



Comox United Church

250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com



Grapevine

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Second Sunday of Lent

Our Annual General Meeting is today following service Looking for a deeper connection with our church and congregation?



If you think that the phrase “Our Annual General Meeting will be on 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 this 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 this **Friday, March 1st** will start at **2⁰⁰ p.m.**, and a reception will follow the service.

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Worship Today

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**
Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**
Pianist: **Marni Fisher**
Greeters: **Klaus Jennerman**
Merrilee Cameron
Power Point: **Joyce Relyea**
Audio: **Ross Griffith-Cochrane**
Scripture Reader: **Merrilee Cameron**
Coffee & Tea: **Jan Bjarnason, Peter Senior**
Livestream: **Ken Newman**

How to worship with us

In Person

Sunday worship is at 10 am.

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.



*Crest of
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 McMahon, 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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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.

Even better, we will start the movie screening with a Zoom session with Gene Robinson himself!

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

Lent 2024: The Blessing Hour

Connect with your beloved queerness in a spiritual way!

We are joining hands with Weird Church in Cumberland to launch a Lenten project called **The Blessing Hour**. Both of our congregations believe that we are all people are made in the image of God, who is Love, and are blessed by that God. Too often church spaces and communities have been not only unwelcoming but also unsafe, even hostile environments for those in the 2SLGBTQIA+ population, which is a violation of that Love.

The Blessing Hour is a new community designed specifically to ensure Queer folks know that they too are precious and beloved children of God, welcome in spiritual community, including the Christian tradition.

Join us for this 7-week, self-paced, exploration delivered to your inbox, hosted by Taryn Goodwin (she/they) from Weird Church.



After you register for **The Blessing Hour**, you can expect:

- a virtual blessing
- drawing a card from The Wild Unknown Deck
- A final prayer for our beloved queer lives in this spiritual world during the week of Lent.
- Videos will be sent to your inbox every Saturday of Lent starting Feb 17th.

To register, go to our website, click on **News**, and then click on **The Blessing Hour**.

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Walking Group visits Valleyview TODAY

Meet at Hawk Glen Park at 2 pm

The Walking Group goes on a local walk of about one hour, usually on the last Sunday of the month — which is TODAY! There is an AGM after church but there will still be time to get home afterwards, grab a bit of lunch and jump into your walking duds.

This afternoon, the group will meet at 2⁰⁰ p.m. on Hawk Drive in front of Hawk Glen Park, and then walk along some of the streets and paved walkways in the Valleyview neighbourhood.

Directions: Drive north from Comox on Lerwick Ave, and turn left on Valleyview Drive. At the bottom of the hill, turn left onto Hawk Drive. Hawk Glen Park will be on your left at the bend.



Play an instrument? Like to sing? Let's have some fun!

Participatory Music Nights happen on Saturday nights at 6³⁰ pm



Let's get together and have fun with music! Music builds community and makes for fun times together. Play an instrument? Want to sing karaoke? Sing along with songs, play musical instruments, shakers, drums, fiddles, guitars, etc. Bring your own instrument if you own one. Organizer Greg Olynyk will provide some drums and percussion things.

Participatory Music Nights will be making music in the sanctuary every Saturday evening in March (except March 16) from 6³⁰–9³⁰ p.m.

For more info, contact Greg (olynyk.greg@gmail.com or 250-218-4639)

SAGE sez: Support a Canadian environmental justice law Join us in calling on the Senate to pass Bill C-226

SAGE (Sustainability Action Group for the Environment), our environmental action team, is calling on us to take action: Environmental racism occurs when environmental policies or practices intentionally or unintentionally result in disproportionate negative impacts on Indigenous and racialized individuals, groups or communities. Too often, Canadian environmental law and policy fail to prevent this from occurring. It's a gap that must be addressed with clear legislative requirements and accountability mechanisms. The **National Strategy Respecting Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice Act** would require the federal government to establish a national strategy to assess, prevent and address environmental racism and advance environmental justice. The House of Commons passed Bill C-226 in March 2023, but the Senate still needs to approve it before it becomes law.

We're promoting a petition in collaboration with the Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, West Coast Environmental Law and other partners. We'll submit it to the Senate standing committee on energy, the environment and natural resources, Sen. Mary Jane McCallum (the bill's sponsor) and other senators.

To sign the petition, go to our website, click on **News**, then click on "**Support a Canadian environmental justice law.**" Or if you're reading this electronically, [click here](#).



Mission & Service Fund: Taking Kids to School

How do you make the world a better place? You can start by taking kids to school. Around the world, 57 million children cannot attend school. They may never learn to read, to add or subtract, or to write. These are the skills they need to succeed. Even more importantly, they never learn about their basic human rights.

It's a complicated problem, says Patti Talbot, the United Church of Canada's Global Partnership Team Leader. "The work we do isn't going to lead to immediate societal change," she says, "but it will make a big difference down the road."

When children can't go to school, society suffers. And that is why the United Church of Canada's Mission & Service is in partnership with 74 organizations that work to increase access to education across the globe. Each partner has their own approach to education and skills training, each supported by your gifts to Mission & Service.

Comox United Church dedicates 10% of its offerings to the Mission & Service Fund. Taking kids to school is only one of many ways that we reach out to the world through Mission & Service. Thank you.



Dive into Climate Action with The Mod's Book Squad

Sign up now for free webinar with our United Church Moderator



Be a superhero! Join the Mod (United Church Moderator Carmen Lansdowne) for "The Mod's Book Squad," a series of thoughtful 90-minute webinars with her special guests about hearty topics through a lens of flourishing.

