

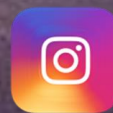


**Broad View**  
— UNITED —



**OCTOBER 2023**

[broadviewunited.com](https://broadviewunited.com)  
[firstmetvictoria.com](https://firstmetvictoria.com)





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## Minister's Message

### Changing seasons: Outside and In - Mark Green

Leaves are changing colour and the morning air has a chill in it. Fall is a time of great transition. In so many ways this season is like a parable for what we are experiencing as a congregation. We are in a time of great transition as well. And as with any change, there are parts that are exhilarating and parts that are frightening.

I'm reminded of the Leo Buscaglia story "The Fall of Freddie the leaf". The story is a parable about life and death and the hope of rebirth. Freddie has spent his life learning about the world around him from the vantage point of a tree that is the only home and perspective he's known. He's enjoyed his life and the changing seasons but as fall comes and winter approaches, he is less enthusiastic about winter and the unknown for him that lies ahead. But the wise leaf that has been his lifelong mentor says:

*"We all fear what we don't know Freddie. It's natural. Yet, you were not afraid when spring became summer. You were not afraid when summer became fall. They were natural changes. Why then should you be afraid of the season of death?"*

The wisdom in this story that I perceive is that some changes we adapt to easily. Other changes are more difficult and engender fear and apprehension. Those feelings are natural and they tend then to be expressed in a variety of ways: sadness, anger, resignation, frustration, anxiety. For everyone the process of moving to the place of acceptance and embracing the changes is different. Over the next few months, a number of folks will be experiencing many of these emotions related to the changes and the move to the newly renovated site. Loss of familiar places of worship and gathering, familiar faces of staff and congregants, familiar routines – these call all be very challenging. And yet there will also be things to look forward to: new spaces, new opportunities, shift in responsibilities and roles, new life and energy.

It is my hope that we will be patient, kind and generous spirited with one another as we make these transitions over the next few months. That as individuals we will stop and take a breath when we are feeling overwhelmed. That we will reach out to one another for support and to share our feelings. That we will move through these transitions with as much grace as we possibly can. As we leave the familiar places we have worshiped, I hope that we will be able to see that we were a part of a story that was much larger than our own self and that will continue to have a life of its own after we are gone. Our legacy will add to the legacy of those who have gone before us. It will be changed and transformed and find new life. We have and will continue to be a part of that in whatever shape the next season is for us all. God's grace is indeed good.



Rev. Mark Green

## **Amalgamation Updates**

### **First Met Building: Responsibility and Management Shift, Starting Oct 1<sup>st</sup>**

Starting Oct 1st, Pacific Mountain Region (PMR) will officially take over the responsibility for the First Met building, managing the building as a rental space. BVU and FM will become tenants for our office spaces, Sunday morning activities, and other meeting rooms as needed. Wayne will be the PMR custodian effective Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Booking Space at First Met site** As part of our continued presence at the First Met site, requests for booking/renting spaces will be made via the PMR office. If your small group or team needs space to meet, please call or email Oscar at the First Met office, [office@broadviewunited.com](mailto:office@broadviewunited.com) (250-388-5188) to reserve a space.

### **Phone message:**

When you call the church, you'll hear, "Welcome to First Met Church and Welcome Centre". To reach Oscar, our administrator, follow the prompts.

### **Email contact:**

While we're updating the FM staff's email addresses, their [firstmetvictoria.com](mailto:firstmetvictoria.com) emails will forward messages to ensure smooth transition.

### **Parking Success at First Met:**

Despite initial concerns about limited parking at First Met, there has not been a problem thus far! Using angle parking on Sundays, the extra lot half-way down the block, and many choosing to park a short walk away have all helped. We hope these same strategies work just as well at our new site!

### **Sunday Morning Parking Map for New Site:**

We are working on creating a parking map for the new site to help guide folks about where potential parking spots will be available onsite and around the building. We know some folks have expressed concerns about parking in a similar way those coming to the FM site did initially as well. We are confident that we can have the same success that we had previously by encouraging some folks to park further away and have a Sunday walk and leave the closer spaces for those with mobility challenges. We will also have some designated spots for families with young children so we can support ages at both ends of the spectrum and their parking needs. Additionally, there will be significant bike parking and carpooling has benefits of both community connecting and saving of parking spaces. Watch the November newsletter for updated information.

### **Carpooling for Sunday Services:**

Concerned about getting to our new site due to car availability, driving, or transit limitations? We don't want these to be barriers for your Sunday worship. If carpooling could be a solution, please email your needs and address to Ha Na at [hana@broadviewunited.com](mailto:hana@broadviewunited.com). Our staff team will do our best to coordinate carpooling by gathering information from those interested and securing volunteers.

## Our Shared Journey at First Met:

It's been a month and a half since we began gathering (Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>) for worship and fellowship at the First Met site. Wow! While it may seem like a short span, it's been long enough for us to express heartfelt thanks for the journey we've shared. The warm and thoughtful welcome that the Broad View United folks received on the first Sunday with the First Met community, accompanied by the delightful Sundae Sunday with various toppings, was truly memorable. It's been encouraging, especially seeing Micia and Pat preparing and welcoming the children on Sunday mornings, the start of Soup Sunday and young adults gathering again. The Junior Youth group had a fun Friday night, with participation from BVU, Intercultural, and First Met communities, making it especially significant. Events like the Blessing of Backpacks and the farewell for Bruce remind us of the sacredness in times of gathering, changing, and sending off. We pray for God's love and blessings upon everyone and every family journeying with us.

