



Broad View
— UNITED —

Broad View United in amalgamation with
First Metropolitan United Church

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023



Table of Contents

Minister's Message.....	3
Transition Updates	4
Broad View United Thrift Store Updates	5
Thank You Letter from Our Place SocietyE.....	6
Parking Map.....	7
Inter-View: Inter-Spiritual and Queering	7
December Worship Timetable	8
Special Events and Services at BVU during December	9
Christmas Eve Services Dec 24 th	10
Christmas Day December 25 th starting at 4pm.....	10
Grand Opening Celebrations	11
Guys' "Water into Wine" Night,.....	11
LET LOVE RULE! – Broad View Community Choir Concert.....	12
Engaging Nativity Weekend	12
Intercultural Programs.....	13
Children, Youth & Young Adults	14
Congregational Care.....	15
Christmas Giving and Outreach Opportunities	16
Angel Gifts.....	16
Gifts with Vision	16
Baby Shower for Jesus: Dec 25, Dec 31 st and Jan 7 th	16
Broad View United Year End Gift	16
Food Donations for Shelbourne Community Kitchen	17
Sharing Gifts With Community Partners	18
Shelbourne Community Kitchen - <i>"Bring Home the Kitchen Fundraising Campaign"</i>	18
Mt. Tolmie Shelter Update:	18
Introducing the Margaret Cameron Fund	19
Quilts for Survivors Project	19
Letter Writing Campaign	20
Walk of Grief.....	21
Moderator's Letter, Advocating for a Ceasefire.....	22



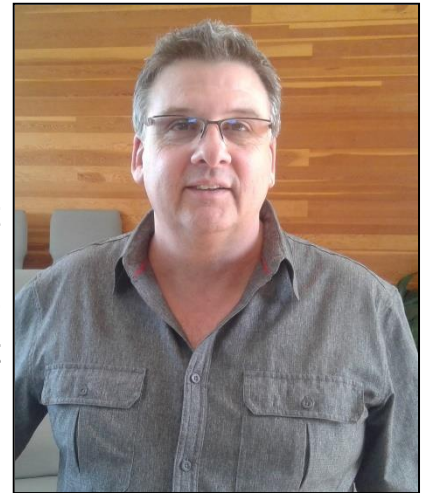
Find Us: firstmetvictoria.com
Visit Us: broadviewunited.com



Minister's Message

The Invitation of Advent

Advent is a time of waiting and preparing, a time of hope and joy. We can often forget the gifts of this season when the culture around us seems loud and bright. This Advent we will focus on Mary's song of praise and prophecy often called the Magnificat. It's a radical piece of poetry and reminds those listening that God is present especially to the poor and vulnerable. That they have not been forgotten and the vision of God for wholeness and shalom is embedded in the hope of this child that will be born. These words of Mary become foundational words for the life and ministry of Jesus. There can be no doubt about this mother's influence in shaping her child's values.



Rev. Mark Green

It is important for us to remember the context in which the birth story of Jesus is told. The story speaks of persecuted people, of a child born in poverty, of community coming together to marvel at the simple miracle of a child born into the midst of such circumstances. The story is of visions, dreams and visits from angels. Words like "do not be afraid" and "I bring you tidings of great joy" and "your mercy reaches from age to age" are just some of the phrases of hope and promise.

The stories of Jesus birth are completely different in Matthew and Luke in detail, timing and setting. What is the consistent theme is the context of struggle, violence, poverty and despair. We too know these feelings as we come to the close of 2023. Many of us are disheartened by the wars and violence around the world. Many of us despair at the rise in foodbank usage, homelessness and lack of affordable housing. Many of us feel overwhelmed by the environmental, political and economic challenges of our day. Finding Hope in the midst of all this is not an easy thing.

Yet the stories and messages of the season of Advent are a reminder that all around us are simple signs of the presence of God. We are not alone. Others are making this journey with us. The darkness cannot overcome the light. We too can hear the voice of the angel that says, "Do not be afraid". We too can proclaim the goodness of God and know that God has not forgotten the downtrodden and the marginalized and that we have the capacity to be the hands and feet of God.

This journey of Advent provides us with a multiplicity of opportunities, as you will see in the pages of this newsletter, to both nurture our own souls and respond with compassion and generosity to those in need. It is my hope that during this Advent season that you will find some balance in your life. Times to nurture wonder and gratitude, thanksgiving and grace. And that you will embrace the opportunity to support another and accept the gifts of grace of those making the journey with you.

May the Advent Gifts of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE be yours this day and in the days ahead.

Blessings Mark Green Co-Lead Minister

Transition Updates

- Pacific Mountain Region surplus decision is still underway. We will keep you updated as we get word from the PMR what the decisions are related to their deliberations. We submitted additional information by Nov 13th as requested and are now awaiting further instructions and/or a decision.
- STORY Construction (our contractor) as well as a number of subcontractors will be finishing off numerous elements of the project throughout the month of December. Meetings about deficiencies and parts of the project that will continue into the new year are being held weekly.
- The moving in process has gone well and the unpacking is still underway. There are a still areas that will take time (especially items for longer term storage) to unpack and find the right spots for. The support of the various ministry teams and volunteers to make this happen has been tremendous.
- Library – is still in process for both unpacking/sorting and figuring out the method for signing out books. In the meantime, feel free to simply borrow a book and then return it. There is no sign out system at the moment. We trust you.
- Things to happen in December:
 - ❖ Blinds installed
 - ❖ Keying , alarm and security systems completely engaged
 - ❖ Voicemail system engaged
 - ❖ Completion of audio-visual systems throughout the church
 - ❖ Programing of heating and HVAC system
 - ❖ Completion of Landscaping including benches
 - ❖ Completion of Signage
 - ❖ Door adjustments
 - ❖ Activation of EV chargers
- Things that will still be ongoing in 2024
 - ❖ Firelit window in back office
 - ❖ Railings for accessibility ramp in Sanctuary and side staircase
 - ❖ Renovation of 2 back offices
 - ❖ Replacement of Fire rated doors in select areas with Temp and fire rated doors
 - ❖ Installation of Indigenous Artwork
 - ❖ Selection and painting of Labyrinth design

New Staffing Additions:

Receptionist and Admin Assistant: Lauren Paterson will be joining our team as of Dec 4th. She will be the friendly voice on the phone, the smiling face at the front desk and the one to answer your questions and queries about BVU and its space. We are excited to have Lauren join our team and she bring great skills.

