

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

Broad View United in amalgamation with First Metropolitan United Church



Table of Contents

Minister's Message	2
Looking for Volunteers	4
Staff Changes	4
Neighbourhood Open House	
Grand Opening Celebration	5
Broad View United Thrift Store Updates	6
Shrove Tuesday / Ash Wednesday	6
Plea from First Met Archives	7
170 Angel Gifts	8
The Final Updates from Mt. Tolmie Shelter ministry	8
Justice Fair Sunday	8
Quilts for Survivors Project	9
BVU – Walking together on the Coldest Night of the Year	9
Program Updates	10
Inter-View: Inter-Spiritual and Queering	10
Circle CHAT	10
Broad View Community Choir	10
UCW at BVU	11
Broad View Knitters	11
Deep Dive Into Death	11
Exploring the Big Questions of Faith	11
Youth Baptism/Confirmation Course: Discover Your Treasures	12
Beloved and Belong: Baptism and membership course	12
BC-Yukon KAIROS Winter Book Club	12
Spiritual Care	13
Intercultural Programs	14
Children Vouth & Voung Adults	15





Minister's Message

After Christmas Day, my family took the ferry and drove to the arena in Surrey where our younger son Jah-bi's hockey tournament was going to take place. It was like the star arose in our hearts on Christmas Day and followed our family all the way to where we were going and stopped above the arena.

And the highlight moment for me was this.

It was the 3rd round, and 26.1 seconds was left until Jah-bi's team's all efforts in this tournament would have to end. It was apparent that we lost by 2 scores against the other team. Except for the very first game, Jah-bi's team would then have lost three games in a row.

The spectators and parents, even though this is a minor hockey game for kids, watch intently without losing sight of the puck when the kids are playing well, either



Rev. Ha Na Park

holding their breath or cheering loudly, and support them just as fervently, albeit painfully, when things aren't going well. Yet, it is precisely in these moments that I find the most reflection and subtle inspiration. With only 26.1 seconds left, and the outcome almost certain, the kids still maintain their positions or go beyond to make the last shot, pass, or chase after the puck flung far by the opposition. Hustle, hustle, skate. Until the last 26.1 seconds, the kids have a reason to keep running.

Then it struck me. The puck is the star.

Watching a losing game to the end is painful. However, the resurgence of Spirit is in every moment, and what these players are building and creating is intangible. It's not the score that goes up on the scoreboard but something immaterial. What they build up and create in those 26.1 seconds - the already risen star - is not about the present loss, but about the teamwork, spirit, newfound skills, and understandings that will be carried into the next game and beyond. They are creating something lasting, an intangible resurgence. Without it, what game are we playing?

What we are creating is the star that rises in my heart, the star that rises over each individual, the star that rises over our community arena, the star that connects us to another person, and the star of their arena.

The star of Epiphany is not just about a visible light shining alone in the dark night, but about the intangible resurgence that blooms from darkness and a humble space. It's about the intangible world, understanding, dreams, history, and stories formed in God's 26.1 seconds, in our life's 26.1 seconds.

May the 26.1-second puck, the star of Epiphany, continue to watch over you this new year, inspiring and empowering us all. May God's resurgence begin in all of us.

Blessings Ha Na Park Co-Lead Minister

Looking for Volunteers

There are always opportunities for Volunteering around BVU. Some of them are ongoing opportunities, other are for short term projects. If you have some time and are looking for ways to connect with you church community and help to make a difference, please consider one of the following: Email info@broadviewunited.com to express your interest.

- **Drop in Playgroup assistants:** For the Monday and Friday groups we are in need of 1 or 2 more adults who are happy to interact with caregivers, parents and grandparents for our weekly drop-in programs. Monday is a Sing and Play group with an early literacy component as well as some free play time and Friday is simply a drop in. Volunteers assist with hospitality and orientation to the space for newcomers.
- Grand Opening Hospitality: For our Grand Opening Celebration on Sunday Jan 21st, we will be looking for a team that will help with the hosting of the reception following the service at 2 pm.
- Neighborhood Open House hospitality (Sat, Jan 13th): we are looking for folks who will welcome, provide tours and keep the coffee/snacks available from 2:00-3:30 on that day.
- <u>Plant watering:</u> we need a small team of folks who will oversee the watering of the plants in the sanctuary and entrance way each week.
- <u>Front Desk:</u> During this transition time and during regular staff meetings, we are needing a few folks who can welcome, answer phones and provide general information and hospitality to those who come through our front doors.
- <u>Maintenance projects:</u> we need a small team of folks who are good at "fixing or maintaining" the little things that need attention as we settle into the new building and during the ongoing life of living in the building.

