



Comox United Church

250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com



Grapevine

Sunday, February 18, 2024

First Sunday of Lent

This Sunday: We share a service and a POTLUCK LUNCH with Unitarian Fellowship

Change of time! Service will begin at 11 a.m.

This Sunday, we will share a joint service **at 11 a.m.** with the Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship (CVUF) to celebrate the renewal of our covenant. (That's right: Note the special start time of 11⁰⁰ a.m.!)

The ecumenical service will braid together United Church and Unitarian Universalist worship elements and provide a space for engaging and exploring our partnership and the ministry we share. Any unidentified offerings received at the service will be donated to the Care-A-Van.

And what's a United Church event without food? After worship we will gather for a **potluck lunch**. Bring your favourite dish to share on Sunday morning! Want details about the potluck? Contact Bruce Curtis at bwcurtis@shaw.ca



A new look for the Newsletter!

Lorna Tutte, our church administrator, and Alan Brown put their heads together this week, and came up with a new look for the weekly newsletter!

They've titled it "Grapevine," referring to the Christian symbolism of grapes, wine and Communion. And of course, Marvin Gaye reminded us that "I heard it through the grapevine."

But if you've got an even better title for the newsletter, email your idea to Lorna. (Her contact info is on the next page.)

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Worship Today

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**
Arran Morton, CVUF
Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**
Pianist: **Carol Jennerman**
Greeters: **Marj Adams, Joanne Wiens**
Power Point: **Sue Newman**
Audio: **Joanne Wiens**
Scripture Reader: **Patty Forbes-King**
Coffee & Tea: **Leone King, Heather Flint**
Livestream: **Julie Whitman**

How to worship with us

In Person

Sunday worship is at 10 am. (*except this week!)

Livestream

Our livestream is on [YouTube](#) at 10 am every Sunday (youtube.com/@comoxunitedchurch3917/streams)

Recorded services

Recordings of all our livestream services can be found at

comoxunitedchurch.com/pages/online-sunday-services

Welcome, Newcomer!

If you are new to Comox United Church, we welcome you as God welcomes us all.

Comox United Church is a faith community within the United Church of Canada. Our central values appear at the bottom of this page. We are one of over 300 Affirming United Church Ministries across Canada, which means we affirm, include, and celebrate people of every age, race, belief, culture, ability, income level, family configuration, gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation in the life and ministry of our church, and proudly display the crest of the association of affirming churches known as Affirm United.



For more information about our faith community, see comoxunitedchurch.com

Contact Us!

Rev. Karen Hollis, Minister: minister@comoxunitedchurch.com

Gisèle Plouffe, Treasurer: treasurer@comoxunitedchurch.com

Cheryl McMahan, Givings Administrator: envelopesecretary@comoxunitedchurch.com

Lorna Tutte, Church Administrator: admin@comoxunitedchurch.com

Comox United Church Grapevine is a weekly newsletter produced by Comox United Church.

To get your announcement into the *Grapevine*, email or phone the church office:

admin@comoxunitedchurch.com or 250-339-3966

The deadline for articles is Thursday at 12 noon – No Exceptions!

If you don't want to receive this newsletter anymore, contact the church office.

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Message from Lorna, Church Administrator

To My Church Family,

What a lovely surprise to arrive at work Thursday morning and to discover chocolate and Valentines on my desk. The chocolate complimented my morning coffee. Thank you ALL.

Lorna

Our Annual General Meeting is next Sun Feb 25

Looking for a deeper connection with our church and congregation?



If you think that “Our Annual General Meeting will be next Sunday, Feb 25 following worship” sounds very “corporate”, you’re not wrong. BUT an AGM is also an opportunity to form a deeper connection with other Comox United people. This meeting will be a time to rejoice in the achievements of 2023 and think about what our community would like to accomplish in 2024. You will see that many committees and teams are looking for your ideas, energy and involvement. Here are just a few

positions where you could make a difference:

- Vice-Chair of our Church Council
- Ministry & Personnel representative at Council
- Co-Chair of Congregational Life
- Social Justice representative at Council
- A representative from our church at the Pacific Mountain Region of the United Church of Canada

To learn more about these teams go to: comoxunitedchurch.com/about/church-council and click on “Volunteer Position Description”.

World Day of Prayer on Friday, March 1st at 2 pm

Reception will follow service

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. This year, Comox United will host this year’s service titled *I Beg You... Bear with One Another in Love*, which is based on Ephesians 4:1–3. It was written by Christian women from Palestine, who invite all of us to pray for peace, justice and freedom of religion and freedom of movement.



Our service on **Friday, March 1st** will start at **2⁰⁰ p.m.**, and a reception will follow the service.



Thanks!

Thank you to the Men’s Breakfast group who expertly organized, set and cleaned up, cooked pancakes and sausages and lovingly decorated for us all. The Shrove Day Pancake dinner was enjoyed and appreciated by many.

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Join the “Coldest Night of the Year” walk next Saturday Or sponsor a member of the team



Last year's team

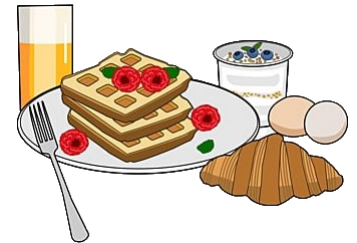
“Coldest Night of the Year” is an annual charity walk that this year will be supporting Dawn to Dawn and the Comox Transition Society. Our team — the mighty Comox United Walkers — was the largest team in the walk last year, and our team captain, Marj Adams, hopes to do just as well this year. The walk is the evening of Saturday, February 24th, and will go ahead regardless of the weather.

(Last year it snowed!)

