



Comox United Church

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

DECEMBER 15TH – 22ND, 2023



Unsplash – KaLisa Veer

Service: December 17, 2023
Advent 4 - LOVE

Leader: Rev. Karen Hollis

Scripture: Alan Brown

Prayers of the People: Mike Stewart

Power Point: Marrilee Cameron

Coffee: Leone King, Margie Van Binsbergen

Greeters: Joanne Wiens, Marg Adams

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
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Admin@comoxunitedchurch.com

OUR COMMUNITY

ADVENT 4: LOVE



Tina Witherspoon-unsplash

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

WEEKLY

Mondays	1:30	Knitting Group (starts back Jan 9, 2024)
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 (No Men's Breakfast in December!)
Last Sun.	11:15	Soup and Bun Lunch



Alex Padurau - unsplash

STOP
BREATHE DEEPLY....
and again...

Take time throughout this busy season to breathe deeply. Make a cuppa, get settled into your favorite chair, read the newsletter, And...relax...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from the Gifts Administrator

In accordance with CRA guidelines, gifts to be received in the 2023 calendar year must be:

- postmarked December (if mailed);
- **OR** received in the church office during regular business hours before the end of December;
- **OR** dropped in the offering plate before the end of December.

This includes the tax-eligible portion of profits from Matthew Mystery Bazaar sales.

Please ensure that the church has your current mailing address for tax receipting purposes.

Thank you - Cheryl McMahon envelopesecretary@comoxunitedchurch.com



The knitting group won't be meeting until Jan 8th.



Bev

Hi Guys, As Shakespear said, "Much Ado About Nothing", since there's no Men's Breakfast in December.

Hope to see you all in January, Chef James willing. Barrie Turnham for leader Scott Agur.



Michael Tucker-unsplash

The Right Rev. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada, shares her [Advent message for 2023](#). Advent is a time of expectant waiting for the Christmas miracle—a story of hope, bravery, and the willingness to have faith in God. It is also a story of generosity and of humans caring for each other.



The United Church makes it easy to make a difference with the Gifts with Vision catalogue! You can go online at giftswithvision.ca, or phone 1-844 715 7969.

You can use your credit card by phone and support global or Canadian projects.

Please consider supporting Palestinian farmers by buying a box of delicious large medjoul dates. A two-pound box is \$22.50 and Dave will have boxes for sale after the service this Sunday. Dave T.

Advent season is upon us, and there are plenty of gift ideas with a [United Church Bookstore Gift Card](#). For the book lovers or anyone interested in deepening their spirituality on your list, including the gift of choice with the gift card.

Just arrived from The United Church Publishing House, [Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis](#) is a Lenten devotional available in softcover and e-book format. With a study guide included for both personal and group reflections, you can purchase your copy today and start planning ahead for Lent.



MATTHEW MYSTERY PROJECT

UPDATE

As we near the end of 2023 and complete the first three months of wonderful *Matthew Mystery Project* activities I want to express my appreciation for the enthusiasm and support everyone has shown for this fundraising and community building initiative.

I'm pleased to announce that as of this week \$4977.50 has been returned to the Church as part of the *Matthew Mystery Project*. Some of that money is seed money, but the majority represents profits made by congregation members donating their time and talents to multiply the \$20 handed to them on October 1st. I know that there are many people who have held onto their profits using them to fund upcoming projects so the *MMP* money will continue to grow to help our Church next year.

***The Matthew Mystery Project* continues through to the end of April 2024 so there will be many announcements about new activities and projects in the new year but for now, thank you for your hard work and support of each other's efforts. We are very blessed!**

Elaine Brown
Matthew Mystery Project Coordinator



Evie S - unsplash

The 20-Year-Reunion performance of a Celebrity Reading of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" went off seamlessly. The Victorian Tea Buffet at the interval, and the organizers were totally satisfied with the outcomes. From the point of view of the Mathew Mystery project, the 17 folk who each "invested" their \$20, saw a return to Comox United of over 780%.

The audience of 180 people gathered in the sanctuary really enjoyed the very talented reading.

The funds generated will be put to good use by Comox United, but the production also generated a substantial gift to Dawn to Dawn. Those funds will be used to support the opening of a safe, supportive, peer-run, transitional residence for Indigenous and non-Indigenous young people who are experiencing, or are at risk of becoming unhoused. That project, known as Gukwās sa Wagalus (House of the Rainbow). Funds from this Sunday's White Gift special appeal will also be used to support that project. Bruce Curtis

There have been inquiries for Gloria Herauf's Piano cds which are available for sale from Gloria at \$15.[Matthew Mystery Project].

