



Comox United Church

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

NOVEMBER 10-16, 2023



Unsplash - freestocks

Service: November 15, 2023

Leader: Rev. Karen Hollis

Greeters: Marg Adams, Joanne Wiens

Coffee: Heather Flint, Sonja Stritski

Power Point: Sue Newman

Live Stream:

Scripture: Joyce Wagland

Prayers of the People: Noreen Robertson

Worship services are available in three ways:

1. Attend in-person at the church on Sundays @ 10:00am

2. Watch the live stream by going to <https://www.comoxunitedchurch.com> and clicking the button.

3. Watch another time from the "Virtual Services" page on our website:
<https://www.comoxunitedchurch.com/pages/online-sunday-services>

Contact Information

Minister@comoxunitedchurch.com

Treasurer@comoxunitedchurch.com

EnvelopeSecretary@comoxunitedchurch.com

Admin@comoxunitedchurch.com

OUR COMMUNITY

CALL TO BE THE CHURCH: Stewardship 4 Celebration LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

WEEKLY

Mondays	1:30	Knitting Group
Tuesdays	10:00	Coffee and Conversation at the Comox Golf Club
Thursday	6:30	Choir Practice
Fridays	10:00	Men's Shed

MONTHLY

1 st Sun	1:30	Glacier View Lodge Music
2 nd Mon.	1:15	UCW
2 nd Fri	TBA	Social Singles Contact: Merrilee: tomyhome@shaw.ca
3 rd Sat	9:00	Men's Breakfast
Last Sun.	11:15	Soup and Bun Lunch



"This year's United Church Women' (UCW) Fall Bazaar on November 4th was well attended by church and community folk. Tea was sipped, goodies were munched, and tables full of items for sale were browsed.

Check out photos of this event by going to our website:

<https://www.comoxunitedchurch.com/news/report-on-ucw-annual-fall-bazaar>

If you missed this year's Bazaar, put it on your calendar for next year!"

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

Announcements should be sent to 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.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

The strategic planning process is underway. Over the past 2 months, we a SOC (strengths, opportunities, challenges) Analysis to see how we're doing with respect to living into our values and generally functioning as a church.

The chart we generated as a result of that process was illuminating and overall not surprising. While many of our challenges stem from the age of our congregation, we have a much longer list of strengths we can lean on to journey forward.

The next step in the process is to take the opportunities we see and narrow them into Areas of Focus . . . specific places to put our energy over the next couple of years. We're asking lots of questions, and eating provisions of cookies as we talk. If you would like to receive the notes from our meetings, please let Karen know. At our next meeting on Nov 29, we will continue the conversation about our Areas of Focus. You're welcome to join us!

COMOX UNITED CHURCH'S WEBSITE

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.

This week's Tip:

1. To read the details of the **Matthew Mystery Project**, go to the church website by googling **Comox United Church**.
2. At the top of the page, click on **News**.
3. Scroll to **Matthew Mystery Marketplace**.
4. Put the date on your calendar!



Our Whole Lives (OWL) - Sexuality and Healthy Relationships program

In spring 2024 we plan to host an OWL program for elementary age children in partnership with CVUF. Are you interested in leading this program? If so email Arran at minister@cvuf.ca for more information. NOTE: Leaders need to have already taken training or be willing to take it in the Fall

MATTHEW MYSTERY PROJECT

All are welcome to participate!

Inspired by the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25: 14-30), congregation members have been asked to multiply their \$20 seed money as much as possible by April 30th when their seed money will be returned, and the extra money multiplied will be donated back to the church to help us meet our core values of spirituality, openness, care for the common good and radical love.

Part fundraising, part community building, part outreach, part congregational activities = 100% joy!

Secret Pal.



SECRET PALS' NEWS

To those of you "on the shelf", it is not too late to join us. Just send me your full name and pseudonym and how you want to connect with your Pal or me, Paper letter or Email? and I will let you know the rest of the information by email unless you say otherwise. **Make sure the email you use is private for you.** **Questions?** call 250-331-1178 or email sue.newman@shaw.ca

PS: "If anyone who has chosen email as their mode of communication and wants to send a card. at Christmas, it can be put in the Pickup Box where it will be available as long as the Pal's name is on the envelope."

