



Comox United Church

250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com



Grapevine

Friday, March 8, 2024

This Sunday: Lent 4

Communion, Affirming Sunday, New Members

This Wednesday, let's have some PIE and watch a movie! Celebrate our Affirming church 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 this **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.



Please fill out Comox United/Unitarian joint survey

Three 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>

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Worship Today

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**
Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**
Pianist: **Gloria Herauf**
Greeters: **Julie Whiteman**
Les Herauf
Power Point: **Joyce Relyea**
Audio: **Joanne Wiens**
Scripture Reader: **Bev Agur**
Coffee & Tea: **Debra Monk**
Marilyn Bourne
Livestream: **Joanne Wiens**

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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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 services both here and at 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 at the Presbyterian church for a bowl of soup to commemorate the Last Supper, followed by a short service.
(Please RSVP)



Good Friday Mar 29 10³⁰ am St. George’s United

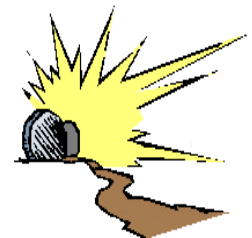


We remember the events of Good Friday with scripture, music and prayer.

Holy Saturday Mar 30 6³⁰ pm St. George’s United Easter Vigil
OR
7⁰⁰ pm Weird Church Taizé Service
OR
7³⁰ pm St. Peter’s Anglican Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday Mar 31 6⁴⁰ am Sunrise Service Goose Spit
(Comox United & St. Peter’s Anglican)
6⁴⁵ am Sunrise Service Marine Drive Picnic Area, Royston
(Weird Church)

10⁰⁰ am Easter Celebration Comox United

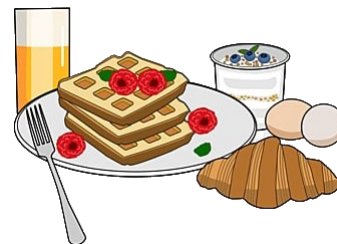


Men's Breakfast on Saturday March 16th

Remember to RSVP by this Wednesday if you want a seat!

The Men's Breakfast happen on the third Saturday each month. It's March and Chef James is back with another hearty start to the day! Brian Wright will talk about his horses. Remember, members of the Unitarian Fellowship and the Men's Shed are always invited to attend.

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



Property Committee seeks a vacuum cleaner

Do you have an extra vacuum cleaner? The Property Committee needs one for the upper floor. Contact **Margaret Griffith-Cochrane** or the **church office** if you have a surplus Hoover!

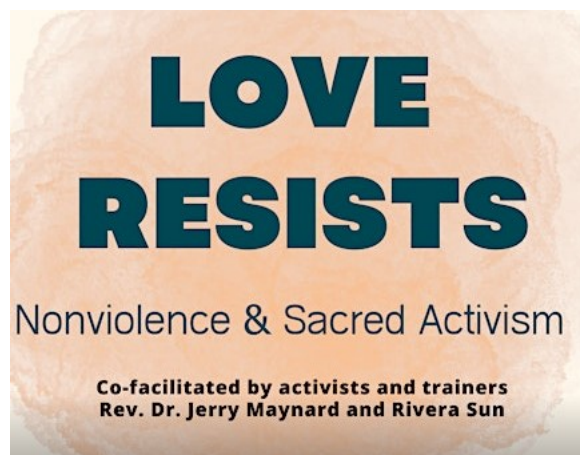
“Love Resists: Nonviolence & Sacred Activism” 4-week On-Line Workshop in April about 2SLGBTQIA+ rights

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>



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Still not too late to donate to Coldest Night of the Year



Our “Comox United Walkers” raised **\$4735** for Coldest Night of the Year, 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.

