



## Comox United Church

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

**Minister of Pastoral Care and Congregational Life:** Wayne Hughes

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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, Sept. 9, 2022

### Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022

**Greeters:**

**Coffee:** Sue and Ken Newman

**Service Leader:** Wayne Hughes

**Sermon: Coins and Sheep**

**Power Point:** Noreen Robertson

**Scripture Reader:** Patty Forbes King

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Luke 15:1-10

To read the scripture follow the link below then

type in the scripture verse <http://bible.oremus.org>

The office will be closed for Friday, Sept. 30 in honour of Truth and Reconciliation Day.

**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/UCJlaxG\\_quMwagK5WeiQwXPA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJlaxG_quMwagK5WeiQwXPA)

3) Watch the service at another time from the "Virtual Services" page on our website:

<https://www.comoxunitedchurch.com/pages/online-sunday-services>

### Prayers of the People

The Worship Committee would like to reinstate the sheet for prayer requests for concerns and also welcomes requests for prayers of thanksgiving. A sheet will be on the table in the Narthex with a pen for you to write requests and the worship leader will pick it up on their way into the service.



Prayer requests can be sent to any member of the prayer group:

Elaine Burnell [ebburnell@gmail.com](mailto:ebburnell@gmail.com)  
Noreen Robertson [noreen1944@gmail.com](mailto:noreen1944@gmail.com)  
Joan Gillies [joanb1@shaw.ca](mailto:joanb1@shaw.ca)  
Trevor Fox [trevor.fox@viha.ca](mailto:trevor.fox@viha.ca)



**Check out the CxU Blog**

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



### Volunteer Opportunity:

We are looking for more volunteers to run the PowerPoint on Sunday mornings. You would usually be scheduled for one Sunday a month.

Training will be provided. Please let the office know if this is something that calls to you.



## Message from the Treasurer

**Offerings:** Two elements are **ahead** of budget at this time. Envelopes are +13.5% ahead helped by a single \$1,500.00 donation this month and PAR is a bit ahead at +1.95%. Open Collection is still down by 11.5% as is e-Transfer, down by 29.0.

Total Offering is up by 3.63%



## Soups On

Have you been missing the good smells of soups wafting into the sanctuary on the last Sunday of the month? Have you been missing a chance to sit and chat with friends, new and old, over lunch that you didn't have to prepare? Would you like a chance to try out some new recipes? Well, get your cook books out and be prepared to join in the "New Beginnings of Soup and Sandwich Lunch". We will start again the last Sunday of **September (25th)** with a new format. Instead of individuals being responsible for making a pot of soup or a loaf of sandwiches, we will be asking Groups within the church to take on the full responsibility for one Sunday a year. The groups that we've identified are: Super Singles (Sept), Social Justice (October), Council, Coffee & Conversation, Men's Shed, Knitters, Choir, UCW. So for the Sunday your Group chooses, the Group will be responsible for 4 soup pots of soup, 1 to be Gluten free and 5 loaves of sandwiches, 1 to be Gluten free. The setup of tables, chairs and dishes; serving the soup; and cleanup will be your Group responsibility. Remember - just once a year. We

know there will be some logistics that will need to be worked out, and we're here to help you do that. For example, some groups may need someone to help them carry in their soup; the choir will need someone to tend their soup while they are busy in the sanctuary; and so on. If you have a month that your group would like to sign up for, please contact  
Merrilee Cameron, Co-Convener,  
[tomyhome@shaw.ca](mailto:tomyhome@shaw.ca) or  
Leslie Fraser, Co-Convener,  
[lesliefraser@gmail.com](mailto:lesliefraser@gmail.com)  
Heather Flint, Co-Convener,  
[celtic-heron@telus.net](mailto:celtic-heron@telus.net)



## This week's Tip:

**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.**



Would you like to help your needy neighbour?

Good news for our clients at the Sonshine Lunch Club serving meals to needy people - lunches will start serving meals 5 days a week inside at St George's United church, Courtenay at the beginning of September.