Bridge Service Music Director: Jeff Poynter will be filling the position of Music Director for the Bridge Service (and will continue his role at the ConXion service as well). He will both play the piano for the service and coordinate the special music singers and arrangements. Jeff has a long history of serving churches both in Victoria and the Mainland and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge. He is a very talented musician who accompanies, directs and plays with a number of ensembles. He and his partner Eden also have a band called “West my Friend” that has toured extensively.

Broad View United Thrift Store Updates

Broad View United Thrift Store welcomes our new manager, Sharon Parker! Here's her bio:

Sharon comes to us after 20 years of service in healthcare. She first came to the island in the summer of 1994 visiting from Winnipeg and fell in love with this beautiful city and island. Just 3 months later Victoria became her new home. In between 2 10-year positions in healthcare Sharon started an antique/ consignment store up island and got the bug for retail. After stepping back from her position last year, Sharon embarked upon the journey of finding her perfect match of community support and aligned values for her next venture. Broad View United fills the bill! Her vision going forward is to highlight Broad View United's community programs supported by the church and showcase the volunteers that are the heart and soul of the Thrift Store. Sharon brings fun, enthusiasm, and a strong sense of reverence for the community of volunteers she has met and been welcomed by so far and believes with the foundation built by the unwavering commitment of the volunteers, the sky is the limit for growing the store to new heights!



Thrift Store Updates:

The long-awaited update for the Thrift Store is here: "Yay! We are 90 percent complete! Great work, team! Everything should be in place by Friday (Nov 31). From next Monday to Friday (**Dec 4-8**), between 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, we will welcome donations that **church members** have been holding onto since last year." Therefore, 'stored donations' are welcome **Dec 4-8 only**, from Monday to Friday. Public/general donations will begin on January 3rd. Stay tuned for the January newsletter for new hours of operation. The grand opening will be in January, with the date to be determined.



Thank You Letter from Our Place Society



November 22, 2023

By Hand:
First Metropolitan Church Members and Board
Attention: Rev Shelagh MacKinnon

We are writing to thank you for all the good that you have done in our neighborhood since you opened your doors at Quadra and Balmoral back in 1913.

As the co-founder of our organization, Our Place Society, you have fed, sheltered, advocated for, and cherished our family members on Pandora Avenue for decades, and we will always cherish your vision, commitment, and dedication.

Without you, we would not be.

It's a legacy of which you can be proud, and one which we, in turn, are proud to continue.

We wish you all the best with your move and will keep you in our hearts as you transition to your new home and look forward to our continued relationship with you.

You have been a true blessing for us, for which we thank the Creator.

May God continue to bless you all.