Staff Changes

<u>Pat McKay</u> is retiring from her position working with children, youth, young adults and families. She will be returning to Saskatchewan to spend time with her children and her new grandchild and then head to Australia for an extended trip to connect with her sisters there. We will miss Pat and her energy, dedication and tremendous skills that she has shared with us so generously these past 4 years. Pat will be with us until Feb 15th and we will have cake and celebration on Sunday Feb 11th. We will send her with our blessings.

Front Desk reception and admin assistant <u>Lauren Paterson</u> has also resigned having been offered her "dream job" during the winter break. Her note to us expressed regret as it was a difficult choice and decision for her because she really loved the people at BVU. We wish her all the best.

A search process for both these positions has begun. If you know someone that might be a good match, encourage them to apply.

Neighbourhood Open House Jan 13th 2:00 – 3:30 pm



As a Thank you to those neighbours that surround BVU, we will be hosting an open house on Saturday Jan 13th from 2-3:30 pm. We are inviting neighbours to drop in, see the new space, be thanked for their generosity of spirit during the construction and to welcome them to our programs. The Thrift store will also be open that day so that folks can check that out too. We would welcome congregants to also be present to extend hospitality and greetings to those

who drop by.

Grand Opening Celebration

Join us on Sunday Jan 21st at 2pm for Our Grand Opening Celebration where we can express our gratitude and celebrate who we seek to be as we move forward in our new building. We are inviting our community partners to join us as well as other United Churches and our Ecumenical and Interfaith partners as well. There will be speeches, music, greetings from honoured guests and a celebratory dance presentation from the Ging Wu West Lion Dancers. A reception will follow. We hope you will join us.





Broad View United Thrift Store Updates

Greetings and Happy New Year from everyone at BVU Thrift store!

Just as we were all ready to open the shop some great news came our way.

Mark was able to arrange the floors on the lower level to be cleaned and sealed. Great job!

As the team needed the week to accomplish this, we've pushed back our **re-opening to Wednesday January 10th 10am-6pm**.

Donations will be welcomed again starting Monday January 8th (9am-3pm).

Also in the works is our new and improved website due to launch soon. We will be showcasing some of our more valuable pieces that may be purchased directly online and then picked up at the store.

Our new sign has now arrived and been installed and it's a beauty! It will light up our doorway round the clock.

Please join us in this new and exciting iteration of BVU Thrift store.

All the best in the year to come!

- Your team at BVU



Grand Re-opening: Wednesday January 10th 10am-6pm Donation Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 3pm.

Open Hours for January: Wednesday 10am - 6pm,
Saturday 10am - 4pm.



National Ribbon Skirt Day

This Sunday, January 7th, at BVU we will be honouring National Ribbon Skirt Day, which is held every January 4. This day originates with the story of Isabella Kulak. A member of Cote First Nation, Saskatchewan, Isabella was

shamed for wearing her handmade ribbon skirt to a formal wear day at her elementary school. Traditionally worn by First Nations and Métis peoples, ribbon skirts are a centuries-old symbol of identity, adaptation, and survival for Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people, and represents a direct connection to Mother Earth. Isabella's story shone a light on the enduring injustices, racism, and discrimination faced by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis in Canada every day, and on the importance of the role we all must play in making sure that what happened never happens again to anyone in Canada.



If you have a ribbon skirt, can you share it with us all by wearing it, or bringing it on Sunday?

Thanks and we look forward to honouring this tradition together!

Plea from First Met Archives

The archival records of First Metropolitan are boxed, wrapped and scheduled for transport to Pacific Mountain Regional Council Archives this month. The transfer consists of 15 metres of textual records and photographs, 800+

sound and moving image items, and 8000+ digital files.

Regrettably, the FMUC transfer is missing an important set of 2016 DVD recordings from the significant Epiphany Explorations conference series. This popular annual conference was organized and hosted by First Met from 2003 to 2017.

The Mountford Library set of EE recordings was boxed for the move to Broad View, but has yet to be found. If you have seen these DVDs at Broad View, or if you have a 2016 set yourself that you would be willing to donate or loan for copying, please contact us at 250-385-6818 or

<firstmetarchives@gmail.com>.



Thank you so much. Margery & Don / The late, great First Met Archives

170 Angel Gifts

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Angel Gifts this year. From those who bought and wrapped a gift to those who donated money and to our volunteer shoppers who took that money and hit the stores for that perfect sweater or vest, we are grateful. We also want to thank Ross Breckon, Gordon Robinson and Doug Koch, who hauled gifts back and forth through the church and who helped drive the gifts to Our Place. BVU contributed a whopping 170 Angel gifts. Jennifer, coordinator of Our Place events, said she thought it was the best program they provided all year and SO appreciated.



