



Comox United Church



There are a few paper copies available for those who would prefer a hard copy. Announcements should be sent to

admin@comoxunitedchurch.com or

call 250 339-3966 by **8:00 am Thursday morning.**

Minister: Rev. Phillip Spencer eutyclus33@gmail.com 250-618-6310

Minister: Rev. Debra Bowman revdabowman@gmail.com 604 802-8210

Minister of Pastoral Care and Congregational Life: Wayne Hughes

Text or phone: 250 203-7258 care@comoxunitedchurch.com

Treasurer: treasurer@comoxunitedchurch.com

Envelope Secretary: envelopesecretary@comoxunitedchurch.com

Please note: Newsletters are also posted on the Comox United website.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter press reply and let me know.

Friday, May 27, 2022

Visit our website: it is updated weekly: www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Greeters: Joan Gillies, Stewart Crerar

Coffee:

Service Leader: Rev. Deb Bowman, Wayne Hughes and Visioning Team

Sermon:

Power Point: Merrilee Cameron

Scripture Reader: Visioning Team

To read the scripture follow the link below then type in the scripture verse <http://bible.oremus.org>

Please Note: the Newsletter is now being posted on our Website.

Comox United Church worship services are available in three ways.

- 1) Attend worship in-person at the church on Sundays at 10:00 am.
- 2) Watch live on-line by going to our YouTube channel. Just click on this link at 10:00 am on Sunday morning:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCprSWtXE0g4K3LOvG54v0-g>
[Sunday Services Comox United Church](https://www.comoxunitedchurch.com/pages/onlin-e-sunday-services)
- 3) Watch the service at another time from the "Virtual Services" page on our website:
<https://www.comoxunitedchurch.com/pages/onlin-e-sunday-services>



Coffee and Tea will be served following the service however as the dishwasher in the church kitchen is awaiting repair. Please LUG a MUG



Thank you!

Thanks to all those who have contributed flowers from their garden for the communion table this spring. We would also like to invite congregation members to contribute a small bouquet or plant (bought or picked from the garden) in memory of someone or in celebration of something.....this memory can be included in the newsletter. Just email Julie at cjwhitman98@gmail.com by the Thursday before (or earlier if you wish to contribute on a specific Sunday!)

The walking group will meet this Sunday (May 29th) at 2 pm for a walk on trails in the Valley View area and a stroll through a lovely rhododendron garden. Meet on Thorpe Ave between Malahat and Valleyview Roads at the marked trail entrance. Some uphill and downhill in both directions. The trail is chip and dirt with a few rocks and roots. Walking poles might be helpful if you are unsure of your footing. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Warm greetings to members of Comox

United! Many of you will have heard that on January 17th of this year, while at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, I had an aortic dissection, a tear in the inner layer of the body's main artery (aorta). This condition, without immediate medical attention, would have probably been deadly. Fortunately, I was right at the hospital when the major incident happened (two smaller incidents happened on January 7th and 14th) and so, with immediate expert medical care involving a 7 - 8 hour surgery, combined with the prayers of friends and family, I am rapidly recovering my health. A subsequent 3 hour operation to complete the process happened on April 29th to install two more stents in the celiac and the renal artery at the bottom the aorta. In between these two major operations, I had laser surgery on my prostate. I have now enjoyed just over 4 months of recovery time since the initial incident. While my doctors are pleased with my relatively rapid recovery, I wish to acknowledge my gratitude for their expertise and the positive experience I had with the health care system. And to you, my dear friends at Comox United, I/we have been overwhelmed by the expressions of love, through comments, emails, a prayer blanket delivered from the knitting group, pastoral visits, food delivery and continuous support from the book club and the Men's Shed group. Finally, I wish to express my deep sense of the spiritual maturity and health of this congregation, personally experienced through this time. May we all continue to follow the leading of God's spirit as our community works together to do the work of the church in these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Steve (and Vange) Thiessen

Daily Reflections hosted by the *Christian Seasons Calendar* offer encouragement in our common ministry as disciples of Christ Jesus, for the glory of God and the sake of God's beloved world.

<https://christiancalendar.squarespace.com/daily>

**Banners!**

The Worship Committee is currently reviewing our use and placement of the abundance of banners we possess. If you have some considered thoughts about the banners and suggestions for their use, you are encouraged to contact members of the Worship Committee. Thanks for the input! Joyce Wagland ajwagland@gmail.com

**I-HOS Donation**

Many thanks to Renata at I-HOS for this beautiful bamboo bowl from our Comox First Nation. You can see it on the kitchen counter during Coffee hour every Sunday, collecting our coffee donations!

**Parking Lot UPDATE**

For approximately ten weeks, Edgett Excavating will be using part of the upper parking lot as they install a sidewalk along the south side of Comox Ave in the vicinity of the church. Good news for us! We apologise for any temporary inconvenience this may cause, but we are confident that we will continue to be able to accommodate our congregation and our many user groups.