## Sunday Coffee update:

Depending on the Pacific Mountain Region's bookings, we'll either be in the Fellowship Hall or the DMR for our coffee time on Sundays. Just follow the crowd (and that inviting coffee aroma!) to enjoy coffee before or after the service.

## Wednesday ZOOM Meet and Greet (Oct 4 – Until we move to the new site):

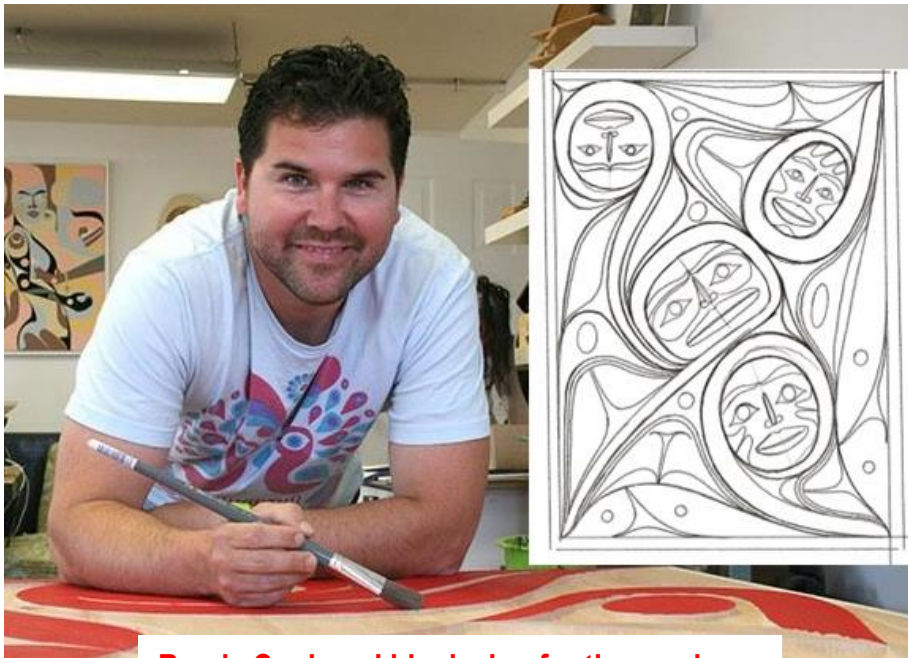
Many have enjoyed Wednesday Meet and Greets at Horner Park, August-September. Starting Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday Meet and Greet will continue on **ZOOM at 7pm and** will last until we transition to our new site in mid-November. We'll send a Zoom link every Wednesday morning via BVU email. Join us for community building and a Q&A session! Whether you have questions about the amalgamation, renovation, or any aspect of congregational life, this is a chance to get answers and get to know one another through conversation.

## **Renovation Updates**

- **Timeline:** Currently the contractor is aiming to have the city signed off on the project and for us to be able to start moving out things into the building for Nov 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a few items that will not be completed when we move in, but they will all be completed before the end of November. The items are small in nature and won't affect our ability to starting living and worshiping in the building. However, until we get to the end of Oct and have more certainty about the dates, we will not be announcing a date and time for our opening worship in the new building. Watch the November newsletter for more details and announcements.
- **Outstanding items:** At this point, millwork is still being constructed and will be installed toward the end of October and at which point the sinks, and such will also be able to be installed. Toilets and flooring are being installed in the next two weeks and the final cement pour for the benches around the labyrinth, the bike racks.
- **Transitions:** as we move toward our occupancy date, there is lots to be arranged for moving and unpacking. We are just starting to get our head around what needs to happen and by whom. There will be lots of learnings about the new building as move into it and adjust to new spaces and new configurations. We appreciate your flexibility and patience as we navigate these changes. Change is hard and extra grace will be required as we navigate it together.

## RECONCILIATION ARTWORK – Fundraiser

Participation in the work of Reconciliation is a key value for BVU and FM. Early in 2023, the Reconciliation team, some members of the redesign group and some staff met with local indigenous artist Rande Cook to commission an art piece that would be located in a central part of the renovated church site and be an invitation to continue the conversation and work of Reconciliation. Rande was excited to work on this project and feels a deep calling to the bridging work of reconciliation, healing communities and relationship and reconnection with the earth. Here are the words of Rande about his design for the 5x7ft. carving:



**Rande Cook and his design for the carving.**

### Story:

*When I think of reconciliation I think of humanity as a whole and our relationships we hold with each other. As an Indigenous person from these lands I hold a place of compassion and empathy, not just for the land but for all that have come here from afar fleeing from their own traumas and displacement. One of the questions I ask myself is: What is healing? and how can I contribute to the betterment of all humanity while addressing my own personal trauma and displacement?*

