



## Comox United Church

***Our Values: Spirituality, Openness, Care for the Common Good, Radical Love***

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Visit our website: it is updated weekly: [www.comoxunitedchurch.com](http://www.comoxunitedchurch.com)

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

Announcements should be sent to [admin@comoxunitedchurch.com](mailto:admin@comoxunitedchurch.com) or call 250 339-3966 by **8:00 am Thursday morning.**

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter please email [admin@comoxunitedchurch.com](mailto:admin@comoxunitedchurch.com).

Friday, June 17, 2022

### Sunday, June 19, 2022

**Greeters:** Marj Adams, Isobel McLeish

**Coffee:** Jan Bjarnason, Peter Senior

**Service Leader:** Rev. Phil Spencer

**Sermon:** Cautions and Encouragement

**Power Point:** Merrilee Cameron

**Scripture Reader:** Ruth Gibson

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



## Farewell Celebration

### Thanks and Goodbye!

On Sunday, June 26th, 2022,  
we will celebrate Deb's and Phil's time  
with us and bid them a fond farewell.

Come to the church hall after the Worship  
Service to give our thanks to our  
wonderful transition ministers.  
They've seen us through a tough time and  
inspired us to move forward with  
anticipation and hope!

**NATIONAL  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY**

Kids Zone  
Aunty Toni's Bannock  
K'ómoks First Nation

**EVERYONE WELCOME  
TO COME CELEBRATE**

Aunty Toni's Bannock  
K'ómoks Cultural Dance Group  
Artisans & Information Tables  
Fundraiser: Loonie/Toonie Auction  
Ladies Drum Group  
Raven is Back Storytelling W/ Susan Leslie  
Dean Little Light, Siksika Nation - Pow Wow Dancer

**TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022  
4PM - 8PM**

3320 Comox Road, K'ómoks Territory

**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.youtube.com/channel/UCprSWtXE0g4K3LOvG54v0-g)
- 3) Watch the service at another time from the "Virtual Services" page on our website:  
<https://www.comoxunitedchurch.com/pages/online-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

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**News from SAGE (Sustainable Action Group for the Environment)**



The new **bike racks** arrived this week! Thanks to Stewart Tracey for helping with the installation. We plan to transform these black hoops into a rainbow of colours.

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**South door (lower parking lot)**

Please note: Comox Valley Locksmith has repaired the lock on the south door. It is now easier to unlock and is now self-locking – once the door shuts it is locked. All issued keys will still work.

**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>



**Picnic Postponed!**

In order to ensure that all members of the congregation can attend the goodbye event for Phil and Deb, the church picnic planned for June 26 has been postponed until the fall.

Instead of going to Kin Beach, where uneven ground could be a barrier to congregational participation, we'll hold the Worship Service in the sanctuary as usual on June 26th, with a gathering in the hall after the service, to bid a fond farewell to our wonderful transitional ministers. The date for a church picnic will be **determined later.**

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***This week's Tip:***

1. To look at the church events in calendar form, go to the church website by googling **Comox United Church**.
2. From the menu at the top of the page, click on **Events**.
3. Click on the faded word "Calendar" instead of "List".
4. Check out what's happening in the church!

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](mailto:websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com) or phone 250-207-5650.**

## Volunteer opportunities



### Communion Servers Needed



Now that we are having communion on the first Sunday of every month, the Worship Committee is developing a list

of people who would be interested in serving communion to the congregation, on a rotational basis. If you're interested in being on this list, please contact Joyce at [ajwagland@hotmail.com](mailto:ajwagland@hotmail.com)

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### 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. 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](mailto:ajwagland@gmail.com) or Ross Griffith-Cochrane at [rgriffco@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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### Hearing Assist Devices

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

Please contact the office.

[Admin@comoxunitedchurch.com](mailto:Admin@comoxunitedchurch.com)

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### Help Needed (not just Wanted...)

**A United Church has one committee that is mandatory: the Ministry & Personnel (M&P) Committee.** Its role and primary responsibility is to act as a confidential sounding board and support agency for church staff.

M&P also deals with all personnel business regarding church staff, including: maintaining regular, thoughtful contact with each staff member; an annual evaluation with each staff; goal-setting; career and continuing education planning; problem-solving; recommending to the Church Council and Treasurer yearly or situational adjustments to compensation and benefits; oversight of relations between staff or between staff and congregation members or groups, which may include helping to work through any disagreement or misunderstanding (a rare event generally); various administrative tasks in the employer / employee relationship; maintenance of personnel records; and so on. At the moment our M&P Committee has one member, and one additional person who acts as clerk. Many thanks to you both. BUT...one person simply cannot carry out the mandate of an M&P Committee. To function, this committee needs a minimum of 4 members. This situation also puts our congregation in the position of not meeting our (required) responsibilities to our staff and to the United Church of Canada.

Not having an M & P committee is not an option. As noted, an M & P Committee is mandatory. We need at least three more people if we are to fulfil our obligations. (M&P can have up to 7 members.) We seek people who:  
can offer 2-8 hours each month - demand varies, includes a 1 - 2 hr. meeting & possibly 1 -2 hours of other work.