PENTECOST

Sunday, June 5th

A chance to wear your brightest
flame-coloured clothes to church!



To the Ladies of Comox United Church:

The UCW is pleased to announce that they will be hosting a luncheon for the women of the church on **Monday, June 13th** to which you are invited. The luncheon will begin at 12:15 p.m. Food will be provided. (No potluck this time.) There will be a small charge of \$5.

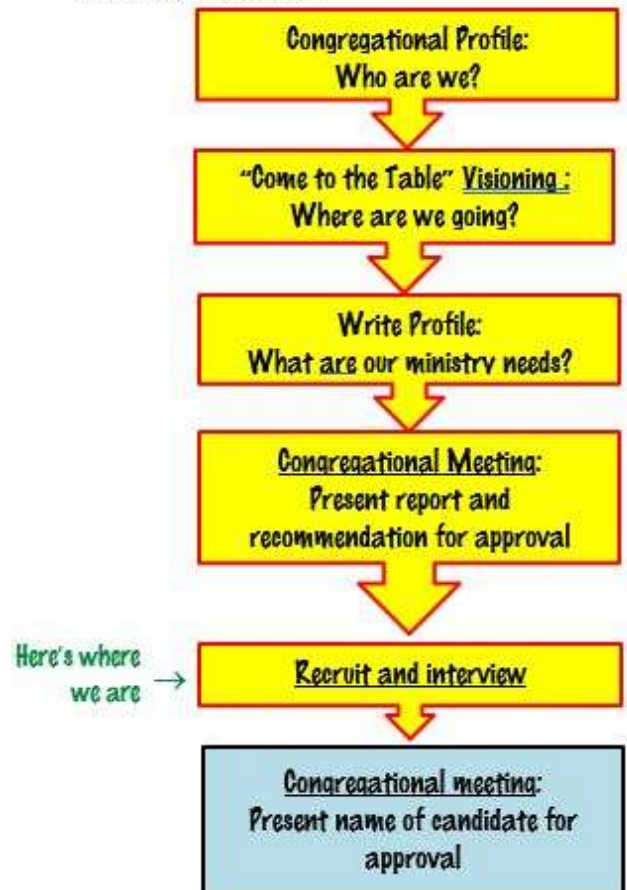
As per our usual practice we will be collecting items for the Transition Society, they have suggested sets of gently used twin sheets, socks, sunscreen, underwear and grocery cards. Toiletries are also welcome.

Please register by June 9, 2022 if you wish to attend. Phone Noreen at 250-890-0204 or email robertsonalexnoreen@gmail.com

**We look forward to seeing you
for lunch at the church on
Monday, June 13 at 12:15 pm.**

Ministry Profile & Search (MPS)

On Sunday May 15, the congregation approved our recommendation to fill our current ministerial vacancy with a full-time minister to work in concert with our part-time minister Wayne Hughes. Once we receive approval from Regional Council on May 30, we will begin the "recruit and interview" process.



Got Questions? Ask any member of the MPS Committee:
**Ken Newman, Barb Craig, Dale Erhart,
Serena Patterson, Sue Fabrizio, Robert
McDonald, Sue Sutherland-Justice,
Alan Brown**



Check out new postings.

<https://www.comoxunitedchurch.com/blog>

Volunteer opportunities



Tech Team

Your church Tech Team has a need for interested folks to help enhance our weekly worship. We now stream our services live and have hired a tech to do the streaming on Sunday mornings as he earns his way to North Island College.

Sound is important, both in the Sanctuary and on-line and we are looking for helpers to assist with providing sound quality. This involves a few functions, most conducted while sitting in a pew with a laptop. We offer training and mentoring to do this and the opportunity to take part in providing a quality experience to the members of our faith community and others.

Do you have an interest? Would you like to know more about what is involved before you plunge into "tech"? Would you prefer to watch a live demonstration of how the system works before making any commitment?

Our team would love to hear from you and talk about what is involved. Please send a message to Joyce Wagland at ajwagland@gmail.com or Ross Griffith-Cochrane at rgriffco@gmail.com with your e-mail and/or phone number and we'd be happy to talk to you or give you an orientation at your convenience.

IS THIS YOU?



1. You have a heart for the Comox United church family.
2. You make others feel safe to speak up.
3. You can communicate expectations.
4. You lead by example.
5. You avoid procrastination and just get things done.

The Pastoral Care team of Comox United Church is a small, dedicated group that among other things:

- ❖ arranges for cards to be sent to members (and sometimes friends) of our church family for concerns with health, loss, and celebration
- ❖ oversees monthly services at three facilities in the Comox Valley (Glacier View, Comox Valley Seniors Village, Berwick)
- ❖ provided a Caregiver Retreat locally (and have funds from ProVision to conduct another)
- ❖ supports small workshops
- ❖ meets monthly by Zoom

I joined the Pastoral Care team just a few months after I started attending Comox United and became the facilitator later that year. It has been a wonderful way to get to 'know' the people. Our congregation members are quick to let us know about illness, struggles and life changes in other members' lives.