Margo Goodhand
Board Chair
Our Place Society

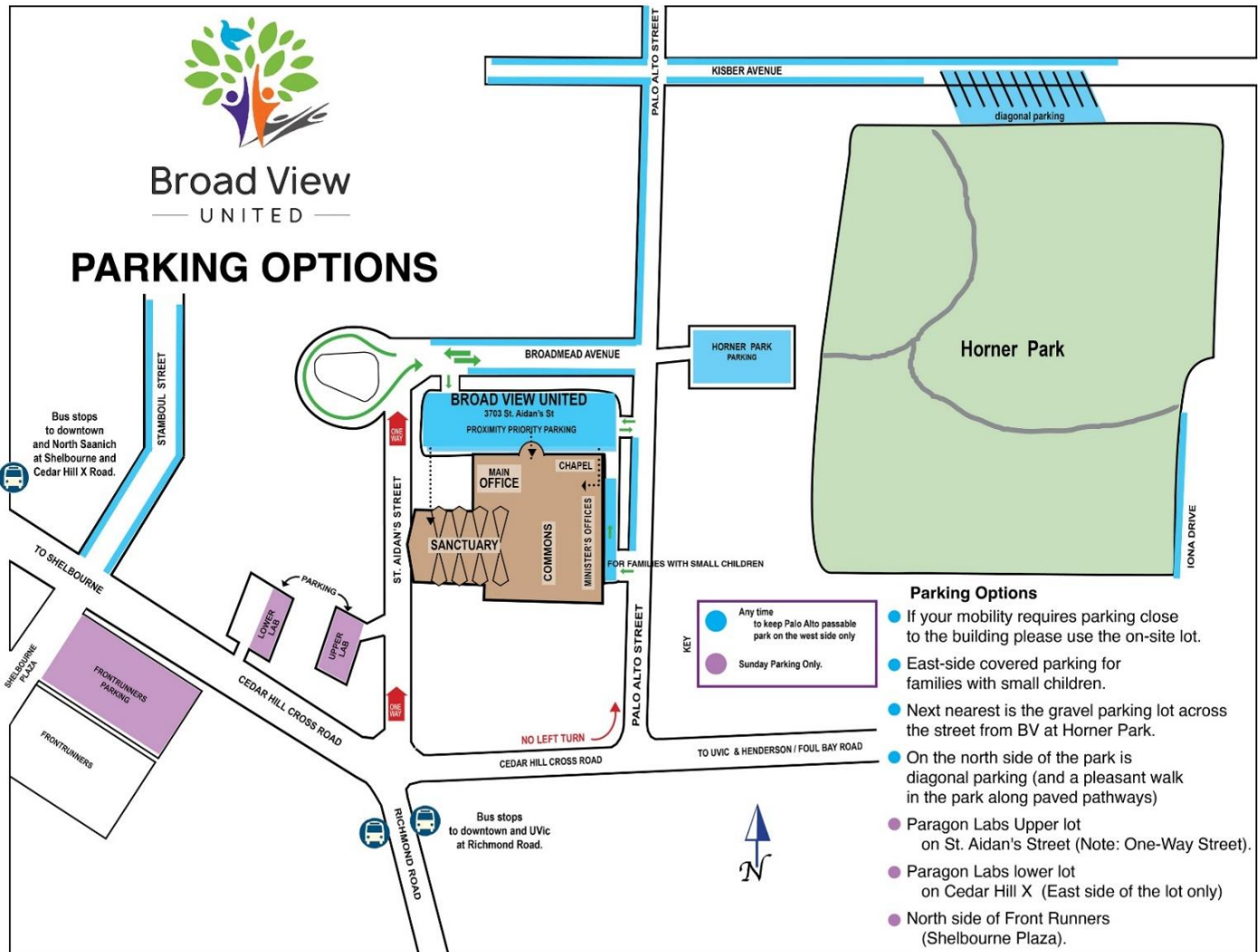


Julian Daly
Chief Executive Officer
Our Place Society



Parking Map

The following is a parking map created and provided by Mike Emme, a member of BVU, with accuracy and care for the community. We hope the information on this map will help you plan your Sunday morning. If there are any suggestions for improvement, please let us know at office@broadviewunited.



Inter-View: Inter-Spiritual and Queering

Zoom Meeting December 13th at 7pm 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.

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.

December's Inter-View topic will focus on queerness, the arts, and rituals for healing and rest.



December Worship Timetable

Date	Time	Service	Preacher
Dec 3rd, <i>Sunday</i>	9 AM	Chapel Service	Shelagh
	9:30 AM	Bridge Service	Mark
	11 AM	ConXion Service	Mark
Dec 6th, <i>Wednesday</i>	5:30 PM	National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women	Shelagh & Bishop Anna Greenwood Lee
Dec 10th, <i>Sunday</i>	9 AM	Chapel Service	Shelagh
	9:30 AM	Bridge Service	Ha Na
	11 AM	ConXion Service	Ha Na
Dec 17th, <i>Sunday</i> <i>Blue Christmas</i>	9 AM	Chapel Service	Shelagh
	9:30 AM	Bridge Service	Mark
	11 AM	ConXion Service	Mark
Dec 24th, <i>Sunday</i>	9 AM	Chapel Service	Shelagh
	11 AM	ConXion Service	Ha Na
	4 PM	Family Celebration of the Nativity	Mark, Pat & Micia
	7 PM	Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Ha Na & Mark
	9 PM	Candlelight Communion Service	Margaret & Shelagh
Dec 25th, <i>Monday</i>	4 PM	Christmas Day Worship and Fiesta	Ha Na & Min-Goo
Dec 31st, <i>Sunday</i>	9 AM	Bridge Service	Shelagh
	11 AM	ConXion Service	Shelagh

Candle Light Gathering



**NATIONAL DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE &
ACTION ON VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN**



Guest Speaker

Bishop Anna Greenwood Lee

Wednesday, December 6th | 5:30 PM

Broad View United Church

3703 St. Aidan's St, Victoria, BC

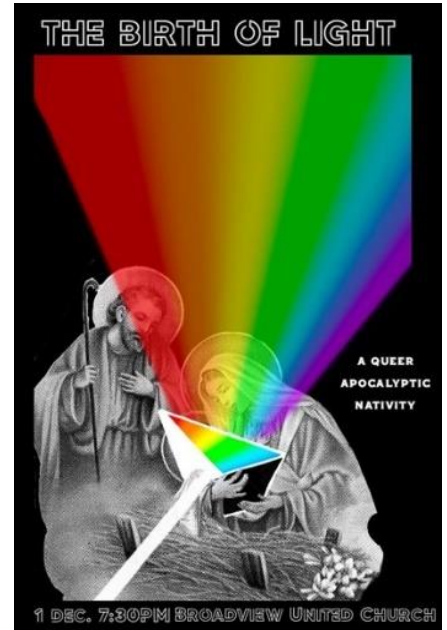
Special Events and Services at BVU during December

Friday, Dec 1st, 7:30 pm: Play - The Birth of Light: A Queer Apocalyptic Nativity

Join us for a community performance of nativity, re-imagined for our apocalyptic age. The play follows Mary and Jo on their journey to Bethlehem as they work through their relationship issues, haunted by an angel and a religious studies professor. The play struggles with the question of faith in apocalyptic times and tries to understand what use the Christian story can have for people today.

Admission is by donation and all proceeds will go to the actors. Wine and other beverages will be available in advance of the performance.

The Birth of Light is written and directed by Sage Dunn-Krahn (he/they), an artist and student of medieval studies.



Saturday Dec 2nd, 11am-3pm: Reconstructing Christmas Retreat: Experimenting with Rest! (@ Aunty Collective, 2620 Rock Bay Ave.):

BVU Affirm Team invites BVU and First Met queer individuals, families, and allies to come together for a Christmas Retreat to build a community through taking time for ourselves and each other in acts of resting and queer imagination. You can find more information on the poster and the Affirm Team section in this Newsletter.

Saturday Dec 2nd & Sunday Dec 3rd, 1 - 5 pm: Engaging Nativity Weekend: come and wander around the Commons and connecting rooms to enjoy an abundant and assorted array of Nativity scenes from around the world. Unique and diverse representations of the nativity story will invite us to ask, “who is missing in this story?” and “where do I fit in?”. Hot chocolate, apple cider and Christmas cookies will be available and each day at 3pm there will be a 30-minute Christmas carol sing along as well.