Overall, the Comox Valley walk fell just short of their overall goal of \$200,000 this year, but it’s not too late — Comox United

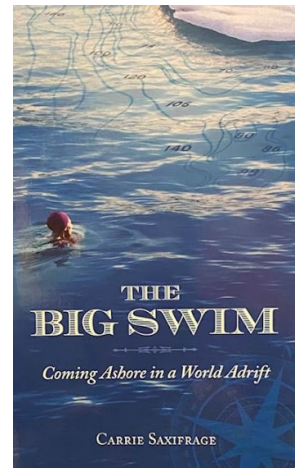
Walkers are still accepting donations until the end of March. You will receive a Tax receipt for donations of \$20 or more. All the money raised stays right here in our Valley!! See **Marj Adams** for details or go to our team website at <https://secure.e2rm.com/registrator/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=1006629&langPref=en-CA>

SAGE Event: Author Carrie Saxifrage coming soon

SAGE (Sustainability Action Group for the Environment), our environmental action team, has invited author Carrie Saxifrage to speak here sometime in the coming few weeks (date to be confirmed).

Carrie is the author of *The Big Swim: Coming Ashore in a World Adrift*, a powerful set of stories that puts forward the idea that personal growth arises from facing both inner tensions and threats to the biosphere. The stories are frequently touching, surprisingly funny, and always thought-provoking.

So that you can read it before you meet with Carrie, copies of *The Big Swim* will be available for sale (\$15) after Sunday’s service. All proceeds will go to Cortes Women’s Resource Centre.



Soup & Bun lunches return in two weeks

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. But to make it happen, we need your help in volunteering to help set up/clean up, and bring soup.

Look for sign-up sheets following the service this week and next. For more info, contact Ruth Giles ([250-339-5609](tel:250-339-5609) or gilesr@shaw.ca)

The success of this event depends on YOU!

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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 \$6500 so far, and we still have two months to go!

Here's the latest news!

Matthew Mystery Project Marketplace Next Sunday!

It's nearly here: Our **final marketplace** for the Matthew Mystery Project! Vendors will be setup and ready to show you their wares after our church service next week. Please grab a coffee or tea and come browse what your hard-working pew partners have been up to. There will be baked goods, quilted and knit items, DVD's, artwork, dog treats, CDs, and surprises!

There is still time to participate as a vendor so if, on the spur of the moment, you decide to whip up something in the kitchen, pot a few annuals, or spend a rainy day getting crafty for a good cause, you can either contact Elaine Brown at broelaine@gmail.com to reserve table space or simply show up on the day and we'll make sure that we have a few extra tables set up.

Special Presentation:

Walking in Europe:

What 4 Hikers Learned on 10 Hikes over 19 Years and 1700+ km

Do you dream about doing a walking tour in Europe? But you never take that dream seriously because you think "I don't know what to do? What to take? How to plan? Where to go?"

Scott & Bev Agur and **Jane & Wayne Wilson** have been friends for almost 30 years. During that time they have enjoyed going on long distance hikes in a variety of places in Europe.

Join them on **Friday, March 22nd at 7 pm in the church hall** for a presentation about their travels:

- Places they have been
- How they prepared for their hikes
- What gear they took
- What the trails were like

It will be a perfect evening for anyone considering a long-distance walk, or for people who want to sit back and listen to the adventures others have had.



Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

- Mon** 1¹⁵ p.m. United Church Women
1³⁰ p.m. Knitting Group
- Tue** 10⁰⁰ a.m. Coffee & Conversation (Comox Golf Club)
- Wed** 10⁰⁰ p.m. Queer Bible Study
7⁰⁰ p.m. PIE Day: Movie & Pie!
- Thu** 6³⁰ p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- Fri** 10⁰⁰ a.m. Men's Shed
- Sat** 9⁰⁰ a.m. Men's Breakfast
- Sun** 10⁰⁰ a.m. Fifth Sunday of Lent
Matthew Mystery Project Marketplace

Coming Soon...

- Mar 18** Knitting Group
- Mar 19** Coffee & Conversation
- Mar 20** Queer Bible Study
Church Council
- Mar 21** Choir
- Mar 22** Men's Shed
Walking in Europe
- Mar 23** Musical Jam
- Mar 24** Palm Sunday
Secret Pal Reveal