*The answer that keeps coming up for me is in the creator, and to believe in the divine guidance that comes through prayer and believing. I know we'll never solve every problem at hand, but with community we'll never feel alone while doing our best. Over the past couple hundred years we have invited settlers to come ashore, and share in the resources that have provided for us, and over the past 150 years that relationship was set on seeing our resources as commodity and monetary value- capitalism. This perspective led to the building of a government who only saw our country as of monetary value, which then led to the mistreatment of Indigenous Peoples and the removal of people from their traditional lands into residential schools. It is unfortunate how religion was used as a weapon to support these schools, because we all know faith runs deeper than religion, and its faith that has always brought people together. Faith to me is the belief in myself, to be free from the constraints that have held me back by the physical, and the belief that there is something greater and beyond our own knowledge that is there to guide our existence here on this planet.*



### *The Art:*

*From the material, to the finish, to the design, and the team that it takes to make an art piece like this is all based around a community of creative minds working together to finish something unique and amazing. I started the design off with a narrative that focuses on connection (sketch 1), there are four faces in the design that represent people from the four corners of the world, between the people is a flowing design of elements symbolizing mother earth and all living things from plants to animals, oceans to air. The finish I am imagining is a red hugh. Red for me represents our unity through blood, the high gloss finish brings the viewer in to see their reflection making it interactive and inclusive, while leaving the viewer feeling included and unified.*

### *Production:*

*An art piece of this scale requires a team. I first set up time with my sandblaster in his booth and then it goes to the automotive paint shop. the process begins in my studio, I start with 1" thick high-density fiberboard and i hand draw out the design, after the design is finished i transfer the design on to a rubber stencil that is then applied to the high-density fiberboard, after that i hand cut the stencil revealing the negative space that will be sandblasted. Then the art piece leaves my studio to the sandblaster where that process takes some time, after that it is brought back to my studio to be sanded and refined, then it's brought to the automotive shop where they prep it for paint in multiple stages from priming and applying each layer of colour.*

### *Final Installation:*

*The day of unveiling will be important. This will be a day about bringing the community together, some traditional singing and speeches from our elders about healing, unity and working towards building a strong community for future generations. I am very excited about this project. ~ Rande Cook*



The reconciliation team and the board for BVU would like the whole congregation to feel some ownership and investment in this significant artwork and central symbol of our ongoing commitment to the work of Reconciliation. And so, we are initiating a FUNDRAISING campaign to raise \$45,000 to cover the cost of the artwork, the artist and the installation of the amazing piece. Our goal is to raise this money as a part of our support and commitment to Reconciliation and the calls to the church of the TRC.. Cheques and Etransfers should have "TRC Art" in the subject line and made out to Broad View United or etransferred to [office@broadviewunited.com](mailto:office@broadviewunited.com). We are excited to share this project with you.

# Intercultural Programs

## What does “intercultural” mean?

*It means living together with a respectful awareness of each other’s differences. We do this by examining ourselves, building relationships, and distributing power fairly.*

*(Excerpt From the intercultural vision of the United Church of Canada.)*

Greetings from Broad View United’s intercultural space! Here, we embrace a sense of belonging, foster friendships, and encourage transformation. We invite you to explore our diverse intercultural programs as we dive into the vibrant autumn season. Everyone is welcome, and all are encouraged to participate.

**Saturday Social Gatherings:** there is a growing interest in learning to play pickleball in our intercultural group. As we enter the season of fall, we are actively seeking indoor pickleball courts. In the meantime, we will continue to play at Carnarvon Park (2801 Henderson Rd.), weather permitting. We are also exploring various community events in town. The locations may vary depending on the event. Please join our Facebook group, **The Intercultural Space @ Broad View United (Victoria, BC)** for updates or contact me at [min-goo@broadviewunited.com](mailto:min-goo@broadviewunited.com).



**English Conversation Circle (via Zoom) on Thursdays (3:30 - 5:00 pm):** Our English Conversation Circle on Zoom goes beyond traditional ESL classes. It facilitates candid and profound dialogues about cultural differences, revealing hidden meanings, beliefs, and nuances often left unspoken. The Conversation Circle enhances language skills and fosters lasting friendships. We warmly invite you to join us!

**Intercultural Bible Study (1<sup>st</sup> Wed of the month at 7:00 pm):** Our Intercultural Bible Study will resume, taking place at a member’s home until the Cedar Hill X site is available. This Bible study is grounded in the belief that our lived experiences are primary resources for interpreting the Word. Each month, we will explore the same Scripture passage you hear on Sundays. Come and join in feasting on the Word!

**Sacred Steps at Multifaith on Mondays from 3:00 to 4:00 pm** (Sept 18 – Dec. 4, except Oct. 2, 9, Nov. 13): Join us as we embark on a journey of self-discovery through walking meditation, barefoot walking, and nature walks. Immerse yourself in the beauty of Finnerty Gardens, Mystic Vale, and other enchanting locations around the campus. By cultivating mindfulness, fostering wonder, and deepening our connection to the natural world, we will rediscover the Mystery within ourselves and creation. These programs will take place outdoors, rain or shine, so please dress for the weather. All are welcome.

Facilitators: Min-Goo Kang (United Church Spiritual Care Provider), Ruth Dantzer (Anglican Spiritual Care Provider) & Adam Tran (Counsellor).