Sunday, Dec 10th, 3 pm: Let Love Rule - BVU Community Choir Concert. Join us for an afternoon concert featuring music from around the world to fill your heart with peace and joy. Some 12 singalong seasonal favorites will be sprinkled through the concert and a special presentation from our new “Pringle Handbell Choir” will also be featured. Admission is by donation, and we promise you an afternoon of delightful music that will leave you feeling festive and fulfilled.

Sunday, Dec 10th, Two Letter Writings: Amnesty International “Write for Rights” and Letter Writing in solidarity with the WSÁNEĆ community to address the proposed highway development in Goldstream Park: There will be two stations where you can sit around the tables and write for justice in the Commons after each service. We want our government to uphold these Douglas Treaty rights, to sustain the wild salmon for future generations, and to protect the Goldstream River and this Class A Provincial Park. You can also send the sample email to government officials, **now**. Click **HERE**.

Sunday, Dec 17th, 7 pm: Blue Christmas - A Service of Solace. Christmas is not a joyful occasion for everyone. There are many reasons why this season can be difficult: loss of a loved one, broken relationships, loss of health, loneliness, painful memories, feeling overwhelmed by the preparations for and busyness of the season, expectations of others, seasonal affective disorder (SAD). The service features gentle readings and reflections, music and candle lighting, giving the opportunity to acknowledge and live into some of these feelings and make room for hope and new life to enter. Through the power of ritual, we will have the chance to grieve and let go, and

enter gently into a new place ready to experience Christmas anew. All are welcome to attend and you may wish to invite a friend or neighbor who you think might benefit from this experience.

Following the service there will be hot apple cider, Christmas treats and a time for meeting with others and sharing in conversation.

Sunday, December 17th, Tacky yet festive Christmas Sweater Fun. On the Third Sunday of Advent, you are invited if you wish, to join with others in some fun on "Joy" Sunday. We are encouraging folks to wear either a tacky Christmas sweater, or tacky Christmas bling or something bright and festive. Either way, our plan is to simply have some fun on this day. Of course, "Tacky" is a relative term in the eye of the beholder ... so just a small warning – Don't wear your favourite Christmas sweater that day, in case it's mistaken. 😊

Sunday, December 24th, 9 am Chapel and 11 am Sanctuary. We will offer only two Sunday morning services as there will be 3 Christmas Eve services to follow in the afternoon and evening. Join us as we light all four of the advent candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as we prepare ourselves for the coming birth of Christ. 13

Christmas Eve Services Dec 24th

On Dec 24th, will be offering 2 Advent 4 morning services and 3 different Christmas Eve Services to meet the variety of needs of our congregation and community. We invite you to attend any number of them as a way of connecting our faith story with your family's traditions

9 am Chapel Service - Advent 4 - a gentle communion service to help us wrap up the advent season in a communal way.

11 am Sanctuary Service Advent 4 - only one morning service for Advent this day due to all the other services in the afternoon and evening. This service will help wrap up the season of advent and prepare us to welcome the birth of the Christ Child.

4 pm Family Celebration of the Nativity: This service features an active way of retelling and entering into the Christmas story that will engage children of all ages. Carols and candles help the story touch our hearts and leave you ready to return to your home in time for supper.

7pm Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. This service is also geared to families of all configurations and will feature a drama that reminds us of the deeper meaning to the Christmas story. Lots of Carol singing and the lighting of candles whilst singing Silent Night bring a gentleness and magic ending to Christmas Eve

9 pm Candlelight Communion Service. A gentle service of reflection with a smooth jazz feel brings Christmas Eve celebrations to an end. Through singing, readings, reflections and the sharing of communion, this service seeks to deepen our understanding of the Christmas story and bring a sense of mystery into being.

Christmas Day December 25th starting at 4pm

Christmas Fiesta - Where Music Meets Food, and Love Abounds!

Join us in celebrating the birth of Christ with the theme of "Fiesta" (party in Spanish). The service will engage us in the creative process: a beloved Christmas story re-written to meet visual arts. We also cannot miss the joy of

singing Christmas carols from around the world! Following the service, we will feel the rhythm of fiesta music and allow ourselves to be immersed in embodied movements. Dance floor will be open for everyone with an instructor teaching simple steps. A fiesta-themed feast with a potluck will conclude the event. Please bring a dish to share if you can. [RSVP](#) to help us prepare the best fiesta experience for you!

Christmas Worship Service 4:00-4:45 pm

Talent Show 4:45-5:15 pm (Featuring DANZA COLOMBIA)

Open Dance Floor 5:15-6:30 pm (with DJ Moses "EL PACHANGUERO")

Dinner 6:30 pm (potluck)

December 31st – New Years Eve Day 9:30 and 11:00 am Bridge and ConXion services

Join with us in closing out the 2023 year and preparing our bodies and our souls to enter into a 2024. There will be no Chapel service this day as it is a long weekend.

Grand Opening Celebration

Sunday, Jan 21st at 2 PM

Join us for a grand celebration of our new Broad View United home as we gather guest and members to help us celebrate the conclusion of a long journey.

Those from surrounding churches, the many professional involved in the renovation process, community partners and a number of special guest will join us for a service of celebration followed by a reception. Mark the day on your calendar.

More information will be forth coming.

Guys' "Water into Wine" Night,

1550's Pub, 1550 Cedar Hill X Road (near Shelbourne),
Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7 pm

Join with men of all ages who simply want a chance 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 (and a bite to eat if you wish), pull up chair and enjoy a time of fellowship and camaraderie. This is a drop-in group meeting the second Tuesday of the month, and no registration is required.



BROAD VIEW COMMUNITY CHOIR presents

LET LOVE RULE!