On **Tuesday, March 5th at 3³⁰ p.m.**, the Mod will talk with the Rev. Christine Boyle, climate justice activist and city councillor, about the Lenten devotional book *Act/Fast: Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis*. Grief, anxiety, hope, love, pain, despair, awe—many emotions are used to describe our relationship with all of Creation. What is your personal, physical, and spiritual relationship with God's Creation? How does this relationship affect how you follow Christ? This Lenten devotional invites us to deepen our love for Creation and take action or fast for a climate in crisis.

To register for "The Mod's Book Squad", go to churchx.ca/local/shop/product.php?id=2 and click on "Join Now (Free)".

Camp Homewood weekend: Save Oct 4-6!

The first weekend in October will be our fabulous retreat at Camp Homewood on beautiful Quadra Island! Mark this in your calendar now! More details to follow, great memories guaranteed!



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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 over \$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 (broelaine@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: For my table at the Marketplace, can I get electricity or other special arrangements?

A: YES! Contact Elaine Brown (broelaine@gmail.com) as soon as possible so she can make those arrangements for your table.

Q: How much does it cost to rent a table at the Marketplace?

A: There is no rental fee. The Marketplace is open to all vendors who are participating in MMP.

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...

TODAY 11¹⁵ a.m. Annual General Meeting (after service)
2⁰⁰ p.m. Walking Group
Mon 1³⁰ p.m. Knitting Group
Tue 10⁰⁰ a.m. Coffee & Conversation (Comox Golf Club)
Wed 10⁰⁰ p.m. Queer Bible Study
Thu 6³⁰ p.m. Choir Rehearsal
Fri 10⁰⁰ a.m. Men's Shed
Sat 9⁰⁰ a.m. Strategic Planning
6³⁰ p.m. Participatory Music
Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Third Sunday of Lent: Communion

Coming Soon...

Mar 4 Knitting Group
Mar 5 Coffee & Conversation
Mar 6 Queer Bible Study
Mar 7 Choir
Mar 8 Men's Shed
Mar 9 Memorial Service: Chuck Page
Participatory Music
Mar 10 Fourth Sunday of Lent

Did you know...?



This Thursday, February 29th is a Leap Day, added to the end of February once every four years to bring our calendar back into line with the solar year of solstices and equinoxes. But did you know that in 55 BCE when Julius Caesar introduced the concept of a leap year every fourth year, the extra day wasn't placed at the end of February but after February 24th — and the leap day was also called February 24th! Yes, both days were dated February 24th and legally they counted as a single day! This odd practice of not counting the leap day as an extra day continued for the next 1500 years.

Extra added free bonus addition!

As we approach the first day of March, we've added a special addition to this edition of *The Grapevine*: an extra page that contains the Comox United church calendar for March. Never miss another church event! Just print this page and hang it on the Central Family Communications Centre (i.e. the fridge).



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 at 2⁰⁰ p.m.



March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
(25) 10 ⁰⁰ Lent 2 AGM following service 2 ⁰⁰ Walking Group	(26) 1 ³⁰ Knitting Group	(27) 10 ⁰⁰ Coffee & Conversation	(28) 10 ⁰⁰ Queer Bible Study 12 ⁰⁰ Strategic Planning	(29) Leap Day 6 ³⁰ Choir	1 10 ⁰⁰ Men's Shed 2 ⁰⁰ World Day of Prayer	2 9 ⁰⁰ Strategic Planning 6 ³⁰ Participatory Music
3 10 ⁰⁰ Lent 3: Communion 1 ³⁰ Glacier View Worship	4 1 ³⁰ Knitting Group	5 10 ⁰⁰ Coffee & Conversation	6 10 ⁰⁰ Queer Bible Study	7 6 ³⁰ Choir	8 10 ⁰⁰ Men's Shed	2 2 ⁰⁰ Memorial service: Chuck Page 6 ³⁰ Participatory Music
10 10 ⁰⁰ Lent 4	11 1 ¹⁵ United Church Women 1 ³⁰ Knitting Group	12 10 ⁰⁰ Coffee & Conversation	13 10 ⁰⁰ Queer Bible Study 7 ⁰⁰ PIE Day & Movie	14 6 ³⁰ Choir	15 10 ⁰⁰ Men's Shed	16 9 ⁰⁰ Men's Breakfast
17 10 ⁰⁰ Lent 5 Matthew Mystery Marketplace following service	18 1 ³⁰ Knitting Group	19 10 ⁰⁰ Coffee & Conversation	20 10 ⁰⁰ Queer Bible Study Church Council	21 6 ³⁰ Choir	22 10 ⁰⁰ Men's Shed	23 6 ³⁰ Participatory Music
24 Palm Sunday 10 ⁰⁰ Palm/Passion Sunday 11 ³⁰ Secret Pals Reveal	25 1 ³⁰ Knitting Group	26 10 ⁰⁰ Coffee & Conversation	27 10 ⁰⁰ Queer Bible Study	28 Maundy Thursday 6 ³⁰ Soup supper at Comox Valley Presbyterian followed by Maundy Thursday service	29 Good Friday (church office closed) 10 ³⁰ Good Friday service at St. George's United	30 Holy Saturday 6 ³⁰ Easter Vigil service at St. George's United
31 Easter Sunday 10 ⁰⁰ Easter service	(1) Easter Monday (church office closed)	(2) (church office closed) 10 ⁰⁰ Coffee & Conversation	(3) 10 ⁰⁰ Queer Bible Study	(4) 6 ³⁰ Choir	(5) 10 ⁰⁰ Men's Shed	(6)