Contact Gloria at
{250} 339 5085
or glherauf@shaw.ca



Alan from Care-A-Van stopped by this week. He expressed his gratitude as the United Church Women (UCW) gathered 10 bags of items for the Transition Society.

In addition, there is another bag of items ready to be donated from the baskets in the Church foyer.



Ivan Krasnoperov - unsplash

Over the past few weeks, I have been hearing such wonderful praises for the Church's welcoming presence. Long-term and first-time renters who have chosen to have their event(s) at the Church are looking forward to coming back. Karasima



COMOX UNITED CHURCH WEBSITE

This Week's Tip:

1. To learn about Gifts with Vision, go to the website by googling **Comox United Church**.
2. From the menu at the top of the page, click on **News**.
3. Scroll down to **Gifts with Vision**.
4. Consider supporting worthy causes and helping people in need this Christmas, as gifts to family and friends.

NB: This is YOUR website! If you'd like to comment, please email Joyce Wagland at websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com or phone 250-207-5650.

WANTED ASAP**COORDINATOR OF SOUP & BUN LUNCHES**

Seeking someone to step into this position. You will get lots of support from Merrilee.

Time commitment is 3 hours the last Sunday of the month for 8 months and 1 hour the week before.

It is a very popular activity that provides great opportunity for socializing & getting to know some of your pew mates better & to welcome new folks to our community.

Before you think you can't do it, talk to Merrilee.

FREE

Do you know of a family with young children that could use a colorful and playful bookshelf with drawers?

There's one in the Church Foyer.

This is the perfect item for a family this Christmas Season. It would look fantastic with a big, red bow attached.

It's ready to use Christmas Day and for years to come.

It's calling out to be loved and filled with children's books and stuffies.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

16th, Saturday, **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** @ 12:30 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"*

17th, Sunday, **COMOX VALLEY UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP WINTER SOLSTICE** @ 4:00 pm in the Church Sanctuary. All are welcome. We hope you can join us. It will be done in partial darkness and for that reason will not be filmed or broadcast in any way. There is no children's program this Sunday.

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 (Villagers Sacred Service)**, 4-9:30 pm will be held at the **WEIRD CHURCH, in Cumberland**, this year.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/s/villagers-sacred-solstice/282036420910430/>

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

25th – January 10th Karen is away

25th, Monday, Christmas Day

26th, Tuesday, Boxing Day, the office is **CLOSED**.

31st, Sunday, **Karen begins her vacation. There is no Bulletin this week.**

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

31st, Sunday, **CV Unitarian Fellowship, 4:00 pm in the Hall**, New Year's Eve - there will be a gathering to let go of the old year and welcome the new. We will have a Spiral Walk (like a labyrinth), and a Fire Communion (where we burn whatever we wish to 'discard' from the year ending). This will be followed by a potluck, and possibly games and singing. **All Ages welcome. Bring a friend. Potluck will follow the service. If you are able, please bring food to share. To ease the clean-up please bring your own.**



FUTURE DATES**JANUARY 2024**

1st, Monday, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

2nd, Tuesday, Office is **OPEN**

6th, Celebrate Epiphany

7th, Sunday, Karen is away. The Service will be lead by Joan Gillies and Howard Robertson.

7th, Baptism of Jesus

14th, Karen is back from vacation.

14th, Second after Epiphany

21st, Third after Epiphany

28th, Fourth After Epiphany

FEBRUARY

24th, Saturday, The Coldest Night of the Year “is a winterrific, family-friendly, walk to raise money for local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness.”



unsplash

OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

BUNDLE UP FOR AN EVENING WALK THROUGH THIS PICTURE-PERFECT FESTIVE SETTING.

Bundle up for an evening walk through this picture-perfect festive setting!

Park is open every night from November 24 - December 31 until 9 pm.

Learn more at filberg.com This is a FREE event

Cumberland's Weird Church

Join us for the Villagers' Sacred Solstice on Thursday December 21st.
From 4-9:30 pm.

Celebrate the mystery and beauty of the dark point of the year and the return of the sun which is celebrated by cultures across the Northern Hemisphere on this day. The winter solstice offers us the chance to connect with the dark in nature, to whisper "see you soon" to new life and new hope, and share light with our friends and neighbours.



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