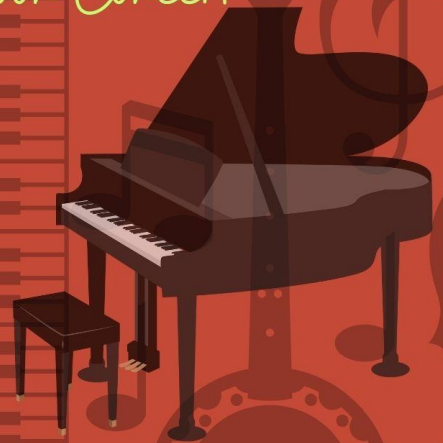
*A Delightful Holiday Season Afternoon Concert
Festive Feels Guaranteed!*



Directed by Brian Tate

*Broad View United Church
3703 St. Aidan's St, Victoria, BC
Sunday, December 10th at 3 PM
admission by donation*

www.broadviewunited.com



COME AND WANDER AROUND THE COMMONS AND CONNECTING
ROOMS TO ENJOY AN ABUNDANT AND ASSORTED ARRAY OF
NATIVITY SCENES FROM AROUND THE WORLD.

UNIQUE AND DIVERSE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE NATIVITY STORY
WILL INVITE US TO ASK, "WHO IS MISSING IN THIS STORY?"
AND "WHERE DO I FIT IN?"

Engaging Nativity Weekend:

2 & 3 DECEMBER 2023

1:00 - 5:00 PM

May your home be filled with the joy of the
season. Merry Christmas!



Intercultural Programs

"Part of the vision of the intercultural church is to create a space where we can sustain our own cultural identities while also affirming those of one another."

(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 intercultural programs as we continue to grow in community. Everyone is welcome, and all are encouraged to participate.

Saturday Social: Pickleball & Ping Pong on Saturdays (6:00 - 8:00 pm) until Dec. 23

At the UVic Centre for Athletics, Recreation and Special Abilities (CARSA) in collaboration with Multifaith



Join us for a vibrant Saturday evening filled with excitement! Discover the joy of bonding through interactive games like pickleball and ping pong in a safe and inclusive environment for every BODY regardless of age, ability or background. Step away from the screens and plug into an experience that fosters connections, laughter, and healthy fun for everyone. Embrace the intercultural spirit and make your Saturday night truly remarkable! Equipment will be provided. Bring your own paddle if you have one.

Good news: this program has been extended to continue until **December 23, 2023**. There will be 4 more opportunities to join us in December at UVic CARSA.

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! Please contact Min-Goo (min-goo@broadviewunited.com) for more information, including the Zoom link.



Intercultural Bible Study (1st Wed of the month at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm)

Our Intercultural Bible Study is taking place at our freshly renovated home at the Cedar Hill X site. 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! All are welcome!

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 classrooms in the Commons area. There we will discuss the bible 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. All friends welcome. We meet every second week to talk, play and laugh! Our gathering times for December are **Fridays December 8th and 22nd from 6:30pm til 8:30pm.**



Senior Youth Group

For students in grades 9 – 12. There is 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 once we get settled in our new building.

Young Adults

For those aged 19 – 29 (ish). Typically, we meet on the first and third Sunday of each month after the 11am service for lunch (around 12:15). During the transition of moving buildings, we have had to change the dates – Our next Young Adult lunch is **Sunday, December 10th** then in January we will return to our usual first and third Sunday schedule. Lunch is provided. You do not need to pre-register. Just show up and enjoy this diverse, supportive and welcoming community.



Broad View
— UNITED —



Find Us: firstmetvictoria.com
Visit Us: broadviewunited.com



Congregational Care

In Memoriam

We uphold the cherished lives of the following congregants.

Louise Hudson (died last Monday, Nov. 27)

Janet Harper (died peacefully at home, Tuesday, Nov. 21)

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



Birthday

Beverley Tandberg will be celebrating her 97th birthday on Monday December 11th.

Christmas Cards

On behalf of the congregations of Broad View United and First Metropolitan, Christmas 'Thinking of You' Cards will be sent out in early December. Some of the recipients will be members of the congregation who find getting out to church to be challenging, those who have been navigating health transitions and changes, or those who are finding the season tough for any number of reasons.

Please let us know if there is someone you would like to receive a 'Thinking of You' card, and we will be sure to include them.

Self-Care during the Advent and Christmas Season

It can be a challenge to live mindfully in these days. There are pressures (both internal and external) to have it all together, to create experiences that will be memorable, to make time to be with our loved ones, all the while celebrating the sacred love of the holy being born in the midst. Sometimes in our desire to 'do it all', we find ourselves tired, overwhelmed and stretched to the point of breaking. Please know that it's okay to say, 'I'm not okay'. Please know that we are here to walk beside you in this time. Please reach out to one of us if you need some extra support.

If you are wanting/needing a time of solace in the midst of everything else, please consider attending **The Blue Christmas Service---Sunday, Dec. 17th, 7 pm in the Sanctuary**. Here you will find a gentle service of silence, prayer, music and candle-lighting. Many find this service a helpful and necessary reprieve during the holiday season.

Prayer Connection Ministry

We are in the midst of bringing together the prayer teams of First+Metropolitan and Broad View United. We are a team of dedicated 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

To send a request via Broad View, please contact Jean at: jean@jampot.ca or

Margaret margaret@broadviewunited.com

Requests can also be passed along to a staff member.

Emergency Pastoral Care from Dec. 25-Jan. 1:

Please reach out to either Shelagh MacKinnon (604) 813-8550 or Mark Green (250) 250-882-2715 via their cells, should you require pastoral assistance.

In loving and faithful service, Shelagh MacKinnon and Margaret Harper

Christmas Giving and Outreach Opportunities

During this Christmas season, those connected to BVU might be looking for additional ways to make a difference in the world and integrate their sense of gratitude with making a difference in the lives of other. There are a number of ways that we make this happen at BVU. Listed below are just a few of the ways you can participate in sharing the Christmas Spirit during December.