I have been so grateful for this group, but would like to get involved in other areas of church life. We need a new facilitator and a couple of new members would be nice too. Please contact Marni Fisher or Wayne Hughes if you have an interest or questions.

**WE NEED YOU to join
OUR CREW!**





Hearing Assist Devices

We are looking for a volunteer to maintain the hearing assist devices.

Please contact the office.

Admin@comoxunitedchurch.com

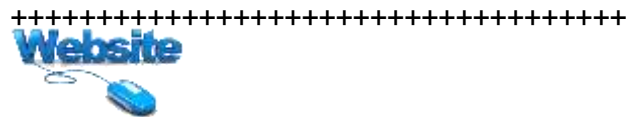
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Lorna requires help !!!

Occasionally even the tireless Lorna needs a break from her role as our church Office Administrator and plans on taking a vacation. Normally Joanne Wiens steps in to provide backfill and ensure the office runs smoothly in Lorna's absence, however in September when Lorna would like to take her vacation, Joanne is unavailable. Can you help keep the office going during these 3 weeks? (Tues – Fri 9-1).

The role of the Comox United Office Administrator requires good computer skills with a working knowledge of Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Gmail to prepare the church weekly service bulletins, newsletter, PowerPoint slides and email correspondence. Many different groups come into the church so we are looking for someone who will demonstrate our mandate of being a welcoming, affirming, faith-centred place to congregate.

Training would be provided. If you believe that you have these skills and would be willing to help us fill this gap, the Ministry and Personnel Committee would love to hear from you. For more information, please contact Mike Stewart at: mnstewart@shaw.ca



Comox UC Website – How To

This week's Tip:

1. To read the United Church prayer for the victims of the Texas school shooting, go to the church website by googling **Comox United Church**.
2. From the menu at the top of the page, click on **News**
3. Scroll down to read Moderator Bott's prayer.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?
Submissions? Photos?

NB: This is YOUR website! If you'd like to add any articles or photos to this or any page, please email Joyce Wagland at websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com or phone 250-207-5650.

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Groups and Gatherings of CxU Folk

2nd Monday 1:15 UCW (United Church Women)
Contact Noreen 890-0204

Mondays 1:30-3:30 Knitting Group
Contact Bev 871-2027

Tuesdays 10:00 Coffee and Conversation
Contact Cameron 339-0739

Walking Group – watch website or Newsletter for details

CxU Singles
Contact Ruth Gibson 890-3438 or
Contact Merrilee 941-5898

Men's Shed/Group
Contact Mike 339-7877

MINISTRY Minute

Learning for Life: Habtamu's Story



Habtamu and his family live in Ethiopia, where he farms land inherited from his father. Unfortunately, when the land was passed on to him, it wasn't fertile. Teams of oxen used for agriculture had eroded the soil, and the harsh sunlight meant that anything planted in it died. Thanks to a conservation agriculture program supported by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (a Mission & Service partner) Habtamu and his family learned farming techniques that reduce soil erosion, improve soil fertility, and increase productivity. For example, they are using crop by-products as a cover for their soil, preventing it from being exposed to sunlight and rainwater. The impact is incredible.

"Earlier, we were hungry and the land was infertile, but now for the last eight years we have been harvesting a good crop. I am happy we are trying to alleviate our problem, change our lives, and feed our children," explains Yitayish, Habtamu's wife, while he proudly shows a barn full of grain.

"I used to feed my children with maize I bought at the market, but now I can satisfy the needs of my family and supply the market," Habtamu says, expressing

"I would really like to express my deepest gratitude...for giving us knowledge and insights. I am really grateful to you for all the kindness you have shown me," Habtamu says.

Our congregation gives a designated amount of our annual offerings to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church.

Watch a video of Habtamu's story here:

<https://youtu.be/ERJR8dacn58>



SUNDAY SERVICE 4 PM

CENTERING PRAYER 5:30 PM

details and online access at
www.weirdchurchcumberland.com

It takes 21 days to create a habit, and we have a beautiful-habit-forming resource to share with you! It's free access to [The PrayerBench's Stroll for Your Soul](#). We're offering it as a gift to all Pacific Mountain Regional Council people



[Sign Up to get the Subscription Link Here!](#)

Stroll for Your Soul offers 21 days of accompaniment through a brief email sent from Janice and Caroline, delivered early each morning to your inbox. Each email will offer a practice, or a reflection, or a poem, or a photograph giving direction and encouragement for your time spent walking or jogging or biking or even skateboarding during that day.