# Children, Youth & Young Adults

## Children's Program

This is our regular Sunday morning programming for kids aged pre-K to Grade 8. There is a children's conversation during the service after which we will move to the upstairs youth room. Typically, the kids will be broken up into smaller groups by age where we will discuss the story and engage in activities that guide us toward understanding the Bible story and connecting it with our own lives.



## Junior Youth Group

A chance for kids in grades 6, 7, or 8 to gather together in a safe space to build community and explore a new way of being with their peers. We meet every second week to talk, play, and laugh! Our gathering times for October are Fridays, **October 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30**. We are planning to be at Galey Farms on Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> enjoying some Hallowe'en fun!



## Youth Trek

Check your calendar for **Friday, October 20<sup>th</sup>- Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>** as Micia and Pat are interested in leading a group of youth aged 12-17 to Duncan for Youth Trek. Stay tuned for more details.

## Senior Youth Group

For students in grades 9 – 12. There are always some lively discussions and lots of time for games and laughter. We will meet on the **second and fourth Sunday of each month from**



**7:00 til 9:00**. We hope you can join us starting on Sunday, **October 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Check your calendar for **Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>** and a haunted evening at Galey Farms!.

## Young Adults

This is for those aged 19 – 29 (ish). We meet on the first and third Sunday of each month after the service for lunch- which is provided. You do not need to pre-register. Just show up and enjoy this diverse, supportive and welcoming community. Our lunches together for October are Sunday, **Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>** in the hall around **12:15**.

## Halloween Evening at Galey Farms (Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>)

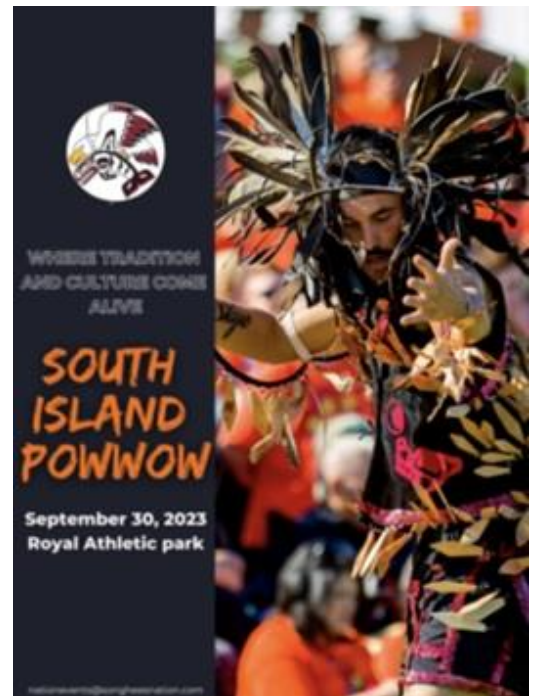
Spend the evening of **Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>** at Festival of Fear at Galey Farms enjoying the Hallowe'en season. We will need to buy tickets in advance so please let Micia or Pat know if you can join us by Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## Special Worship Services

### National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Vigil

**Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at First Met Chapel**

On this National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we join as UCC community as part of our ongoing pledge towards reconciliation in the wake of our history of colonization and residential schools. This brief vigil will begin with the tolling of sanctuary bells and intersperse readings with sacred silence and close with a litany of commitment. Participants may then wish to head to Royal Athletic Park to attend the 2nd annual South Island Powwow. Grand Entries of First Nations are at noon and 6 pm.



### Blessing of the Animals Service

**Oct 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm St Francis' Day**

Honouring our companion animals is a beautiful way to express our gratitude to the Creator of pets past and present. This non-denomination service is open to all ne is both tender and fun! Please have your fur or feather amity members on a leash or in their travelling crates.

If your pet is now a sacred memory, please bring a photo cause our time together includes a Time for Remembering. Stuffies are also totally invited!

The date of OCTOBER 4<sup>TH</sup> is the celebration of St Francis-of- Assisi, the patron saint of Pets, their human companions, and veterinarians. If you have any questions, please email Shelagh. Hope to see you there!

### Thanksgiving Service

**Sunday Oct 8<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.**

Join us for Thanksgiving Sunday as we celebrate this day and explore what it means to live a grounded life filled with gratitude and generosity. Neil Cardew-Fanning will be joining us on the organ that Sunday and we will fill the sanctuary with sights and sounds of thanksgiving together. Other special musical guests are also in the works. We look forward to being together.

Bring your creatures, great and small, to the



**October 4, 2023, 6:30 pm**

**First Metropolitan United Church**

**Corner of Quadra and Balmoral**

All pets should be leashed or in their crates. Pets can also be remembered with a photo.

[firstmetvictoria.com](http://firstmetvictoria.com)



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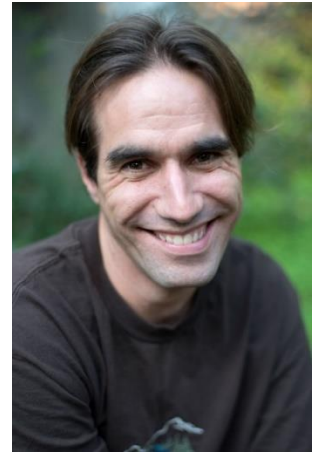


## Learning to Regenerate the Earth and Our Communities

**Sunday morning October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

With Guest speaker Joe Brewer in dialogue with Mark Green about the intersections between faith, economics, environment, and bioregionalism. This is one of a number of events offered during *Regenerate Cascadia* public forum Oct 21-24. Check more information on page 12.