Angel Gifts

Thank you for your support of the Angel Gifts program. We have committed to 170 gifts from folks at BVU. This is a great show of support for those marginalized and we are delighted to be able to support the ministry of OUR PLACE in this way. Please return your wrapped gifts (with the numbered card attached) to the new BVU site (3703 St Aidan's St) no later than Sunday December 10th . Gifts can be brought with you to church on Sunday mornings or dropped off at the office during weekday office hours.

Gifts with Vision

If you are looking for a unique gift for those who are hard to buy for on your Christmas list or because you'd like to give the gift of " making a difference", visit the online catalogue of the United Church of Canada Gifts of Vision. A wide range of items and ideas for every budget from \$15 - \$500 that address areas of poverty, displacement, justice, environment , racism and more. Check out the catalogue at <https://giftswithvision.ca/7>

Baby Shower for Jesus: Dec 25, Dec 31st and Jan 7th

One of the ways we work to make a practical impact for those living on the edges is to support the work of the Saanich Neighbourhood Place (SNP). After Christmas many young parents struggle with making ends meet and these supplemental items go a long way in supporting children and families at risk. SNP serves young parents between the ages of 13 and 28. Because most live on income assistance, they often don't have enough for necessities because their shelter allowance is low, therefore some of their support money must go to rent. That leaves most families very short of money for food and other essentials. Christmas and the weeks that follow become an added strain. You can help by bringing one of the following items:

diapers - sizes 4, 5 and 6 (little ones stay in the large sizes longer so therefore higher demand!), pull ups, infant formula , wipes, baby food, infant cereal, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products

These can also be dropped off during church office hours during the week. Bring these with you to the church anytime from Christmas day onward and place them in the designated spot in the Narthex. Thank you

Broad View United Year End Gift

As we come into the final month of 2023, we are hopeful that we might bridge the deficit gap with the year end gifts offered . As you look through both this newsletter and past newsletters, you can see all the ways BVU is making a difference in the lives of individuals and in the community. As with many charities, a significant part of our donations come in the last month of the year. As we move into December we are running a small deficit which with all the change and transitions of this past year is to be expected. As folks return, we are confident that we can make up the difference. If you are able, please consider making an additional gift to help us bridge the gap would be greatly appreciated.

You can make this gift by dropping a cheque in the mail or donation box, sending an e-transfer or visiting our website for other options. Thank you for considering such a gift and including Broad View in your holiday giving plans.



SHELBOURNE
Community
KITCHEN



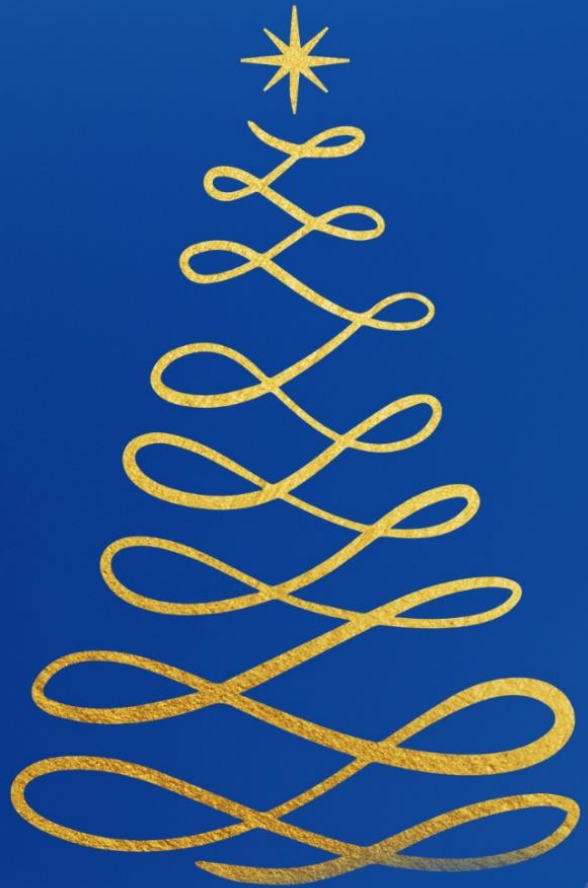
November 20th December 20th

GETTING GOOD FOOD TO GOOD PEOPLE

Food Donation Guidelines

We accept...

- ☒ Fish/Beans/Nuts: Peanut/nut butters, canned tuna or salmon, canned and dried beans and lentils
- ☒ Vegetables: Low-sodium canned vegetables and vegetable juices, canned tomatoes, and pasta sauces
- ☒ Fruits: Canned fruit, sugar-free applesauce, dried fruit, 100% fruit juices
- ☒ Drinks/Dairy Alternatives: Coffee, tea, shelf-stable unsweetened milk alternatives (rice, soy, almond, coconut etc.)
- ☒ Grains: Rice, pasta, whole grain cereals, oatmeal, crackers, granola bars, gluten-free options
- ☒ Cooking Oils: Olive, canola, and vegetable oils
- ☒ Baking/Spices: flour, baking soda, white and brown sugar, salt, pepper, garlic powder, dried basil, oregano, thyme, curry powder, cumin, chilli powders, cinnamon, baking spices etc.
- ☒ Toiletries and personal hygiene supplies: toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, soaps and lotions etc.



**DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF IN THE
DONATION BOX AT THE NARTHEX OF BROAD VIEW UNITED
LOCATED AT 3703 ST. AIDAN'S ST, VICTORIA, BC**

**Check out website for more details
www.shelbournecommunitykitchen.ca**



Sharing Gifts With Community Partners

Shelbourne Community Kitchen - "Bring Home the Kitchen Fundraising Campaign"

Yay!!! We did it!

The Shelbourne Community Kitchen has reached its goal of raising \$387,000 in funding to build a commercial kitchen in its new location at 3787 Cedar Hill Rd. Thank you to all of you at BVU who have supported the Kitchen and contributed to the "Bring Home the Kitchen Fundraising Campaign".

