



# Comox United Church

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

NOVEMBER 17-23, 2023



## Service: November 19, 2023

**Leader:** Rev. Karen Hollis

**Greeters:** Les Herauf, Loraleigh Fitzgerald

**Coffee:** Ken and Sue Newman

**Power Point:** Merrilee Cameron

**Live Stream:**

**Scripture:** Patty Forbes-King

**Prayers of the People:** Marni Fisher

## 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

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Treasurer@comoxunitedchurch.com

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Admin@comoxunitedchurch.com

## OUR COMMUNITY

### REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

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

Karasima has mentioned that a number of people have been asking how I am doing, so I thought I would write a note for the Newsletter.

Thank you all for your prayers. I have always believed in the healing power of prayer. My sister is taking wonderful care of me. I have my first post op appointment on Nov. 23 so will have more information. Then re: recovery time, weight bearing etc.

My sister insisted we watch the movie "Misery" which she felt was appropriate given our circumstances. I am now trying to sleep with one eye open, which is hard, because she controls my pain meds. LOL Blessings, Lorna

18<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>** to Jim Crozier ([wjcrozier@gmail.com](mailto:wjcrozier@gmail.com)) or Jim Whitehead ([jgwhitehead@shaw.ca](mailto:jgwhitehead@shaw.ca))



**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)

### COULD YOU BE A CxU HOST?

As you know, the Venue Team is working at improving the experience of groups in our sanctuary and hall.

We want rental groups and their audiences to always have a positive and welcoming experience in our building. To that end, we think it would be helpful to have a CxU Host at each event, to help welcome, provide information, and trouble-shoot possible issues. We are developing this program, and there will be written guidelines soon.

We currently have a small group of 5 church members who have offered to host, and we would like to expand the list. Events could include, weddings, memorial services, concerts, presentations, and other events.

Could you be a CxU Host? If this is of interest to you, please email Howard at [hojo29@shaw.ca](mailto:hojo29@shaw.ca).

Thank you to all who have been so mindful of my diet when offering soup/bun and treats! My diet is changing a bit, so I wanted to give an update.

I don't eat gluten, dairy (butter is ok), corn, sugar (maple syrup, dates, honey are ok), eggs, or pork. However, I can always eat fruit, green veggies, chicken vegetable soup, and dates. I offer grace and generosity to all who try to feed me - I know it's not easy. Thank you! Karen

### COMOX UNITED CHURCH'S WEBSITE

**Due to a temporary glitch, the website is not available right now. Hopefully, it will be back up in a day or so.**



### LOST AND FOUND

There is a small basket of forgotten items where the hangers are. You'll also see some clothing on the hangers, water bottles, and misc. items. It would be lovely to have this area cleared out for the New Year. Next time you're in the Church, please look at the items in case they are yours.

## 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!

### **Matthew Mystery Marketplace this Sunday 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

Join us after worship this Sunday for our November *Matthew Mystery Marketplace*. Congregation member vendors will have many wonderful things on sale to help multiply their \$20 'seed' money benefitting our church. Whether you are looking for Christmas decor, delicious things to eat or an activity to sign up for ... there's lots to see!

### **SECRET PAL UPDATE**

It is not too late to join in with the Secret Pal project. Let me know if you are interested or have questions - [sue.newman@shaw.ca](mailto:sue.newman@shaw.ca) or 250-898-8333, my cell is 250-331-1178

#### **For those with a Pal already**

Please use the Pick Up Box for any cards or paper letters you want to give to your Pal, but let Sue know it will be there. Make sure that you put "To" your Pal's name and "From" your pal name on the envelope, so I can make sure it reaches them.

The Reveal date will be on Palm Sunday March 24th, not the 31st as that is Easter Sunday.