The Final Updates from Mt. Tolmie Shelter ministry

Broad View United, home to many compassionate saints including Mary Lou, has been a close neighbor to Mt Tolmie Shelter residents. As these residents and staff transition to their new home, The Juniper on Yates St, we cherish our shared memories and send holiday greetings and Christmas gifts to all 46 of them. Our heartfelt thanks go to the BVU youth for baking cookies, Broad View Thrift Store for donating mugs, and Gary, the manager at Fairway on Shelbourne St, for the delicious red apples.

As we conclude our journey with the Mt. Tolmie Shelter Ministry, our final act was sharing gifts at Juniper. This marks the end of the time filled with meaningful engagements like 'Conversation with



Coffee' and 'Sunday BBQs'. We are immensely grateful to each volunteer and neighbor who joined us in these gatherings. Your support has been invaluable. Wishing nourishment and flourishing to all as we close this chapter.

Justice Fair Sunday on January 14th

The congregations that have come together as one in this new space have each been very active in working for justice in our community and in the world. There is always space for you to get involved with ongoing actions or to initiate new ones.

Once a month we highlight how we live out our call through our actions. Those involved will have tables and information in the Commons following both the 9:30 and 11:00 services. For example, we are an Affirming congregation. What does that mean? We work ecumenically as well as with community partners. How do we do this? The changing climate is a concern to all of us. How are we responding? Our commitment is to be a church actively involved in the hard work towards Reconciliation. How? To find some answers to these questions, please take time to engage with the folks at the tables. Let's continue to work together!

Quilts for Survivors Project

At Broad View United we are making quilts and gifting them to Survivors of the Residential School System through the QUILTS FOR SURVIVORS PROJECT. https://www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca/

We are looking for sewists, Quilters and crafters to join us.

All are welcome – No experience necessary!

Join us at the next planning meeting of the BVU Quilters: Saturday January 13 - 10 am at Broad View United in Cedar Room off the Commons

Vivian Skinner 250 595-0543

Jacquelin Green jacgreen@telus.net



BVU – Walking together on the Coldest Night of the Year, Feb. 24

Help us support Our Place Society.

The Coldest Night of the Year is a family-friendly walk on February 24 to raise money for Our Place Society. The Broad View United community has been a strong, steadfast supporter of Our Place who serves people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness.

Our team will be walking a 5- or 2-km route on February 24 at the Victoria Pandora location that starts and ends at Our Place Society. However, many of our walkers decide to participate by self-organizing with friends or individually to walk on their chosen path any day in February. Regardless of where or when you walk, we ask all our walkers to register with the Broad View United team at www.cnoy.org/location/victoriapandora so your fundraising adds to our Church's total donation.



The Coldest Night of the Year is an important fund raiser that makes a real difference in the lives of many in our neighbourhoods who are struggling to find hope and belonging. We have set a BVU goal to raise \$10,000 this year. You can support this worthy cause by donating and/or joining our team and fundraising.

To donate, please go to www.cnoy.org, then click on the donate box. That will bring up a search box where you type Broad View United and then click go! You will then see the Broad View United team listed at the top of a list of teams. Click on "Broad View United" and then click on the "donate to team" box on the next screen. Then, you will have an option to associate your donation with a particular team member or to the whole team generally.

For more information, please contact Brian McConkey or Adele Heise by phone at 250 883-0033 or by email at brianmcc306@gmail.com

Program Updates

Inter-View: Inter-Spiritual and Queering

Zoom Meeting January 10th 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.

January's Inter-View topic: Chronicling Queer Joy.

Join us by sharing a picture, image, artwork, or story that represents your queer joy.



Resumes on January 10th @ 1:30 pm in the Chapel.

This is a drop-in group for women who gather for the sole purpose of conversation, visiting and refreshments. Circle CHAT meets the second Wednesday of each month. Please join us! If you need a ride, contact Margaret: margaret@broadviewunited.com



UCW at BVU

Plans are afoot as we work to bring UCW to Broad View Save the date January 24 at 2:00 p.m. All women are invited to come together for a cup of tea and a chance to learn what the UCW has to offer! This will be followed by a tour of our beautiful renovated church; and the gardens! In the meantime anyone interested in UCW should contact Marie McKee (emarie@shaw.ca) or Marg Zilkie (mezilkie@shaw.ca), or Shelagh MacKinnon (shelagh@broadviewunited.com)

Broad View Knitters

Have you ever wanted to learn knitting? Do you have a half started knitting project that you are stuck on what to do next with? Are you an experienced knitter looking for like-minded people?

