



Comox United Church

250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com



Grapevine

Friday, February 21, 2025

This Sunday: 7th Sunday after Epiphany

Our congregational minister, Karen Hollis, will be away this Sunday. Our thanks to congregational members **Joanne Wiens** and **Alan Brown** for leading Sunday worship.

Comox United Annual General Meeting: March 2



This is your official notice that Comox United will hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) next Sunday, March 2nd following worship.

This will be an opportunity to form a deeper connection with other Comox United people, and a time to rejoice in the achievements of 2024 and think about what our community would like to accomplish in 2025. 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
- Council secretary
- Co-Chair of Congregational Life
- Chair of Faith Exploration
- More people to join Worship Committee

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

Taizé service TODAY at 12:15 pm



You are invited to a Taizé Service **TODAY** in Room L1 (the lower level) from 12:15 to 12:45 pm. Please enter from the door in the lower parking lot.

Taizé is an ecumenical sung and silent participatory prayer service designed to enter a contemplative state through song, readings from the Christian tradition and silence.

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Worship This Sunday

Worship leaders: **Joanne Wiens**
Alan Brown

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Marni Fisher**

PowerPoint: **Joyce Relyea**

Greeters: **Dayna Bowers**
Marj Adams

Coffee/Tea: **Debra Monk**
Joan Hanson

Livestream/Audio: **Ross Griffith-Cochrane**

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.

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



Crest of
Affirm United

A new Website Tip every week!



To read about our church's involvement in the Coldest Night of the Year event, go to the church website and click on **Events**, then scroll to “**CNOY—Comox United Walkers!**” Consider signing up!

This is your website! For comments or submissions, contact **Joyce Wagland**.
(websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com or 250-207-5650)

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Ash Wednesday services on Wed., Mar 5

This relatively long liturgical season of “Ordinary Time” following Christmas comes to an end on the first day of Lent, called Ash Wednesday, which falls on March 5th this year.

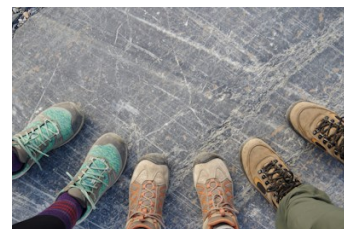
Comox United is not holding a service, but we have been invited to Ash Wednesday services at either

- Weird Church, Cumberland, at 12 noon
- St. Peter’s Anglican Church (Comox) at 6⁰⁰ pm



Walking Group explores Kin Beach area this Sunday Meet at Kin Beach Provincial Park at 2 pm

The Walking Group takes a 1-hour stroll through various trails and neighbourhoods on the 4th Sunday of the month, which is **this week!** On Sunday at 2 pm the Walkers will meet in the parking lot of Kin Beach Provincial Park (Astra Rd. in Comox) and take a stroll around the neighbourhood. The walk will be about an hour long on firm, flat terrain. Everyone is welcome!



Rainbow Gathering tonight at Bayside Bistro

There’s a Rainbow Gathering for LGBTQ2S+ and allies every third Friday of the month at 7 pm at the Bayside Bistro in Courtenay. Hey, **today’s the third Friday of the month!** Here’s what’s happening **TONIGHT!**

We will gather and sit at tables with intergenerational participants. Each table of four will have a spinner with various topics for participants (who wish) to tell short stories about the love they have experienced in their lives. Topics will range across: Being a fool for love, A love that changed me, Love with no regrets, A worthy crush, Distracted by love, People I love, Love in the friendship zone, Long distance love, Bad romance, First love or early love, and many others.

You can get your free tickets at [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca). Hosted by the Affirm Committee of Comox United.

Comox United supports Healthy Families

...which in turn supports pregnant families, parents and guardians to provide children (from birth up to 3 years) with a strong foundation in life. Donations (diapers, baby food, food for the family) can be brought to the church and placed in the basket in the foyer.

For more information about Healthy Families, see www.comoxvalleyfamilyservices.com/programs--2/

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The S.A.G.E. Page

Sustainability Action Group for the Environment

TED Talk this Sunday after worship

Join SAGE this **Sunday, February 23** for its inaugural post-worship screening of an environmentally-focussed TED Talk. These videos are a maximum 20 minutes, so if you want to join us, go first and grab a coffee or tea, then and come back to the sanctuary to watch the TED Talk. After the video, there will be a short discussion. We are hoping to make this a regular event.



The Future: We need your ideas and thoughts for actions!

SAGE would like to invite you to share your ideas and thoughts for action to help our struggling environment.

There is a box in the church hall that will be there for a month that you can drop your suggestions into. Then we will compile a list of these gems of wisdom and have it available to share with all of you.