PIEROGIS DINNER

Order your homemade pierogis, cabbage rolls, & borscht. This incredible sit-down dinner will be made by 3 people of our congregations. Tickets are \$20.00

Proceeds for the Mathew Project! See Marj. Adams for tickets or call me @ 778-552-4137

November 12th Last Day to Reserve a Table!

Our first Matthew Mystery Marketplace is nearly here so if you want vendor space at a table **the last day to notify Elaine Brown is Sunday November 12th** (broelaine@gmail.com or 250-650-9925). Vendor instructions and table locations will be sent out beginning November 13th . Bev Agar's Pear Mincemeat & Peach Chutney, Serena Patterson's gardening/nature books, Donna Crozier's Harp CDs, Mae Pagdin coffee party & book reading tickets, Carolyn Halcrow Reiki Treatments & Class. The Matthew Mystery Marketplace will take place Sunday November 19th from 11:30 to 1 p.m. in our hall. After service coffee & tea will be available to enjoy as you browse the many offerings on sale to raise funds for our church.

MATTHEW MYSTERY PROJECT cont.

Matthew Mystery Market Place

November 19th

Here is a taste of what's to come...

Baked Goods	Healing Touch Therapy Sessions	Pet Beds
Bev Agar's Pear mincemeat etc.	Irrigation system blowout booking.	Photo notecards
Cabbage rolls	Italian meatballs	Pierogi Dinner tickets
CDs of Gloria's music	Knitted cotton washcloths	Pride Rainbow carry bags
Cedar Bows for holiday decorating	Knitted rainbow hearts	Quilted placemats
Christmas cards	Mae Pagdin coffee party	Salmon Fillet draw
Christmas centerpieces	Organic spider repellent	Santa Bombing
Christmas cookies	Paintings	Serena Patterson's gardening/nature books
Driftwood creations	Paperweights & amp; garden stones	Tickets to a reading of "A Christmas Carol"
Harp CDs		
Hats		

If you want space at one of our vendors tables, please email Elaine Brown at broelaine@gmail.com. Please tell your friends and invite them to come!

REIKI

Are you in need of healing? Are your aches and pains troubling you?

I am offering a variety of Reiki treatments 20 minutes/\$20, or 30, 45, 60 minutes/by donation, to raise funds for the Matthew project currently happening at Comox United. I have been a Reiki Practitioner/Teacher for 10 years and am happy to share this wonderful energy with anyone who is interested.

In addition, I am offering a group introductory Reiki session consisting of 30 minutes relating Reiki's history, how it can be used, by whom, and a 30-minute group treatment to experience it personally.

Class location, time and date to be determined based on interest. Cost would be \$30/person.

Please send an email indicating interest to: cjkhalcrow@gmail.com or call me on my cell phone: 205-939-0675 to make an appointment for a Reiki treatment or address any questions. Blessings.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

18th, Saturday, Memorial Service is at 2 pm in the Church



Rosemary Lyle passed peacefully on Oct. 3, 2023

18th, Saturday, **MEN'S BREAKFAST** @ 9 am in the Hall. The guest speaker is Dr. Ken Newman. Ken will be speaking about canal boating in England. Please RSVP by **Nov 15th** to Jim Crozier (wjcrozier@gmail.com) or Jim Whitehead (jgwhitehead@shaw.ca)

19th, Sunday, **MATTHEW MYSTERY PROJECT** Marketplace – 2nd annual, after Church

26th, Sunday, **SERVICE SUBSTITUTE LEADERS**

Carolyn and Geoff Whitney-Brown both completed PhD's in English literature at Brown University (Rhode Island), then trained as spiritual directors and retreat leaders. They lived at L'Arche Daybreak in Toronto for seven years.