Then welcome to Broad View Knitters first ever knitting café which will be held on February 13, 2024 from 1 pm to 3 pm in the Cedar room! A selection of yarn, knitting needles and advice will be available to you. Coffee, tea and treats will be served.

For more information, please contact Shelagh MacKinnon or Liane Clark at 250-590-3677.



As background, the First Met Knitters started in 2005 and met the second Tuesday of every month under the leadership of Shirley Chatfield and Joan Mickleson. They always welcomed new members. The more experienced knitters made themselves available to explain a technique, show how to fix a mistake or simply share what they are currently working on. In the fall of 2023, with amalgamation with Broad View United on the horizon and Shirley and Joan wanting to step down from their roles, the First Met Knitters made the decision to continue under the leadership of Liane Clark and to become the Broad View Knitters. Despite the changes, they remain an open and welcoming group who hope to see you on February 13!

Deep Dive Into Death

Save the Dates.

A four-part series in March. Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21 & 28 1:00-3:00 PM. Each session will include leader input, time for focused reflection and questions, and plenty of time for conversation. More to come in February Newsletter. To express interest, please contact Margaret Harper.

Exploring the Big Questions of Faith

When: Tuesday evenings Feb 13th - Mar 12th 2024 (5 weeks) * Note the Date Change

Time: 7-9 pm Leadership: Mark Green Place: BVU Commons

Join with others who are on a path to explore some of the big questions of Faith and find not answers but perhaps perspectives that shed light on the questions being asked. Bring your questions and as a group we will prioritize what feels most pressing to those attending. Questions like: Why does God allow suffering? Does God have a purpose or plan for our lives? Is there life after death? Does God allow evil to exist or is it beyond God's control? What is the nature of God? Through readings, film clips and discussion we will probe some of the mysteries of life to make peace with them. Register online at https://form.jotform.com/240038554469259.

Youth Baptism/Confirmation Course: Discover Your Treasures

We invite youth from the ages 13-19 for an art and activity-based Youth Baptism and Confirmation Course. This course will be shared on three Saturday afternoons in February and March, with Baptism/Confirmation celebrations around Easter.

Scheduled dates: Saturdays, 3-5 pm Feb 10 & 24, Mar 9 (Saturday times are flexible.)

Anchored in Jesus' story, "The kin_dom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; and then in their joy went and sold all they had and bought that field" (Matt 13:44), each youth will engage in a treasure hunt format as a way to discover treasures/gifts in themselves and the community to find God together. Please talk to Ha Na or email: hana@broadviewunited.com

Beloved and Belong: Baptism and membership course

Are you interested in exploring your faith and baptism? Would you like to engage with yourself and others for learning and renewing your baptism? This art and group-work-based baptism and membership course will use Marcus Borg's book, The Heart of Christianity: How We Can Be Passionate believers Today, as our map, and our heart as the compass to discover God, both as unique individuals and together. For more information or to sign up, please email or speak to Ha Na.

Scheduled dates: Saturdays, 3-5 pm Feb 17, Mar 2, 16, 23 (Saturday times are flexible.)

Baptism/membership will be celebrated around Easter.

BC-Yukon KAIROS Winter Book Club

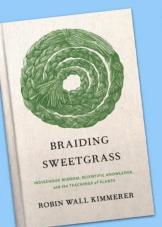
Two BVU members Janet and Susan love talking about and sharing the book Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall-Kimmerer with others. This is a 5-week online book club and you are invited to join us. This will be our 6th Braiding Sweetgrass Book club we have offered over the past few years. The book continues to resonate, and may be even more so, in our world. Some people read the book in advance and others read a section a week and follow along with us that way.

If you are interested, please see the information on the poster.

You're invited to the BC-Yukon KAIROS Winter Book Club featuring-

Braiding Sweetgrass

Join co-facilitators, **Janet Gray and Susan Draper**, for an interactive exploration of this beautiful book now celebrating its tenth anniversary. Selling over two million copies worldwide, the book has been translated into twenty languages, and graced the New York Times Bestseller list for the last three years.



Date & Time: Wednesday Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 14 4-5:15 pm Pacific Time (5 weeks)

Using Zoom, we will create a space for ritual, ceremony, spoken word, deep listening and rich sharing.

For more information and/or to register for this free book club, e-mail Susan at graceful@shaw.ca.