This will mean more volunteers will be required and the Wednesday group of United church members (mostly from St George's) would welcome your help from 9am to 12.30 -1.00 pm. This could be on a regular or an on-call basis.

For more info call Wayne or Louise Smiley of St George's, home 250-334-7708 or Ruth Giles from Comox, home 250-339-5609. Thank you.

# MINISTRY Minute

## Agricultural Training in Guatemala



Credit: ARI

In 2019, 135 million people faced acute food insecurity. In 2022, the number of people who don't have enough food to meet their basic needs has soared to 345 million. The United Nations calls 2022 a "year of unprecedented hunger."

One of the ways our Mission & Service gifts are working to address hunger is by supporting agricultural training centres like the Asian Rural Institute based in Japan. Earlier this summer, 32 community leaders from around the world came to study there.

"Some enroll to solve problems like raising livestock, others to cope with climate change, and still others to find a market for organic produce. For many, it is their first time travelling outside their countries or even communities. For them, simply sharing life with people from diverse backgrounds and experiences is filled with immense learning," reports ARI in a recent newsletter.

Marita and Ester are two of the participants. Both women work for a global organization called CIEDEG (Conference of Evangelical Churches of Guatemala), where they teach agriculture and support children's education in church and schools. Shortly after United Church staff referred CIEDEG to ARI, the women signed up. In their own words, they describe what motivated them to apply:

*"We decided to apply for this program because we wanted to learn more and improve our work. Here we are learning to work together with everyone, physically growing vegetables and caring for animals while sharing our knowledge. In our hometowns, vegetables are usually grown in monocultures. However, at ARI, we are growing multiple varieties of vegetables, taking advantage of each vegetable's characteristics, and we look forward to learning more about this during the training so we can improve nutrition in the local market. There are many difficulties that the Indigenous Mayan people, especially women, face. Poverty is still a significant issue in Guatemala, and there are also problems such as alcoholism and discrimination among ethnic groups. These problems leave many people, especially families with single mothers, in difficult financial and nutritional situations. We want to help empower women."*

Our congregation gives a designated amount of our annual offerings to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church. So part of your offering this week will help to provide education and training to transform communities so that no one goes hungry.

### REkindle, RELax, REfresh, RENew.

Please join us at this year's REtreat at Camp Homewood on beautiful Quadra Island. If you need a ride, we can arrange one. Applications and fees should be given/sent to Ruth Giles or into the Church Office by Sept 14th as our camp is Sept 30-Oct 2. There will be Taize services, healing touch, a beach cleanup at Rebecca Spit, waterfront activities and much, much more. It has always been an enjoyable weekend. Any questions please contact Ruth Giles

([gilesr@shaw.ca](mailto:gilesr@shaw.ca)) or Fiona Curry

([fmmcurry@gmail.com](mailto:fmmcurry@gmail.com))

**The Community Justice Centre** would like to extend our encouragement to attend *the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Campagnolo Dinner and Lecture on Wednesday, October 12, 2022.* The Dinner is in honour of this year's Lecturer and is in the Native Sons Hall from 5 – 7 PM, the Lecture is in the Sid Williams Theatre from 7:30 – 9:00 PM.

This year's Lecturer is Dr. Cindy Blackstock of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society. She is a change-maker, a disrupter, and a persistent and committed advocate for First Nations Children and Families in the struggle to ensure have equitable opportunities to grow up safely at home, be healthy, get a good education and be proud of who they are. Her Lecture will address questions of the place of Restorative Justice in First nations family and children's support.

If you would like tickets to either or both of these events, they are available through the Sid Williams Box Office in person or online

at <https://www.sidwilliamstheatre.com/events> .

The Dinner ticket is \$45, the Lecture ticket is \$25 or \$20 for students. If you purchase both together, there is a discount of \$10, for a total price of \$60 or \$55 for students.

I know everyone says tickets are going fast, but I can say that about 20% of the available Lecture tickets went out the first day they went on sale Aug 30<sup>th</sup> .

*Supported by the CxU Social Justice Committee*