Joe Brewer is a complexity researcher and transdisciplinary scholar who weaves insights from the scientific study of cultural evolution, human cognition, and earth system science into frameworks for action.



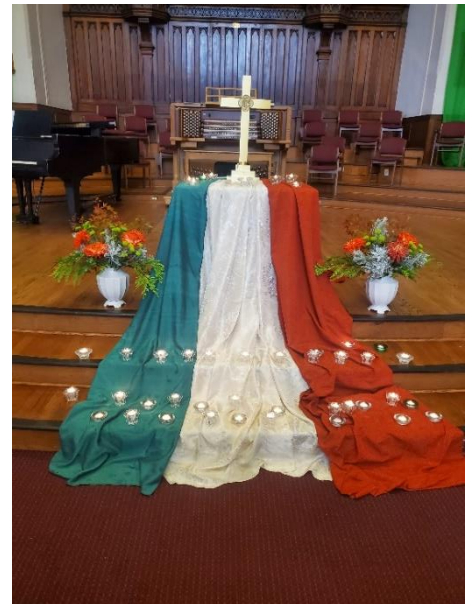
## Let Not Your Heart be Troubled

**Wednesday Nov 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 pm**

On the day the Church calls All Saints Day you are invited to First Met to remember the saints in your life. At Wednesday, November 1st at 6:30 p.m., this annual service will be held.

Each person there will be invited to light a candle in remembrance. The music and readings are gentle and non-denominational. Do you have one you are missing and would want to honour? This includes people who died recently and those whose passing years ago still touches us deeply. Please send any name you would want included to Oscar at the Office. Over the many years that this service has been held, it has been experienced as a helpful, gentle time of remembering and giving thanks. It is a very meaningful annual gift of music and song prayer, poetry and scripture woven together around times of candle lighting and soft silence.

Questions? Shelagh and Joan Mason would love to share what this short service means and offers.



### **The St. John's Social Justice and Action Group presents Reel Time**

#### **"Seven Sacred Laws" A video presentation**

with commentary and a discussion on Indigenous Legal Orders and their role and relevance in the Canadian constitutional system and in the process of reconciliation  
led by

**John Borrows**

Canada's leading Indigenous legal scholar and Loveland Chair of Law,  
University of Toronto and formerly Canadian Research Chair of Indigenous Law, UVic

**7:00 pm – Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>**

in the Denson Lounge at The Anglican Church of St. John the Divine,  
1611 Quadra Street

Please register by contacting Carol-Ann at

[admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:admin@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca) or 250-383-7169 ext. 226



# Justice Activities

## GVAT

### **Social Justice in Action: GREATER VICTORIA ACTING TOGETHER**

Broad View United is proud to be among the 20 member organizations in GVAT, joining unions, faith groups, student bodies, and frontline service organizations like Our Place, Cool Aid and Mustard Seed. Together, we aim to drive positive social change in our community. Exciting news: GVAT has now hired a part-time Community Organizer to enhance our campaigns and strengthen ties with members, including Broad View United.

*"Hello GVAT Members! My name is Izzy Adachi. I use she/they pronouns, and I am very excited to begin working as the GVAT Organizer. I have a background in union organizing through leading a campaign to organize Starbucks, as well as in issues campaigns as a Director-at-Large and then Director of Campaigns and Community Relations at the UVIC Students Society. I have also served for three years as a Director At Large for the Worker Solidarity Network, which represents workers in precarious employment conditions. I recently graduated with a BA in Political Science from UVIC. I have lived, worked and studied in Victoria for over 6 years now, and I'm proud to call it home. I look forward to getting to know you all, and making positive, grassroots change together."*

You can help! Find out more: [www.gvat.ca](http://www.gvat.ca) Or contact Stephen Tyler: [stephen@adaptiverm.ca](mailto:stephen@adaptiverm.ca)

### **National Reconciliation Day - Sept 30th**

We will observe this tradition in Worship on Sunday Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and ask folks to wear their orange shirts throughout the weekend and on Sunday morning. We will also be hosting a short Vigil at 11 am in the chapel that will begin with the ringing of the church bells in remembrance of the many children whose unmarked graves are being discovered across Canada at Residential school site.

### **Learning to Live into a Regenerative Future as a Bioregion**

*You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete. ~ Buckminster Fuller*

The Victoria community welcomes *Regenerate Cascadia* to our Island from October 21- 24 as part of their month-long 14-stop activation tour through our bioregion - Cascadia and the Salish Sea! We recognize the Regenerative Movement as one of the most potent narratives for healing our beautiful earth. What we do locally on our island is critical, and what we do in our bioregion creates even more impact and hope. Let's explore what's possible.

Please go to <https://regeneratecascadia.org/> to see the most up to date schedule for Victoria. Come and join one of several events where Joe Brewer, author of *The Design Pathway for Regenerating Earth*, will be sharing & helping us explore these topics, particularly as they relate to our unique bioregion.

Joe is a complexity researcher with a unique academic background in atmospheric sciences, physics, philosophy and cognitive linguistics.

