



Comox United Church

250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com



Grapevine

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

Property Committee holds info session today Find out what Property does. We have cookies!

Hello, potential volunteers for the Property Committee! Margaret Griffith-Cochrane, chair of the committee, would love to have you come for a coffee after the service today to learn what they do and how you might help with some small periodic jobs such as painting, putting up a shelf or fixing a running toilet.

Margaret will be in room M7 (the small room off the hall) after today's worship service. Grab a coffee and come chat with Margaret! Word on the street is that you will be plied with cookies.

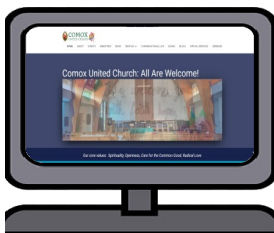


AGM Report

Last Sunday, the congregation met for our Annual General Meeting. The centrepiece was the financial report and proposed budget ably presented by our Treasurer, Gisèle Plouffe. This and all other motions were passed. The incoming Council does, however, have some significant positions to fill, especially **Chair of Council**, **Chair of the Ministry & Personnel Committee**, and a **Council representative for the Social Justice Group**. If you are interested in any of these roles, please speak to Vice-Chair Andrew Black.

Please fill out Comox United/Unitarian joint survey

Two weeks ago, we celebrated the renewal of our covenant with the Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship (CVUF). Now we are exploring more ways for our two congregations to connect, get to know each other, and take action in the valley and beyond. To that end, the Joint Liaison Team would like you to fill out a survey, which you can find at <https://forms.gle/5LLt9F9FJ95XFBnt5>



Website Tips at comoxunitedchurch.com

PIE Day is just around the corner. To see what we are doing, go to our website, **Click on Events**, and scroll down to "PIE DAY". For comments about our website, contact Joyce Wagland (websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com or 250-207-5650)

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Worship Today

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**
Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**
Pianist: **Gloria Herauf**
Greeters: **Bev Agur**
Jane Wilson
Power Point: **Sue Newman**
Audio: **Ross Griffith-Cochrane**
Scripture Reader: **Joyce Wagland**
Coffee & Tea: **Ray & Margaret Morin**
Livestream: **Julie Whitman**

Communion

We are celebrating Communion today. Our Communion table is open to all – you do not have to be a member of Comox United, or the United Church of Canada, or any church. Everyone is welcome at the table. We serve Communion several different ways — during the service, Rev Karen will indicate which way Communion is being served today.



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



*Crest of
Affirm United*

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 on his journey through seminary, marriage, fatherhood and the discovery that he is gay. He was ultimately elected as the first publicly gay Bishop in Christendom.

Even better, Bishop Robinson will be joining us by Zoom to introduce the film and its context and then will rejoin us at the film's end to participate in a Q&A and conversation about sexual and gender identity in the church and the wider community.

If you will be able to contribute one or two pies to this event, please sign up during coffee time following today's service. Or you can also volunteer to help with set up and take down.

Holy Week Services

The final week of Lent leading up to Easter, the centrepiece of our Christian beliefs, is known as “Holy Week”, and will feature several shared services hosted by other faith communities in the Valley.

Palm/Passion Sunday Mar 24, 10⁰⁰ am Comox United



We remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and the events of the days that followed.

Maundy Thursday Mar 28, 6³⁰ pm CV Presbyterian

Join us for a bowl of soup to remember the Last Supper, followed by a service.



Good Friday Mar 29, 10³⁰ am St. George's United



We remember the events of Good Friday with scripture, music and prayer.

Holy Saturday Mar 30, 6³⁰ pm St. George's United Easter Vigil service

Easter Sunday Mar 31, 10⁰⁰ am Comox United

Raise your voice in celebration! The tomb is empty!



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Beach Street Players finishes another successful season



The Beach Street Players had another successful run of packed houses for their 2024 production “Stop the World! Start the Music!” The heart of this production is producer/writer/choreographer/pianist **Gloria Herauf**, but thanks also have to be given to the performers, who spend countless hours memorizing their songs, to the props people, staging assistants, costumers, ticket sellers, front of house greeters, and everyone else who helped to make this production a

success! And a special thanks to the congregation, who had to remember how to open their hymn books for a couple of weeks, since we couldn’t use PowerPoint slides while the production sets were up. Profits from this year’s production were divided between Comox United and Strathcona Sunrise Rotary.