The kitchen renovations will start in the new year after the busy Christmas Season is over. The new kitchen will be a place for participants to learn and cook together in person; share community meals and more!



"We are immensely grateful for the overwhelming support we have received for the campaign and continue to receive for our work", said Kim Cummins, Director of Operations. "With the high cost of living and food inflation, the need in our community continues to skyrocket. Donation Campaigns like this make a world of difference in our ability to serve more people who turn to us for support"

FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT: www.shelbournecommunitykitchen.ca

Mt. Tolmie Shelter Update:

Good News!

Finally, the Mt. Tolmie Shelter residents and staff have moved to their long-awaited permanent housing this week. Until recently, for two years, Broad View United built support and connections with the residents and staff of Mt. Tolmie Shelter by sharing monthly BBQs and Conversations with Coffee. We shared many heart-warming moments with the residents and those who came to volunteer and share loving-kindness.

The new six-story building has been dubbed 'The Juniper,' and is located at 1176 Yates Street. It will offer 46 new studio units, each with its own private bathroom, shower, and kitchenette with a full fridge. Four units are accessible by wheelchair. The Juniper will be operated by PHS Community Services, who will provide supports through their 24/7 staff.

Since the Mt. Tolmie Shelter moved across the road from the CHX site (now, our newly renovated home) in December 2021, we have been attempting to be good neighbors. The volunteers provided basic Christmas bags for them, including socks, underwear, toques, scarves, and a Christmas card. This year, we will continue the gift-sharing as blessings to the residents and their new home.

Introducing the Margaret Cameron Fund

Christmas Gifts to our neighbours have been part of the Spiritual Care and Wellness Team at FMC. We have created gifts from the Margaret Cameron Fund to support our neighbours this fall. The includes \$2000 for Indigenous Education through Bridges for Women. A similar amount was sent to TAPS (Together Against Poverty) for vulnerable people living on the margins. Our support helped the Gender Generation Society with the costs of their camp and mural project. The North Park Hamper Project distributes hampers every Thursday. At Christmas, we donate Gingerbread kits for each family and add other goodies, in partnership with our Evolving Church team. We were blessed to be able to donate \$5,000 in November for the Projects for Women fundraising for the New Roads Recovery Centre of Our Place. This is not a comprehensive list, but we wanted to share a little of our history as we amalgamate. We are looking forward to working with Margaret Harper and the BVU team going forward.

Submitted on behalf of Sharron Higgins, Alva Jensen and Shelagh MacKinnon



Quilts for Survivors Project

**At Broad View United we are making quilts and gifting them to survivors of the residential school system.
Come join us - no experience necessary - all are welcome!**

The BVU Quilters are hard at it! We are creating quilts to be gifted to survivors of the residential school program through the Quilts For Survivors Project. We are looking forward to getting back to quilting in our new church home in 2024, meanwhile we are all working on quilts in our own homes, friend's homes and wherever else we can find a sewing machine and a few extra minutes!

Our group is always happy to welcome anyone who likes to sew, quilt or craft. Details of our next sewing times to follow in early 2024. Check out this website for details of the **Quilts for Survivors Project** at <https://www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca/>



Jacquelin Green jacgreen@telus.net
Vivian Skinner vivianskinner@shaw.ca

Letter Writing Campaign

Broad View United and First Met Justice Teams invite us **to engage with the WSÁNEĆ community to address the proposed highway development in Goldstream Park**. Please find a sample letter below and email it to the addresses provided. Through the Advent, you can also pick up the salmon pamphlets displayed around coffee areas in the Narthex and the Commons. To raise our awareness of this environmental and justice issue, Intercultural and Intergenerational hiking is being planned.

A Sample Letter

Honourable David Eby, Premier
Premier@gov.bc.ca

Honourable Rob Fleming
Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure
Minister.MOTI@gov.bc.ca
MLA Victoria-Hillside

Honourable Murray Rankin
Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca
MLA Oak Bay-Gordon Head

Dear Premier/ Ministers,

I am concerned about the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's plan to widen the Malahat highway inside the boundaries of Goldstream Provincial Park.

I am opposed to any adverse impacts on the Goldstream River which supports wild chum, coho and chinook salmon. This would affect the ongoing practice of WSANEC rights including fishing, food gathering, ceremonial gatherings and exercising stewardship responsibilities. I support these Douglas Treaty rights and I want my government to uphold them.

The Ministry estimates that 600,000 people visit the Park annually, with peaks in the summer and the salmon spawning season. I want our future generations to be able to continue to learn about and to witness the salmon cycles that use the Goldstream River from cradle to grave.

A solution to the congestion and safety of the highway over the Malahat is to reduce traffic by implementing a regular and affordable bus service up island. A similar service to Sooke has reduced both traffic volume and improved safety. This can be implemented at a greatly reduced cost compared to the MOTI plan, protects the Goldstream River, the Class A Goldstream Provincial Park, respects WSANEC rights and can certainly be put in service before the next election in 2024.

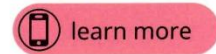
With respect,

Putting our care into action

We want our government to uphold these Douglas Treaty rights, to sustain the wild salmon for future generations, and to protect the Goldstream River and this Class A Provincial Park.

Let your voice be heard. Please contact the Premier's office or Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, or Minister of Indigenous Relations.

A sample draft message with contacts is available here: jamesbayunited.com/get-connected/reconciliation



This is an initiative of the Reconciling with Indigenous Peoples and the Land group.




Salmon design by WSÁNEĆ artist Sarah Jim
sarahjimstudio.com

Walk of Grief

Sunday, December 17 at 3pm *All are welcome to participate in this act of mourning and grief.*

A 50-minute walking vigil that begins and ends at First Met United Church on Quadra.

Sponsors: Broad View United Church and KAIROS Victoria



*All who mourn the deaths of those killed by the war in Israel/Palestine
are invited to join **BROAD VIEW UNITED & KAIROS VICTORIA** for*

A Walk of Grief

Sunday, December 17 at 3pm

Candles, reflection, prayer and song

With tenderness and humility, let us come together in our grief and desire for peace.

