



Comox United Church

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

NOVEMBER 24 – DEC 1, 2023



Unsplash -

Service: November 26, 2023
Advent

Leaders:

Carolyn and Geoffrey Whitney-Brown

Greeters: Merrilee Cameron, Joan Gillies

Coffee: Jan Bjarnason, Peter Senior

Power Point: Barb Page

Live Stream:

Scripture: Elaine Brown

Prayers of the People: Elaine Brown

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 ADVENT: HOPE

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

Wednesday, November 22, 2023 Clint Burnell died peacefully with his loving wife, Elaine clasping his hand and singing him a lullaby. Celebration of life to be announced at a later date.



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

OUR COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

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.

THE WALKING GROUP

will meet in the Hardy Road parking lot for Seal Bay Park on **Sunday November 26th** at 2 pm and walk on some of the trails in the park. The trails are well graded and relatively flat. To get to the parking lot drive north on Hwy 19A, turn right onto Hardy Road and follow it up the hill and around the bend. The parking lot will be on your right. Everyone is welcome to join us



SOUP AND BUN



Hosted by the Choir: everyone is welcome to eat with us **after today's service (Nov 26th)** and encouraged to attend and share sustenance and fellowship. Help cleaning up would also be appreciated.



OUR COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD NEWS FROM THE UCW - our recent bazaar brought in \$1930!

This and other fundraising during this year (May sale, memorial receptions) have enabled us to make the following donations of \$300 each to the following: Care-a-van, Dawn to Dawn, Santa's Workshop, Stepping Stones Recovery House, Doctors Without Borders, Childhaven, and Covenant House in Vancouver.

We'll also be sending \$1000 to Mission and Service (to support women in Africa) at the United Church of Canada in Toronto. This is over and above our church's annual payment. Thank you to our congregation for your support of the UCW's work.

STEWARDSHIP

Bring your confidential Financial Intentions form to Church this Sunday

We finished our Stewardship campaign with cake last Sunday as we celebrated the work that we do together at Comox United. All families received a Stewardship package that included a Response form for 2024 and a PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) form if you wish to join PAR or change your monthly offering. There was also a Confidential envelope provided.

We emphasize that the information you provide is completely confidential, and is only seen by our Givings Administrator. She will total everyone's giving intentions for 2024 and pass that total on to the Treasurer, who then will have a solid number for budgeting purposes.

Please bring your Confidential envelope to church THIS SUNDAY and place it in the Stewardship box on the lobby table.



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. If this is of interest to you, please email Howard at hojo29@shaw.ca.

UNITED CHURCH WOMEN (UCW)

Dec 4th @ 12:15 in the Church Hall is a potluck for, and with, women to come and enjoy the fellowship and fun. Visitors are welcome, so bring a friend. Buns and meat are provided. Full size toiletries, sanitary supplies or a financial donation for the Transition Society will be gratefully accepted.

CHURCH BOOKINGS

Comox United Church provides meeting space for the many community groups in our Care for the Common Good.

Without the amazing Lorna at the helm, Howard and Karasima are temporarily tag-teaming bookings. We're excited as December is quite full, and we're now booking into Spring 2024.

Our goal is to continue being a thriving rental opportunity for our congregation and the community. If you, or someone you know, would like more information about the rooms and fees, let Karasima know via admin@comoxunitedchurch.com.



COMOX UNITED CHURCH WEBSITE

What does our website tell newcomers to our community? Check it out!

1. <https://www.comoxunitedchurch.com/>
2. From the menu at the top of the page, click on I'm New.

Consider voicing your opinion: This is YOUR website!

Contact Joyce Wagland @
websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com or phone 250-207-5650.

MATTHEW MYSTERY PROJECT

All are welcome to participate!

November Marketplace Update!

Last Sunday 34 congregation members participated as vendors in our first Matthew Mystery Marketplace. They used their \$20 project 'seed' money to create goods and services to offer for sale to the benefit of our church.

Items ranged from delicious foods to eat, clothing, decorative items, artwork, holiday decor, books, tickets to upcoming events, and treatments here at the church and in private homes. It was a wonderful example of the many talents our congregation has to offer.

We are very pleased to announce that approximately \$2000 was raised in this one event alone. While the vendors efforts were a huge part of this story, their success depended upon the support of everyone who browsed, appreciated, and purchased items. Thank you, Shoppers!

Our next Matthew Mystery Marketplace will take place Sunday March 17, but in the meantime, you can always bring items in to sell after service during coffee time.

Several people have ideas for upcoming entertainment evenings and other activities so expect to read about those after the holidays. The Matthew Mystery Project continues through to the end of April so there are many months of creativity, community building and fun to come. If you have an idea for a project or questions about the Matthew Mystery Project, please contact Elaine Brown atbroelaine@gmail.com.



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. 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 2SLGBTQIA+ 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 2SLGBTQIA+ 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

DECEMBER

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

3rd, Sunday, **CV GLACIER GRANNIES WREATHS**, @ 11:15 am **at pick up** outside the Church's front door.

4th, Monday, **UCW POTLUCK LUNCHEON @ 12:15** in the Church Hall.

7th, Thursday, **TAIZE SERVICES**, @ 4pm at the Hall

10th, 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.

14th, Thursday, **TAIZE SERVICES @ 4pm** at the Hall

16th, 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.

17th, **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.

17th, Sunday, **COMOX VALLEY UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP WINTER SOLSTICE @ 4:00 pm** in the Church Sanctuary

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]***

21st, Thursday, **THE LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR SERVICE**, location will be announced soon.

24th, Sunday, **THERE IS NO 10 AM SERVICE CHRISTMAS EVE ~ 8:00 pm** service Lessons and Carols

31st, Sunday, **WE ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP WITH ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**, there will be no service at Comox United

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 with your order and phone number clearly identified in the "Message" box. Questions? Please email Linda at lindadianefong73@gmail.com. **Thank you for your support!**

Comox Valley Transition Society hosts an event every **Dec. 6**, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Dec. 2nd at 2:30 at the Stan Hagen Theatre (North Island College) there will be a screening of the film *Marker of Change: The Story of the Women's Monument*. Both the filmmaker and the creator of the Women's Monument in downtown Vancouver will be present for a panel discussion after the film. Admission is free with donations coming to CVTS.

On **Dec. 6th, at noon**, CVTS will host the usual vigil on the plaza in front of the Comox Valley Art Gallery. There will be speakers, the traditional laying of the roses in memory of the 14 young women murdered in Montreal on Dec. 6, 1989, and song. The Art Gallery will be opening their doors after the event.

After 20 Years, a Reunion Performance

CHARLES DICKENS

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

In support of

Gukwas sa Wagalus
(Rainbow House)

(A peer-supported Indigenous & Non-Indigenous 2SLGBTQQ+ Housing Project for Youth (16 - 26 years old) who are without or at risk of becoming without)

And programs of Comox United

Starring a cast of local, provincial, & national celebrities
 INCLUDING A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS
 TEA BUFFET SERVED DURING THE INTERVAL
 AT COMOX UNITED CHURCH SUN. DECEMBER 10 AT 7:00 PM

Tickets (\$30 each) available at Laughing Oyster Books
 (cash or credit card) and Blue Heron Books (cash only)