- are Members of our church (have formally joined our or another United Church)
- are able to listen, assess, discern, and help with problem-solving
- have good interpersonal skills

- can maintain a high level of objectivity and strict confidentiality
- can operate as a member of a team
- can commit to a two-year term
- have some experience in personnel management if possible

In the last few years our M&P Committee has been well-tested, with an evolving, chronic illness situation and much uncertainty. With the calling of a new minister we expect the committee's work will be both less in volume and less urgent.

Being an M&P member is rewarding and fulfilling for the right person. It is a chance to make a meaningful contribution to the church and to get to know some exceptional people – our staff. If you think you might be able, and willing, to serve in this capacity we would love to speak with you. We can explain the job in more detail than a note like this can do.

Please contact Howard Robertson, NoVA chair, at [nova@comoxunitedchurch.com](mailto:nova@comoxunitedchurch.com).

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Our UCW luncheon on Monday was a happy occasion. Thank you all who attended, generously donated money and also gave various items for the Transition House. Thank

you to Lucia Brodie for her lovely table posies, Julie Waller for the beautiful vase of peonies, Isobel for the delightful story, Gloria for her welcoming, joyful music, and Gloria's 'choir'. A special thank you to the UCW members for their offerings of food, set-up and clean-up. Thanks to the many women who were not members, who stayed behind to help clean-up, and to Sue Newman for laundering the tablecloths. We are looking forward to the time when we have a working dishwasher. The UCW members welcome anyone who would like to join us for a devotional and time of sharing and caring at our regular meeting times which fall on the second Monday of every month, except for July and August, at 1:15 p.m. in room M7 just off the church hall.

Blessings and joy to all,  
The executive of Ruth Giles, Isobel McLeish and Noreen Robertson

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### News from Pacific Mountain Region

The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Pacific Mountain Region (representing all United Churches in BC) took place from June 9 to 12. The meeting was held in a hybrid format, with about 120 people online and an equal number in person in Prince George. Joanne Wiens and Cathie Talbot attended on-line on behalf of Comox United Church. The theme was "Rooted and Grounded in Love" based on Ephesians 3.

Highlights include:

- Becoming an **Affirming Regional Ministry**
- Nominating **Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne**, Executive Director of First United, for Moderator of the United Church of Canada
- Hearing about the redevelopment of First United Church in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver, replacing the church with 100 units of social housing for Indigenous peoples
- A commitment to help churches engage in action relating to climate change and the drug toxicity crisis.

For a more detailed report visit the Comox United Church website ([www.comoxunitedchurch.com](http://www.comoxunitedchurch.com)) and click on News.



# MINISTRY Minute

## Remembering Alberta Billy



Alberta Billy on the 30th anniversary of the Apology, in Sudbury, Ontario, in 2016.

*Credit: Kelly Buehler*

**Indigenous Day of Prayer** is an annual observance in the United Church on the Sunday before National Indigenous Peoples Day (June 21). This year we remember and celebrate the life of Alberta Billy, the We Wai Kai Elder who in 1985 demanded that The United Church of Canada apologize for its role in colonization and the loss of Indigenous languages, culture, and spirituality. She passed away on June 13, 2022.

Alberta's actions and words on behalf of the Native Ministries Council at the March 1985 meeting of the General Council Executive both shocked and reverberated with those present, and ultimately led to the church's first **Apology to Indigenous Peoples** (<https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/reconciliation-and-indigenous-justice/apologies>) at the 31st General Council in August 1986. In 2016, Alberta, accompanied by one of her grandchildren, was present to mark the 30th anniversary of the Apology in Sudbury.

These actions began a process of deep change in the United Church. Moderator Richard Bott notes that "the whole of the church is deeply indebted to Alberta Billy for what she demanded

of us and called us to do. We could not be the church we strive to be without her."

Alberta, a long-time advocate of reconciliation, reminded those present at the 30th Anniversary that the Apology is not complete. It has been acknowledged but not accepted by the Indigenous Church, which continues to look to the United Church to concretely demonstrate its commitment to a nation-to-nation relationship rooted in mutuality and respect.

As the church seeks to truly honour the Indigenous Caretakers' "Calls to the Church" (<https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/being-community/indigenous-ministries/calls-church>) it would do well to remember Alberta's faith and commitment to the Indigenous ways in which she was raised and lived, as well as to the church which she believed could always do better.

If you want to learn more about this remarkable woman an interview featuring Alberta Billy at the 30th Anniversary of the Apology can be viewed on the United Church YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/brQjxEg-p1A>

Each year on Indigenous Day of Prayer Sunday the Social Justice team of Comox United invites you to consider giving a special donation to the **Healing Fund** which helps the United Church of Canada live out its commitment to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. This fund was established in 1994 and offers financial support to grassroots projects that focus on healing initiatives for survivors of the Indian Residential Schools system and its ongoing intergenerational impacts. The Indigenous church oversees the fund and communities can apply for up to \$15,000 for healing, culture, and/or language projects. Donations to this appeal can be made by cash or cheque using the designated envelopes (in the foyer) or by e-transfer to the Treasurer:

[treasurer@comoxunitedchurch.com](mailto:treasurer@comoxunitedchurch.com)

For more information about the Healing Fund please see the bulletin board in the church hall.