### **Justice Fair**

The congregations coming together as one have each had a strong history working for justice – from the neighbourhood to the global scale. As we continue on the journey together, one way to lift up our passion for justice is to have a “Justice Fair” one Sunday each month. Each month we will have tables featuring justice initiatives we support and highlighting upcoming actions and/or partner organizations. **Sunday, October 22** you can look forward to learning more about the history of White Peace Poppies, supporting Palestinian farmers, purchasing handmade Christmas cards in support of Moose Hide and other exciting opportunities.

# What does **HOPE** mean in a world facing climate *catastrophe*?

**Andrew Boyd** ponders:

We're in for a catastrophe, I said to myself that summer.  
I can't give up hope, I said back to myself that summer.  
But it's too late.  
But it still matters.  
No, nothing matters.  
Yes, all the particulars matter.  
What particulars?  
How soon it comes, how bad it is, how we treat each other when it arrives...  
Dude, it's a catastrophe!  
I know, I know, but there are better catastrophes and worse catastrophes.

**Bayo Akomolafe** teaches:

Hope as presented within modernity is this shiny thing, it's shorn of its prickly edges. But in my tradition, hope is a trickster. There isn't a binary between hope and hopelessness. To hold hope well is to hold hopelessness, is to embrace it, is to know that things may not go our way.

**Rebecca Solnit** explains: Hope locates itself in the premises that we don't know what will happen and that in the spaciousness of uncertainty is room to act. When you recognize uncertainty, you recognize that you may be able to influence the outcomes — you alone or you in concert with a few dozen or several million others.

Hope just means another world might be possible, not promised, not guaranteed. The planet will heat up, species will die out, but how many, how hot, and what survives depends on whether we act.

**Joanna Macy** concludes:

Hope is to be of service not knowing whether you're a hospice worker, or a midwife. Life is a beautiful gift so let's honour it by doing all we can.

**Tim DeChristopher** suggests: Hope is the will to hold on to our values in the face of difficulty. Optimism is one kind of hope, a rather flimsy sort of hope. What we need now is a more resilient kind of hope, one not based on expectation that things will be ok.

**Meg Wheatley** insists: Something different is being asked of us at this time. The regular frantic reactions won't solve our situation. We must move beyond hope and fear to something deeper. It's not just resilience, but something deeper still.

**Gopal Dayaneni** reflects: I seek out daily reminders that we not only have the capacity to transform the world towards greater equity, justice, diversity and integrity, but that, if you look around, you'll see that we are actually exercising that capacity everywhere. We're all going to travel the same shocks and slides; the question is who gets to decide how it lands.

**Robin Wall Kimmerer** believes:

It is not enough to weep for our lost landscapes; we have to put our hands in the earth to make ourselves whole again. Even a wounded world is feeding us. Even a wounded world holds us, giving us moments of wonder and joy. I choose joy over despair. Not because I have my head in the sand, but because joy is what Earth gives me daily and I must return the gift.



CARING FOR CREATION

SMALL  
GROUP  
MINISTRY



## Community Events

### Fellowship of the Least Coin

You are invited to join the First Met UCW on Tuesday, **October 3**, for the Least Coin Service. We will gather in the Doreene McLeod Room **at 12:00 noon**.

The Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC) is a worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Christian women around the world meet and pray with each other. Through this, they are reminded to live a forgiving life with others. "Least coins" are given with each prayer, yet the movement is focused on prayer and reconciliation rather than money. The least coin or coin of the lowest denomination was chosen so that low income was not a barrier to participation.

### Kyla's Farewell

Join us on **October 15** to celebrate the contribution of Kyla Morrison Morgan to the life and wellbeing of First Met congregation. We'll have regular and gluten free cake and warm remembrances. Kyla's position as Health and Wellness Advocate and her experience as a social worker have given a unique perspective to spiritual care and wellness and pastoral care and we are grateful. Thank you, Kyla.



### Soup Sunday Community Building time

On **Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>**, join us following the service for a simple lunch of Soup and a bun and an opportunity to engage in good conversation with folks familiar and new. Two soups to choose from and GF and Vegan options will be available.



### Healing Pathway

The **Healing Pathway** group will begin at First Met with a get together on **Tuesday, September 26 at 1:00 in the Chapel**. We are so pleased to have Joan Michelson join the group and explain how the sessions are conducted and what the protocol is for the church. We will have a meditation and a chance to sign up to offer healing and to ask questions of Joan regarding how people needing healing sign up for the healing sessions. All people who have taken any of the Pathway courses are welcome to join the group. For more information contact Eileen Campbell at [ecchome@shaw.ca](mailto:ecchome@shaw.ca).

### "Read Locally" Book Fair

Victoria Writers' Society is sponsoring a "Read Locally" Book Fair on **November 4 from 9am to 3pm** in the Fellowship Hall of First Met. Many local independent writers and publishers will be selling their books. There will be something for everyone, so come and do some Christmas shopping.





## Program Updates

Registration process and Program Guide: The new program guide for 2023/24 is now out and available online and in booklet form. You are invited to use this guide as a reference to the various programs being offered to the congregation and the community at large. While some of the programs are drop-in basis, others have a registration form to be filled out. Please Click [HERE](#) to go to the Registration Page and find the courses you are considering and register now.