We welcome all new and old friends of Braiding

KAIROS BC-Yukon

Ve welcome all new and old friends of Braidin Sweetgrass to join us in celebration of its teachings and impacts on our lives.

Spiritual Care

In Memoriam

We lift up the following people who died during the month of December 2023. We give thanks for their witness and acknowledge the magnitude of the gifts they shared with us during their lives. Our love and prayers remain with their families and loved ones.

- Harvelyn McInnis: Died on Dec. 22, 2023. Harvelyn was a resident for the past many years at Berwick Lodge on Shelbourne. A service will be held at a later date.
- Eddie Williams: Eddie was the architect for the BVU site from Stellar Architect. A service for Eddie was held at BVU on Dec. 30, 2023.

Birthday

Nora Hoskins will be celebrating her 92nd birthday on Thursday January 25th.

Christmas Cards and Christmas Communion

Our newly formed Spiritual Care team gathered in early December, amidst Christmas goodies and friendship to write Christmas 'Thinking of You' Cards. The cards were sent to approx. 100 Broad View United and First+Metropolitan congregants who find getting out to church to be challenging, those who have been navigating health transitions and changes, or those who found the season tough for any number of reasons. The First+Metropolitan visitation group also delivered cards and wee poinsettias to some of their members.

Christmas communion and visits were also celebrated at Berwick Lodge (Shelbourne) and The Kensington. We hope to expand this to other retirement and care facilities going forward.

We are excited at the process of coming together as one entity in 2024.

Prayer Connection Ministry

As of January 2024, we are also transitioning our two confidential prayer ministry teams into one. Collectively, we are a group 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.

We are excited to introduce our co-leads for our amalgamated prayer team.



Jean Margison



Anne Sikstrom

Confidential requests can be sent to Jean or Anne at:

<u>Jean@jampot.ca</u>; <u>anne.sikstrom@gmail.com</u> or via **prayer@broadviewunited.com**

Requests can also be passed along to staff members Shelagh MacKinnon and Margaret Harper.

Intercultural Programs

"The intercultural vision is about more than inclusion – it's about a radical welcoming that calls all of us to change."

(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.

Thank you!

About 100 people came to our Christmas Fiesta! Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for helping with the event by donating dishes, coordinating food, and washing and cleaning! A special thank you to Matty and Nicola for creating art, and Danza Colombia for lifting our spirits by sharing culture through dance. Thank you to everyone for making the event truly intercultural by participating fully. Together we were able to demonstrate our intercultural vision by embracing a radical welcoming that calls all of us to change.



Saturday Social: Ping Pong, Games & Karaoke Delight on Saturdays (6:30 - 8:30 pm)



At Broad View United – both the Commons (the main floor) and the Hub (downstairs)

Join us for a vibrant Saturday evening filled with excitement! Whether you're a ping pong pro or new to the game, our program caters to all skill levels. Discover the joy of bonding through ping pong and delve into the world of friendly competition with various board games. And if your heart craves melody, our karaoke setup awaits your musical talents!

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! Intercultural snacks will

be provided.

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 (January 10 at 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm) Our

Intercultural Bible Study is taking place in the chapel. 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!

<u>Taste of Home – Storytelling through Food (Coming in the Spring of 2024)</u>

Note: This program is for folks who have just come to Canada within the last 5 years. But we need lots of volunteers to make this program sustainable and successful. If you want to be involved or find more information, please contact Min-Goo at min-goo@broadviewunited.com

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 January are **Fridays, Jan. 5th and 19th from 6:30-8:30pm**. Bring your friends!

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 9:00pm once we get settled in our new building.



Young Adults

For those aged 19 – 29 (ish). We meet on the first and third Sunday of each month after the 11am service for lunch (around 12:15). Our next Young Adult lunch is **Sunday**, **January 7**th **then again on Jan. 21**st. Lunch is provided. You do not need to pre-register. Just show up and enjoy this diverse, supportive and welcoming community.

Drop In Playgroup

This is for caregivers and children up to age 5. We are very excited to be partnering with Saanich Neighbourhood Place. We will begin in our new space the week of January 8th. The program runs on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 til 11:30am** in the lower hall. There is a short circle time and snack is provided! You don't have to preregister. Just drop in!

With
BVU Community Choir
and
Ging Wu West
Lion Dancing



Broad View — UNITED —

GRAND OPENING!

Sunday, January 21st, 2=3 pm 3703 St. Aidan's St., Victoria BC

Join us for a grand celebration of our new Broad View United home, as we gather with guests, members and community partners to celebrate.

Reception to follow.

