and outer worlds through science, metaphysics, art, history and spirituality.

The coordinators of Inspirational Explorations invite contributions from as wide a range of presenters as possible. Send proposals or ideas to any one of the coordinators: Arts area and general: Chris Bullock ([chrisbullock@shaw.ca](mailto:chrisbullock@shaw.ca)) and John Vanden Heuvel ([sunvann@yahoo.ca](mailto:sunvann@yahoo.ca)); spiritual practices: Peggy Muncaster ([muncasterpeggy@gmail.com](mailto:muncasterpeggy@gmail.com)); new/rediscovered frontiers: Marvelous Trudeau ([mavtrudeau@gmail.com](mailto:mavtrudeau@gmail.com)); environment and interconnections: Frances Litman ([info@franceslitman.com](mailto:info@franceslitman.com)).

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
We Celebrate with YOU!

D. Joan Thomas

March 4

### **"Invitation to Artists (and aspiring ones)"**

On Sunday, March 31st, our Community will host an 'Art Show after the service, from 1-3pm.

A cordial invitation goes out to everyone/anyone in our community who has created an art piece (whatever medium) to showcase your creative inspiration to

the broader community. Details to follow. So bring your 'art' or get creatively working now.

We also need helpers to make this event happen and will have sign up lists at church on Sundays for artists and helpers.

You must sign up on a list at church or by contacting one of the following members to let us know you would like to contribute:

Louise: [ljfiander2@gmail.com](mailto:ljfiander2@gmail.com) / Laura: [Lauras.myc@shaw.ca](mailto:Lauras.myc@shaw.ca) or John: [sunvann@yahoo.ca](mailto:sunvann@yahoo.ca)



We celebrated Robbie Burns Day Sunday, January 27, with a bringing in of the Haggis?

## FRANCIS WELLER ON GRIEF AND LOVE

On February 10, I, as moderator, introduced the service theme—“Navigating Grief in a Changing World”—with a long quotation from Francis Weller’s *The Wild Edge of Sorrow: Rituals of Renewal and the Sacred Work of Grief* (2015). Several people after the service asked me if I would submit this quotation to *The Lighthouse*. I was delighted by this response, because I believe in a spirituality of interconnectedness, one that is based on the connections between Spirit, ourselves, our psyches, our society/culture, and all the other beings with whom we share this beautiful earth. Weller describes this interconnectedness powerfully and poetically, as did Jan Inglis, in my view, in her presentation on Planetary Grief. Of course, people in COT have different views of spirituality, as is their right, and the truth of states of trauma, alienation and aloneness must also be acknowledged. But for those for whom Weller’s words resonated, here they are:

“Sorrow helps us remember something long intuited by indigenous people across the planet: our lives are intricately commingled with one another, with animals, plants, watersheds and soil. For the last several centuries, we have envisioned a split between our inner lives and the surrounding world. Psyche, however, is not confined to the deep interior of our lives...Our personal experiences of loss and suffering are now bound with dying coral reefs, melting polar ice caps, the silencing of languages, the collapse of democracy, and the fading of civilization. The personal and planetary are inseparable, as is our healing... Grief and love are sisters, woven together from the beginning. Their kinship reminds us that there is no love that does not contain loss, and no loss that is not a reminder of the love we carry for what we once held close. Alone and together, death and loss affect us all.

The interweaving of personal and planetary losses has left many of us uncertain, anxious, and ultimately heartbroken.

[But) Our broken hearts have the potential to open us to a wider sense of identity, one capable of seeing through the partitions that have segregated self from world... We are coming to understand that there is no isolated self stranded in the cosmos; we are participants in an entwined and entangled net of connections with a continuous exchange of light, air, gravity, thought, color, and sound, all coalescing in the elegant dance that is our shared life. It is the broken heart that can let slip into its core the shimmer of a salmon gliding just under the surface of the water, the startling arc of the swift, the wonder of Mozart, and the sheer beauty of sunrise.” (Weller, xvi-xvii)

**It's time to renew your membership. You can print these 2 pages or you can pick up a copy at the church. New member forms are also available.**

**CHURCH OF TRUTH - COMMUNITY OF CONSCIOUS LIVING  
GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERSHIP Renewal**

**2019**

1. Attendance at our services.
2. A strong desire to participate in our community demonstrated by attending services and getting involved as a volunteer and/or by giving your financial support.

Our Mission Statement says it well:

"We are a supportive community of spiritual discovery. We are a gathering of unique individuals, exploring and allowing our diverse expression of belief. We respect the interconnectedness of all life. We welcome all who are willing to commit themselves to participating in our collective creation. Together, we share our sacred place, this adventure ... this celebration!

Please complete the membership renewal application at the bottom of this form. Your annual \$10.00 membership fee is due before the AGM in April. Your continued membership is based on your active participation in our community.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (optional) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your birthday: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_  
(for acknowledgement at Birthday Sundays)

Amount enclosed with application: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Rcvd. by Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_)

Please include me on the community contact list. \_\_\_\_\_

Check what you would like to have listed:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ home address \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

See participation form

**Church of Truth – Community of Conscious Living**  
**Participation Information Form**

The Board invites you to consider how you want to participate and the benefits you wish to receive from your participation in the Church of Truth – Community of Conscious Living.

Please complete the form below. (check all that apply)

**Participation**

Sunday morning greeter _____	Flowers _____
Coffee serving/cleanup _____	Maintenance _____
Provide Snacks for after service _____	Child Minding _____
Gathering/putting away music and order of service _____	Other _____

**Areas of Interest/Expertise**

Spiritual Directions Committee _____	Moderator _____
Choir/Music _____	Speaker _____
Meditation _____	Fundraising/Functions _____
Workshops _____	Other _____

**Benefits**

Please share anything you would like the Board to know about the benefits you wish to receive from this community. (Please use the back if more space is needed.)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_