### From Age-ing to Sage-ing

Introductory Level is being **offered Thursdays Oct 5 - Nov 2 via zoom at 10 am** Come and find a new way of growing older, aging well and living your life more consciously, more joyfully and more compassionately! The introductory level is a prerequisite for participating in the next levels but they do not need to be taken sequentially. The facilitator will be Annie Klein who has been trained in Age-ing to Sage-ing International and has been offering these courses in Victoria for several years.

### Inter-View: Inter-Spiritual and Queering

Zoom Meeting October 11 at 7 pm **Meeting ID: 941 532 2272**  
Every Second Wednesday

Inter-View: Inter-Spiritual and Queering is a monthly conversation that integrates two lenses: Inter-Spiritual & Queering.

**“Inter-spiritual”** lets you imbue your Christian faith with wisdom from global cultures and traditions.

**“Queering”** gives freedom to see queer narratives in texts, even the Bible, without heteronormative, transphobic, or harmful biases.

We hope Inter-View becomes a safe space for Broad View United's queer and transgender members and allies, a community where you can experience a warm welcome, learn from each other, and provide mutual support.

This October let's come together and think about Trinity. **How do you make sense of the Trinity?** What does queer theology reveal about the Trinity's implications? Inspired by Patrick Cheng's Radical Love: Introduction to Queer Theology, which interprets God's "Coming Out" as "Radical Love so extreme that it dissolves existing boundaries that might normally seem fixed.", **we will explore how the queer theology of the Trinity can broaden our acceptance and appreciation of queer-affirming relationships.**

### Men's Pub Night

**Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> from 7pm – 9pm**, join with men of all ages who simply want a change to connect with other men in the congregation for a time to conversation, sharing of life stories and an exchange of ideas. Order a beverage of your choice, pull up chair and enjoy a time of fellowship and camaraderie. This is a drop-in group, and no registration is required. For more information, please contact David Bray at [davidbray@shaw.ca](mailto:davidbray@shaw.ca). We look forward to seeing you.

## Movie Night

Our next movie night will again be held at the Cinecenta Theatre on the UVic campus on **Saturday Oct 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm**. Please note the change in time due to the movie availability. Meet at the theatre at 5:00 pm. Our movie for this month will be "The Barbie Movie", a Satirical parody of the Barbie/Ken dynamics, this movie explores patriarchy through a feminist lens in poignant yet funny ways. Lots to talk about after the film. All are welcome. Tickets are \$7-9 and concession is available.



## Handbell Choir

We are looking to start a handbell choir who will practice for 5 Sunday afternoons after church for about 1 hr. These sessions will run from **Oct 29<sup>th</sup> to Nov 26<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon** with Cheryl Dennett in leadership. This group is for all ages and is an intergenerational opportunity to create some wonderful and special music for the Christmas season to be shared with the congregation during Advent. No ability to read music is necessary. And you will likely be playing only one or two notes, so this is the perfect opportunity for beginners. Please register in advance so we can get an idea of how many will be joining.

## Sacred Pause At Day's End

**Mondays, from 8:30-9:00 PM.** Via ZOOM.

Sacred Pause is a lovely way to end the day, consisting of a reading from a sacred text or poetry, along with a guided meditation and moments of silence. No previous meditation experience required. To receive the Zoom link, please email: [margaret@broadviewunited.com](mailto:margaret@broadviewunited.com)

## Time to Connect

**First Met Chapel on Sundays (10:00 am – 10:45 am)**, as First Met and Broad View United come together, we can engage in intercultural dialogues. Let's build a deep sense of community by bringing everyone together.

Throughout this program, we will explore various storytelling media and engage in meaningful conversations, allowing all of us to experience a profound sense of connection. This invitation is open to all, and we extend it to everyone to participate.



## Women Exploring Spirituality

This women's group meets on the 4th Monday each month (1-3 pm) in the Chapel from September to June (except December) for sharing, prayer, fellowship and a book study.

The book we will study this year is *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

For more information please call Bonnie Fosskett at **250 479-1439**.



## Circle CHAT

**Wednesday, Oct. 25 from 1:30-3:00 pm at First Met Chapel**

A drop-in group for women elders who delight in conversation with each other. Each session there will be time to share our stories, support each other, laugh, visit and of course refreshments. Come to connect with old friends and make new ones as we take the next steps in getting to know one another. Registration is not required. If you need a ride or would like more info. please direct to [margaret@broadviewunited.com](mailto:margaret@broadviewunited.com) or [valbauld5@gmail.com](mailto:valbauld5@gmail.com)



## **Broad View United Thrift Store Updates**

Renovations are on track, with expected building access in mid-November. After that, the Thrift Store will methodically reintroduce volunteers, collect and process donations, and refill the retail space. Our group of about 24 Lead Volunteers will be the people the Transition Team calls on to begin the set up and organization. Once the Niche and our new workspace are ready, we'll start receiving donations and reintegrating our volunteers. In line with this, the Thrift Store Board will be starting the hiring process for a new store manager, considering our timeline and other key aspects. Our Thrift Store stands as a testament to over two decades of dedication, love, and hard work. We're committed to ensuring that this cornerstone of our community and ministry continues to be successful.