“Love Resists: Nonviolence & Sacred Activism” 4-week On-Line Workshop in April about 2SLGBTQIA+ rights

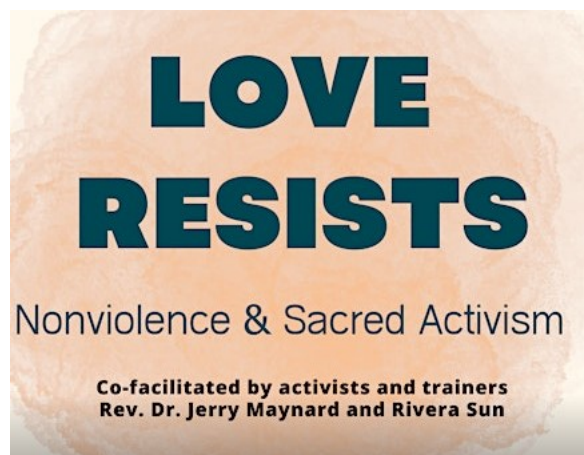
Rev Karen has highlighted “Love Resists: Nonviolence & Sacred Activism”, an on-line workshop that will explore nonviolence and sacred activism for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights over four Thursday evenings in April. This workshop welcomes those who are Allies, accomplices, and 2SLGBTQIA+ people who are new(ish) to taking action or looking to deepen your soulfulness as you show up yet again. This course will offer tools, ideas, and practices to help you as you work to publicly affirm and protect the beloved community.

Co-facilitated by renowned activists and trainers Rev. Dr. Jerry Maynard and Rivera Sun, these four 90-minute sessions will cover living resistance and movement history (both general and 2SLGBTQIA+), strategies for making change, an introduction to nonviolence as a transformative power, the spiritual strength — from any tradition — that can support us, and much more.

Using stories, examples, exercises, videos, discussion, and sharing, this series will help you feel more confident in showing up at protests, give you tools for staying safe and taking reasonable risks in pursuit of change, and offer countless real life examples to give us all courage.

The cost of the four sessions is \$46, and you can register at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/love-resists-nonviolence-sacred-activism-tickets-819330257857>

The first 90-minute session is Thu April 4 at 6⁰⁰ p.m.



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Congrats to Coldest Night of the Year team Still not too late to donate!



Last Saturday, the “Comox United Walkers”, a team of 20 led by **Marj Adams**, participated in the Coldest Night of the Year walk. This year, it didn’t snow like last year or pour rain like the previous year. In fact it was a beautiful night for a walk! The team raised \$4665, which will go to the local organizations “Dawn to Dawn Action on Homelessness Society”, which makes transitional housing possible in the Comox Valley; and the Comox Valley Transition Society, which supports women, children and families who are experiencing or fleeing abuse.

Coldest Night of the Year fell just short of their overall goal of \$200,000 this year, but it’s not too late — Comox United Walkers are still accepting donations until the end of March. You will receive a Tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more. All the money raised stays right here in our Valley!! See Marj Adams for details!

Today: Service of music and prayer at Glacier View

Each month, we present a short time of hymns, songs, and a prayer or two at the Glacier View Lodge Complex Care Facility (2450 Back Rd). We also lend a hand helping the residents turn their music pages.

Today the service will begin at 1³⁰ p.m. If you are interested in being a part of this, contact Carol Jennermann. (Home 250-339-9246, cell 250-703-1440, or email [kcjmann@shaw.ca](mailto:kcyjmann@shaw.ca))



Thanks!

You may have noticed how sparkly clean the church windows are. Thank you to **Shine-eze**, who donated their time to clean all the church windows, inside and out.

Soup & Bun lunches return in March Volunteers needed to help set up, clean up and bring soup

Good News! The much loved Soup & Bun Lunch will be back following the service on March 24th. We need your help in volunteering to help set up/clean up, and bring soup.

Look for sign-up sheets following the service today and next Sunday. For more info, contact Ruth Giles (250-339-5609 or gilesr@shaw.ca)



The success of this event depends on YOU!

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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.

This **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)”.

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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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 \$6000 so far, and we still have over two months to go!

Here's the latest news!

Matthew Mystery Project Update!

As we head into the final two months of the Matthew Mystery Project, we are happy to announce that the total money raised to date by members of our congregation has now reached **\$6,457! And we still have two months to go until the project wraps up April 28th!** So many of you have used your talents to multiply your \$20 'seed money' in reative ways baking, crafting, wine making, hosting events, and supporting each other's efforts. Thank you!

In March we have some exciting fundraising events happening: Alan Brown's Beer Tasting Dinner, The Agur/Wilson 'Walking in Europe' presentation on March 22, as well as the 'Secret Pal Project' unveiling March 24th. And don't forget that our next Matthew Mystery Marketplace will take place after church on March 17th. Twelve people have requested marketplace table space – do you want to join them? If so contact Elaine Brown at broelaine@gmail.com.

Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

TODAY 1³⁰ p.m. Glacier View worship
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 2⁰⁰ p.m. Memorial Service: Chuck Page
6³⁰ p.m. Participatory Music
Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Fourth Sunday of Lent

Coming Soon...

Mar 11 United Church Women
Knitting Group
Mar 12 Coffee & Conversation
Mar 13 Queer Bible Study
PIE Day: Movie & Pie
Mar 14 Choir
Mar 15 Men's Shed
Mar 16 Men's Breakfast
Mar 17 Fifth Sunday of Lent
Matthew Mystery Project Marketplace

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** next Saturday, March 9 at 2⁰⁰ p.m.