Carolyn completed projects for the United Church of Canada, L'Arche Canada and L'Arche International, as well as for the Canadian Council of Churches and the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. Her most recent book is *Flying, Falling, Catching: An Unlikely Story of Finding Freedom*, co-authored with Henri Nouwen (HarperOne 2022). She teaches Religious Studies courses online for St Jerome's University (Ontario) and is a Fellow at UVic's Centre for Studies in Religion and Society.

Geoff worked in employment services and adult education before his retirement.

Carolyn and Geoff live in Cowichan Bay, and enjoy leading worship several times each year at Sylvan United Church in Mill Bay.

29th, Wednesday, **STRATEGIC PLANNING'S NEXT MEETING** @ 12:30-2:30pm in the Hall

DECEMBER

NO STRATEGIC PLANNING GATHERINGS IN DECEMBER

2nd, Saturday, **PIEROGIS DINNERS** @ 5 pm in the Hall.

18th, Monday, **2nd ANNUAL CHRISTMAS SINGALONG** @ 2 pm

...with Gloria Herauf @ Comox United Church Good Will Offering

Come and sing your favourite carols and Christmas songs in a good old-fashioned sing-song!

[Words will be provided]

UPCOMING EVENTS

Strategic Planning

The 2024 Schedule of Strategic Planning Gatherings

January 10, Wednesday, at 12:30-2:30pm in the Hall

January 20, Saturday (Please RSVP)

10-12 L1 (lower level, enter through south door)

12-3 pm Hall for lunch and the remainder of the meeting

January 31, Wednesday at 12:30-2:30 pm in the hall

February 14, Wednesday, at 12:30-2:30pm - in the hall wrap up process

The process will unfold at its own pace, so agendas for upcoming meetings will be set the meeting prior. **Please RSVP to Karen 1 week ahead for Saturday gatherings**, as they will include a soup and bun lunch. **Minister@ComoxUnitedChurch.com**

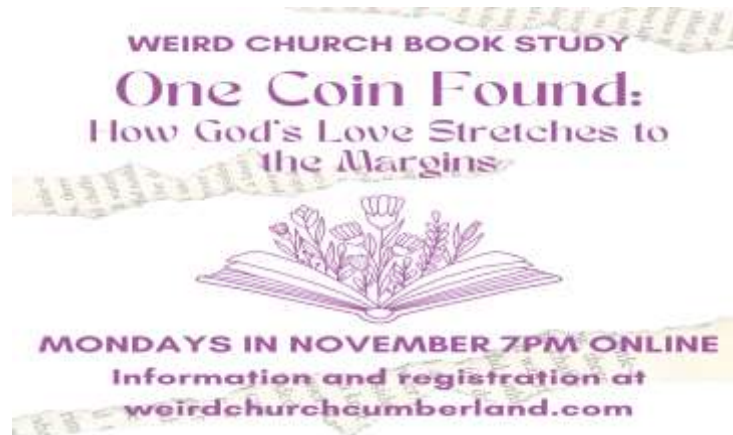


[image credit: The United Church of Canada]

[Gifts with Vision](#) are an opportunity for you to make a difference in someone's life—during Advent and Christmas, or at any time of year—by giving gifts from the comfort of home, with no packaging or wrapping needed..

See all the Gifts available and find out more by visiting the [Gifts with Vision website](#).

EVENTS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY



A NIGHT OF BLUES WITH THE
AWARD WINNING

DAVID GOGO

Friday, November 24, 7 pm

St. George's United Church,
Courtenay

\$25 in advance (Eventbrite)
\$30 at the door

Proceeds to benefit St. George's
United Church and the Comox
Valley Foodbank

Dear Friends of FIESTA,

The 31st Annual FIESTA WORLD CRAFT BAZAAR is needing some helpers! We are back to two floors of the Filberg Center and we have 45 vendors and over 100 tables. Would you please consider volunteering for a couple of hours **November, Saturday the 18th or Sunday the 19th or for set up on Friday starting at 10 am.** Many hands do make FIESTA happen and FIESTA is a wonderful antidote to the darkness that is hanging over the world. Gratefully, Dave