Go to cnoy.org/location/comoxvalley to join our team or make a tax deductible donation. Or call Marj (772-552-4137) for more information. Our own website is also a good source of information. (Click on “News” and scroll to “Coldest Night of the Year.”)

Men’s Breakfast this month is pushed back a week Remember to RSVP by Wednesday if you want a seat!

The monthly Men’s Breakfast is usually on the third Saturday of the month, but this month it is being pushed a week down to road to next **Saturday, February 24**. The usual chef, James Derry, will not be available, but a special surprise menu is being cooked up by Stewart McIntosh and Scott Agur.



Brian Wright will display his wooden horses as the highlight of the event.

Members of the Unitarian Fellowship and the Men's Shed are invited to attend.

There are a limited number of seats available so remember to RSVP to Barry (chemist@telus.net) by this coming Wednesday.

On PIE Day, let’s have some PIE and watch a movie! Celebrate our Affirming church on Wed March 13th at 7⁰⁰ pm



PIE Day, also known as National Affirming Day, is a day to celebrate our status as the only Affirming church on Vancouver Island north of Parksville! “PIE” stands for *Public, Intentional, Explicit Inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ People*. Every year, we celebrate PIE Day on or near March 14th. (March 14 = 3.14 = π = pi = PIE, right?)

This year, we are going to celebrate PIE Day on Wed Mar 13th at 7⁰⁰ p.m. with lots of pie and a screening of the movie *Love Free or Die.*, which tells the story of Gene Robinson, the first openly gay person to become a Episcopalian (Anglican) bishop. His consecration by the Diocese of New Hampshire in 2003 (to which he wore a bullet-proof vest) caused an international stir. The movie won a special jury award at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival.



If you will be able to contribute a pie to this event, please let Church Administrator Lorna know. (Contact info on page 2.)

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Matthew Mystery Project News

The **Matthew Mystery Project (MMP)**, based on the Parable of the Talents in the Book of Matthew, is an ongoing seven-month fundraiser.

In October, each member of the congregation was given \$20 and told to go forth and multiply it! We've made almost \$5000 so far, and we still have over two months to go!

Here's the latest news!

Second Marketplace on Sunday, March 17th

Last November Comox United held a very successful vendor's marketplace, which raised over \$2000 for the Matthew Mystery Project. On March 17th we hope to again raise money through another fun marketplace where congregation members can sell their creations to benefit the MMP and our Church. The Marketplace falls at the beginning of March Break, two days before the Spring Equinox and two weeks before Easter. Think of the possibilities you could make and sell, or else purchase to support the vendors:



- Easter treats (cookies, cupcakes, hot cross buns, etc.)
- Spring decorations (wreaths, table runners, plant pots, etc.)
- Gifts for gardeners, golfers, hikers and cyclists
- Picnic baskets of goodies, and homemade barbecue seasonings

If you would like table space, please contact Elaine Brown (browns.comox@gmail.com).

Even if you can't participate in the Marketplace, you can still multiply your \$20 seed money by:

- Hosting a garden or indoor tea party, a movie or games night
- Leading a special walk with a packed treat for the walkers
- Selling your services to help others with spring cleaning of windows, closets, or garages.
- Dog sitting or walking.
- Assisting with gardening (planting, or grounds cleanup)

MMP Questions & Answers

Q: I've finished my Matthew Mystery Project activity. How do I hand in the money I've made?

A: Place the money in an envelope and seal it. Print the following clearly on the outside:

- Your **name, address,** and the **amount of money** in the envelope.
- Add your offering envelope number if you have one.
- Bring the envelope to worship and give it Elaine Brown after the service.

Q: I've just arrived at Comox United. Can I participate too?

A: YES! Contact Elaine Brown at broelaine@gmail.com to receive your \$20 of "seed" money!

Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

Mon	Family Day: Church Office closed
Tue 10 ⁰⁰ a.m.	Coffee & Conversation (Comox Golf Club)
Wed 10 ⁰⁰ p.m.	Queer Bible Study
Thu 6 ³⁰ p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Fri 10 ⁰⁰ a.m.	Men's Shed
Sat 10 ⁰⁰ a.m.	Finding Climate Action (final)
4 ⁰⁰ p.m.	Coldest Night of the Year
6 ³⁰ p.m.	Participatory Music
Sun 10 ⁰⁰ a.m.	Second Sunday of Lent (AGM follows worship)

Coming Soon...

Feb 26	Knitting Group
Feb 27	Coffee & Conversation
Feb 28	Queer Bible Study Strategic Planning Session
Feb 29	Choir
Mar 1	Men's Shed World Day of Prayer
Mar 2	Strategic Planning Session
Mar 3	Third Sunday of Lent

Healing Touch/Reiki offered to chemo/radiation patients on Tuesday afternoons at the church

Are you presently receiving chemo or radiation? Did you know Comox United gives support on Tuesday afternoons for patients right here at the church through Healing Touch/Reiki? These can help:

- Promote relaxation and reduces stress
- Support pain relief for acute and chronic pain and discomfort
- Enhance the beneficial effects of medications
- Reduce the unwanted side effects of medications, including chemotherapy
- Promote faster healing after surgeries, fractures and other physical injuries
- Assist the healing process for those experiencing emotional and mental upheavals, including grief, loss and major life transitions
- Provide a sense of overall well being and calmness
- Promote a healthy immune system

The Comox Hospice supports us by taking appointments for us. To make an appointment:

Call 250-871-0696 or email: reception@comoxhospice.com

CxU People Corner

News about Comox United people can be e-mailed or phoned to the church office.

In Memoriam...

...A service will be held for **Chuck Page** on Saturday, March 9.



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