This 50 minute walking vigil begins and ends at **First Met United on Quadra**. All are welcome.

In the spirit of unity and respect for those who have died, no flags or signs.

Every day since October 7 we watch the news with broken hearts and tears of anguish imagining the suffering that the people of Israel/Palestine are experiencing. We know there are many Canadians who have family and friends living in the Holy Land and we want to find a way to show our support for all who are grieving and who long for peace.

As ordinary people, this is an opportunity to come together in our grief. It is not a protest. It is not a rally. It is a gentle walk. It is an opportunity to both support others in their grief and to receive support as we walk together with tenderness and respect for others, honouring all of humanity.

What to expect: There will be 5 pauses during this walking vigil and in the pauses, there may be a reflection, prayer, song or story focused on grief. Please dress appropriately for the weather and do bring a candle or lantern if you like. We will have some available for people to use as well.

Do not bring signs or flags. There will be a large banner and smaller signs for some to carry that will identify this event as a "Walk of Grief". Thank you for your co-operation.

"Grief is how loss travels. It is the choreography of loss in its world-navigating, world-upsetting circuits. Grief is an impersonal, potentially decolonizing force. Grief infiltrates structures, decays edges, and forces new postures of reverence and irreverence. Grief is not mere sadness; it is mutiny against established patterns. Perhaps a little part of all of us, regardless of the sides we claim, is co-creating a commons marked by grief." Bayo Akomolafe

Moderator's Letter, Advocating for a Ceasefire

On November 18, the General Council Executive, its corresponding members, and the members of the National Indigenous Council issued a plea to Prime Minister Trudeau to advocate for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war, recognizing that, in the view of legal experts, genocide is currently taking place.

November 18, 2023

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.

Prime Minister of Canada

House of Commons

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca



Dear Prime Minister,

This letter is to address the immediate and urgent need to stop genocide.

We have a long history of relationship with churches and partners in the region; for decades, we have joined our voices to theirs seeking an end to the illegal occupation of Palestine and the blockade of Gaza, and towards a just peace for all, upholding the rights of both Palestinians and Israelis to life and freedom.

We join in the international shock and outrage at the brutal attacks on Israeli communities by Hamas militants on October 7, 2023. We condemn the attacks on civilians, the killing of so many innocent children and people, as well as the taking of hostages and putting civilians in harm's way.

The people of The United Church of Canada are outraged by and condemn Israel's ongoing military action in Gaza, and the collective punishment of 2.2 million Gazans. We watch with horror and grief as more and more innocents in one of the world's most densely populated areas are being killed.

We condemn the attacks by Hamas as war crimes; we condemn the Israeli bombings of Gaza as a war crime. Canada has rightly and unequivocally condemned Hamas's actions. We call on Canada to unequivocally hold Israel to account for its legal obligations under international law as an occupying military power.

Israel's brutal bombardment of Gaza has resulted in the deaths of more than 11,000 Palestinians, including more than 4,500 children as of November 17. Thousands are trapped under the rubble. The shocking death toll rises with every hour. There is an unprecedented humanitarian crisis in Gaza because of the restriction of water, food, medical supplies, fuel, electricity, destruction of most of the medical facilities, the forced displacement of more than one million people, closure of all hospitals, and the complete collapse of the medical system.

This must end, now.

Legal experts at the United Nations have warned that the world is witnessing a genocide, and very little is being done to stop it. To the contrary, Canada, the United States, and other allies of the Israeli government have openly and repeatedly stated their unwavering support for Israel's actions. Fears over the safety of Palestinian civilians are growing as Israel suggests its bombardment of Gaza will shift to southern areas, having destroyed swaths of the north.

Meanwhile, the Israeli hostages remain in captivity in Gaza and their security is becoming more and more uncertain.

As is evident from the current tragedy, Canada's approach is not working nor is it conducive to a just peace. We urgently call upon your office to:

- recognize the genocide;
- uphold international human rights and humanitarian law without exception;
- call for an immediate ceasefire;
- advocate for the release of hostages;
- demand the opening of humanitarian corridors;
- and engage meaningfully in the pursuit of a just and lasting peace in the region.

The failure to clearly do so is unconscionable.

The people of The United Church of Canada have long raised our voices for just and lasting peace in the region. Since the intensification of conflict, we have issued statements, written letters, raised funds for humanitarian aid, and engaged in civil society and ecumenical actions—in deep concern for all lives in the land called “Holy.”

We despair that, despite the cries of Canadians across the country, our government has failed to listen and to call for a ceasefire. We, the members of the Executive of the General Council and the National Indigenous Council of The United Church of Canada, add our voices to those cries.

We pray that you show moral courage and conviction and call for an immediate ceasefire in the interests of a just and lasting peace for both Palestinians and Israelis.

May it be so.

Moderator Carmen Lansdowne

With the Executive of the 44th General Council and corresponding members

Chair Leeann Shimoda

With the National Indigenous Council

The United Church of Canada



Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne

Christmas Fiesta Fiesta Navidad

Where Music Meets Food, and Love Abounds!



Broad View United (3703 St. Aidan's St.)
December 25th Christmas Service 4:00-4:45 pm
Talent Show (performances) 4:45-5:15 pm
Open Dance Floor 5:15-6:30 pm
with: DJ MOSES "EL PACHANGUERO" & DANZA COLOMBIA
Dinner 6:30 pm

Experience a Reimagined X-mas story through Visual Arts
Feel the Rhythm of Fiesta Music
Join in a Potluck Feast with a Festive Fiesta Theme

Please bring a dish to share.

Questions? Contact min-goo@broadviewunited.com
Broad View United (3703 St. Aidan's St.)

Please RSVP



<https://form.jotform.com/233297936914267>