## SLEEPING CHILDREN AROUND WORLD A PROPOSAL FOR A CHANGE

*A note from the CUC Council:*

***The council recently received a proposal regarding SCAW from the Affirming Ministries Committee. As the council considers this proposal, we would like to hear comments from the congregation. Please email your thoughts on this matter to [councilchair@comoxunitedchurch.com](mailto:councilchair@comoxunitedchurch.com). Additional information is available below. With thanks, Rev. Karen Hollis***

After over 30 years of supporting Sleeping Children Around the World, the Affirming Ministries Committee is proposing that we change the agency to which the funds are sent. We propose that the funds be sent to Dawn-to-Dawn to support the building and continuing operations of Gukwas sa Wagalus, (Rainbow House in English).

This proposal intends that we retain the element in the Liturgy each week, which provides the venue for members of the congregation to publicly share their celebrations and family news. The only change being proposed is where the funds go.

Partly in response to parts of the outcomes of the 2022 Visioning Project, CxU determined that it needed to re-orient and emphasize our outreach to the concerns of the local Indigenous, LGBTQ+ and youth communities.

Gukwas sa Wagalus (House of the Rainbow) is a partnership among the K'ómoks First Nation, the Kumugwe Cultural Society, the Hereditary Chiefs and Elders of the Sahtloot, Susila, leeksun and Puntledge peoples, Dawn to Dawn Action on Homelessness and the Pride Society of Comox Valley. This partnership is building a unique, supported housing project, for Indigenous and non-indigenous 2SLGBTQQIA+ young people who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, in the Comox Valley.

The home will be based on the concept of a peer-supported, co-operative, safe housing facility that also offers skill development to meet each resident's specific needs and support their transition into becoming confident and contributing members of the community. Annual operating costs will be a continuing need that will have to be met through government grants, NPO support, and local charitable contributions such as ours.

By supporting this project, Comox United could begin to actualize its oft expressed desire to build a stronger relationship with the Reconciliation movement and the First Nations community as well as strengthening its Affirming relationship with the 2SLGBTQQIA+ community and with youth. In short, this moment for mission could be a win-win-win for the renewal of Comox United.

Rarely does a project arise that so marvelously aligns with our church's desire for outreach and wonderfully connects to our asserted values: Spirituality, Openness, Care for the Common Good, and Radical Love - the unconditional love that is given freely without having to be earned and regardless of what's received in return. On behalf of the Affirming Ministry Committee, we encourage your support for this new initiative and renewed sense of local mission along with the potential growth of the congregation.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS****NOVEMBER**

19<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, **MATTHEW MYSTERY PROJECT** Marketplace – 2<sup>nd</sup> annual, after Church

25<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, **ISLAND VOICES CHAMBER CHOIR**, @ 2:30 pm Presents IMAGES

Dr. John Hooper, Music Director, Comox United Church, Tickets (cash only) Adults \$25, Youth \$10.  
Blue Heron Books (Comox), House of Color (Courtenay)

20<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, Karen is away this week.

26<sup>th</sup>, 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.



**DECEMBER****NO STRATEGIC PLANNING GATHERINGS IN DECEMBER**

2<sup>nd</sup>, Saturday, **PIEROGIS DINNERS @ 5 pm** in the Church Hall.

4<sup>th</sup>, Monday, **UCW Potluck Luncheon @ 12: 15** in the Church Hall. All women are invited to the Come and enjoy the fellowship and fun with the women of the church.

Visitors are welcome, so bring a friend. Meat and buns will be provided. Full size toiletries, sanitary supplies or a financial donation for the Transition Society will be gratefully accepted.

10<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, **Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol including a Victoria Christmas Tea and Buffet.** Tickets \$30 each available at Laughing Oyster Books and Blue Heron Books.

16<sup>th</sup>, **Saturday, Blue Christmas Service @ 2 pm** at the Church. This is a quiet, reflective service which offers a moment of healing and hope in the midst of the busyness of Christmas.

18<sup>th</sup>, 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]***

17<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, **White Gift Sunday @ 10:00 am**  
We will be collecting financial donations for "Rainbow House"

Rainbow House is a proposed transitional home for 2SLGBTQQIA+ youth who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. If you've never heard the term 2SLGBTQQIA+ before, it refers to two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual, and all other sexual orientations and genders.