3703 St. Aidan's St. [Entrance off of Palo Alto]

250-883-8387

[broadviewthriftstore.com](http://broadviewthriftstore.com)

### HOURS

Tuesday 4pm-8pm  
Wednesday 10am-6pm  
Saturday 10am-4pm



**Broad View**  
— UNITED —



Find Us:  
Visit Us:

[firstmetvictoria.com](http://firstmetvictoria.com)  
[broadviewunited.com](http://broadviewunited.com)





## Reflection: International Overdose Awareness Day

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, (International Overdose Day) First Met United held a vigil in remembrance of the lives lost to the toxic drug poisoning crisis in our province. The event was organized by the Evolving Church Team which serves our neighbours in our North Park neighbourhood and hosts progressive Christian alternative services at First Met. The sanctuary was decorated in the colours of overdose awareness, purple and white, with a purple painted lone chair that symbolizes the loss of a loved one.

The toxic drug poisoning crisis has significantly impacted our own community and province. In 2023, there are approximately six deaths a day due to fentanyl poisoning in BC. Since the Provincial Health Emergency was declared in BC since 2016, over 16,000 people have died.



Toxic drugs poisoning represents the leading cause of death in males between the ages of 19-50 years. Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, partners, extended families, the ripple effect of these deaths is far reaching into the community. It is thoughts for every single death, over a hundred people are impacted. 86 % of deaths occur in private residences with individuals using alone, not on the street as most believe. So many use drugs to deal with mental health issues, trauma and use in the shadows due to shame and stigma.

The loss of life in the First Nations community has been staggering. First Nations persons represent 20 % of total deaths in BC from toxic drug poisoning. Women are approximately 35% of total deaths within First Nation community and die 9.8 times the rate of other women in BC. Marginalization, colonization and poverty is believed to play a significant role in the higher portion of deaths in First Nations communities.

I am a member of Moms Stop the Harm and volunteer as an advocate for drug policy reform, increased harm reduction and access to a safe drug supply. I also volunteer as a peer support counsellor to those who have lost a loved one as I've lost a beloved family member to fentanyl poisoning. My loved one was not street entrenched but rather a fully employed member of the community. I believe his death was accidental and preventable. He will be forever grieved by our family.

The service included contributions and stories from La Vatta Frank and her son-in-law, William Pierre from the Songhees nation. La Vatta and William have been directly impacted deaths due to the fentanyl crisis in their community. La Vatta herself has lost her son in the last year. Her welcome to our territory and William's drumming and singing in the sanctuary set the somber tone for the evening.

Mayor Marianne Alto and Adam Olson (MLA) both spoke of political and social aspects needing to be addressed to solve this challenge and Leslie, a bereaved mother, who shared the loss of her son, her personal reflection and concluded with a powerful blessing. The vigil concluded with candle lighting and a memory board where families could post the name of their loved ones.

There were approximately 140 people in attendance. Our team received deep appreciation from loved ones and mourners for the opportunity to gather together in remembrance. If you wish to view the event, it is available on the First Met youtube channel. – Marilyn Banfield from Evolving Church Team

## Congregational Care

### Prayer Connection Ministry

Both First Met and Broad View have an active, dedicated team of individuals who are committed to praying on behalf of you, someone you love, or any situation that is heavy on your heart. All requests are held in utmost confidence.

To send a request via the First Met team, please contact: [prayer@firstmetvictoria.com](mailto:prayer@firstmetvictoria.com)

To send a request via Broad View, please contact Jean at: [jean@jampot.ca](mailto:jean@jampot.ca) or

Margaret at: [margaret@broadviewunited.com](mailto:margaret@broadviewunited.com)

More detailed information can be found on the websites. Requests can also be passed along to a staff member.

### Pastoral Care and Wellness

As our communities work towards amalgamating our pastoral care and wellness ministries during these next few months, please know that we are here to provide support, comfort and reassurance to you. Our commitment remains strong to serving the needs of our newly expanded congregation and the broader community. Please know we are ever so grateful for all the multitude of ways you are the hands, heart and feet of Jesus.

If you know of anyone who is in need of support, please reach out to us.

In loving and faithful service,

Shelagh MacKinnon and Margaret Harper

## In Memoriam

We uphold the cherished lives of the following congregants. Their memorial services are as follows:

|              |                       |      |                  |
|--------------|-----------------------|------|------------------|
| Joyce Brown  | Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 3pm  | Kensington       |
| Art Foss     | Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 2pm  | First Met Chapel |
| Betty Newell | Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup> | 11am | First Met Chapel |
| Anne Howard  | Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup> | 2pm  | HCP Gardens      |

We offer our love, condolences and support to their families, friends and all who treasure their memories.

## Celebrations

Dawn Faris will be celebrating 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.



# WEDNESDAYS MEET & GREET

Continues **on Zoom** at 7 pm

**For Zoom info, check BVU email  
every Wednesday morning.**



**CONNECT ON ZOOM  
EVERY WEDNESDAY  
7 pm, October 4 - November**

**Come for community building and Q&A!  
No need to register, just drop in!**



Broad View  
— UNITED —



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Visit Us: [broadviewunited.com](https://broadviewunited.com)