Rainbow House differs from a regular shelter in that it will be a completely vetted and safe space meant to house youth for extended periods – not just night by night.

It also aims to be more of a communal home than a shelter.

17<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, **Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship Winter Solstice @ 4:00 pm** in the Church Sanctuary

21<sup>st</sup>, Thursday, **The Longest Night of the Year Service**, location will be announced soon.

24<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, **No 10 am service Christmas Eve ~ 8:00 pm service Lessons and Carols**

31<sup>st</sup>, Sunday, **we are invited to worship with St. Peter's Anglican Church**, there will be no service at Comox United



Milada Vigerova- unsplash

## EVENTS HAPPENING IN THE COMMUNITY

*Christmas is Coming!*

Once again the **Comox Valley Glacier Grannies** will be selling beautiful Christmas swags for your front door. We also have wreaths in two sizes and festive pots. All are made with fresh greenery.

Swags \$25. Table Pots \$15.  
Small 14" Wreaths \$25. Large 18" Wreaths \$35.

There is an order sheet in the hall on the bulletin board. Orders must be placed by Sunday, **November 26, 2023**. Items will be available for pickup at the church on Sunday, **December 3 at 11:15 am** outside the front door.

Payment can be made by cash or cheque or e-transfer.

Please make cheque out to: **Glacier Grannies**. E-transfer to [cvglaciergrannies@gmail.com](mailto:cvglaciergrannies@gmail.com) with your order and phone number clearly identified in the "Message" box. Questions? Please email Linda at [lindadianefong73@gmail.com](mailto:lindadianefong73@gmail.com). Thank you for your support!

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

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



**St. George's United Church is pleased to announce that it is joining with the Comox Valley Ukrainian Cultural Society (CVUCS) in support of Ukrainian newcomers to the Comox Valley.** There are currently 70 Ukrainian families (180 people) who have chosen the Comox Valley as their new home as they flee the illegal war in Ukraine. St. George's dispersed \$20,000.00 to local charities in 2022. "This year the majority of the proceeds from this event will go to the CVUCS," says volunteer fundraiser Gary Stevenson. "We are so grateful to live in this land of plenty where people share." Gary adds, "you can't take it with you, so why not donate to a wonderful cause and feel good about it."

The fundraiser will consist of a large premium silent auction plus table sales. Every item auctioned will have a market value of at least \$100. Table sales will include pre-loved jewelry, handbags, and scarves as well as Ukrainian ceramics, linens and artifacts from bygone eras and much more.

Doors to the church hall, located at 6th and Fitzgerald, will open at 10:30 for viewing auction items on **November 25th**. An opening ceremony at 11:00 will feature Ukrainian songs. Table sales and placement of bids will begin at 11:15. Admission is \$2.00 at the door.

Come visit the Ukrainian Café while browsing and enjoy a warm bowl of Borscht or a genuine kielbasa on a bun with sour kraut. Frozen kielbasa, perogies, cabbage rolls and genuine Ukrainian desserts will also be available for take home. Live music will entertain shoppers through out the day (Swing Valley Two, Farley, Anela Kahiamoe, Ashley Sykes).

If you have an item for donation, a kayak or paddleboard that's taking up space, or art, sporting goods, antiques, smaller furniture, musical instruments, collectibles, gift certificates for services or goods, gift baskets, please think of donating. St. George's has requested that all auction items have a minimum value of at least \$100.00, however, no donation will be declined for table sales. Starting October 25th donations can be dropped off at 555-6th St. Courtenay at St. George's office, from Tuesday-Friday 9:30am to 12:30pm. If the door is not open, please ring the bell.

**When donating, tape a note to the item with your name, phone number and estimated value of the item.** In special circumstances a tax receipt for the donation may be possible but compliance must meet with Canada Revenue's strict policy on "in kind" donations. For more information contact volunteer organizer Gary at [garycstevenson@msn.com](mailto:garycstevenson@msn.com) or go to <https://cvukrainianculturalsociety.ca>



Thomas Rey/unsplash