Looking forward to some creative and inspiring concepts.

Namaste, peace and thanks



No Queer Bible Study this week

Queer Bible Study, which is usually every Wednesday at 10 am, is taking a break this week (Feb 26).

United Church Women (UCW)



Please return our preserves jars!

Thank you for supporting our Bazaars. If you have purchased home-canned goods, (jars of jelly, jams, preserves), we would appreciate the return of the jars. You can put them in the box in the church office.

Soup & Bun Lunch on March 9th Who can bring some soup? Buns? Help set up?

Fiona Curry is organizing what is possibly our favourite social event: the Soup & Bun Lunch. This one will happen on Sunday March 9th following worship, IF Fiona can find some volunteers to

- Bring soup!
- Bring buns!
- Help set up
- Help clean up

The donations collected will be shared with the Minister's Discretionary Fund and CxU. Contact Fiona (fmmcurry@gmail.com) if you can help.



We need a new Building Monitor

Our Building Monitor is responsible for doing a walk-through of our building once a week, looking for potential problems like water leaks, evidence of rodents or insects, broken windows, or burnt-out lights. These problems are reported to our administrator, Lorna, who then sends them to the appropriate person.

Sandra Turnham is coming to the end of her 3- year term as Building Monitor, and we thank her for her vigilance! We need a new Building Monitor starting in March. It is an essential job, as we need to keep an eye on our building, which is a valuable asset for our various ministries. If you think you could take on this role, please contact **Howard Robertson** of the Venue Team, at hojo29@shaw.ca. Thanks.

Beach Street Players finish another successful season



The Beach Street Players had another successful run of packed houses for their 2025 production “Now That’s Entertainment!” 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 one Sunday, 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.

Join the “Coldest Night of the Year” walk TOMORROW!



Last year's team

Or sponsor a member of the 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 one of the largest teams in the walk last year, and our team captain, **Marj Adams**, hopes to do just as well this year. The walk is **tomorrow evening**. Go to cnoy.org/location/comoxvalley to join our team or make a tax deductible donation. Or call

Marj (250-201-5429) for more information.

On PIE Day, let's have some PIE and watch a movie!

Celebrate our Affirming church on Fri March 14th at 7⁰⁰ pm



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

This year, we are going to celebrate PIE Day on **Fri Mar 14th** at 7⁰⁰ p.m. with **lots of pie** and a screening of the movie *The Fruit Machine*, Sarah Fodey’s powerful documentary about the homosexual witch-hunt of public servants, RCMP officers, and military personnel in Canada from the 1950s through the early 1990s. The movie explores the effects of this witch-hunt on the people whose lives and careers were disrupted or destroyed by it, and illustrates how a democratic state could legally wage a discriminatory campaign against its own citizens whose only crime was being (or suspected to be) “homosexual.” This film is a must see. Free tickets are available at eventbrite.ca. Come on PIE Day and get some

Can you contribute a pie to Pie Day?

Drop them off at the church on Fri March 14th between 11 am–1 pm

See the notice about PIE Day at the top of the page? (Look up ↑) We would like to be able to serve a wide choice of delicious, home-made pies to the anticipated 50 – 75 people who usually attend. **So we**

hope for between 10 – 13 wonderful pies delivered to the church kitchen on Friday,

March 14 between 11 am—1 pm that we can cut up and serve to our guests. If you can

commit to help out in this way, please send an e-mail to **Bruce Curtis**

at bwcurtis@shaw.ca so we can be sure we have enough! Thanks for your support of

Comox United’s Affirming Ministry Committee.



Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

TODAY 10⁰⁰ a.m. Men's Shed
12¹⁵ p.m. Taizé Service
7⁰⁰ p.m. Rainbow Gathering (Bayside Bistro)

Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Worship
SAGE TED Talk (after worship)
2⁰⁰ p.m. Walking Group

Mon 1⁰⁰ p.m. Knitting Group

Tues 10⁰⁰ a.m. Coffee & Conversation (Comox Golf Club)

Thu 6³⁰ p.m. Choir

Fri 10⁰⁰ a.m. Men's Shed

Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Transfiguration Sunday: Communion
CxU Annual General Meeting

Coming Soon...

Mar 3 Knitting Group

Mar 4 Coffee & Conversation

Mar 5 Ash Wednesday: 1st Day of Lent
Queer Bible Study

Mar 6 Choir

Mar 7 Men's Shed
Taizé Service

Mar 9 First Sunday of Lent
Soup & Bun Lunch



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!

Grapevine is also posted on the Comox United website. If you have included your phone number or email address in your article and don't want to have that appear on the website, let the church office know when you submit your article.

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter via email, contact the church office.

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

Rev Karen's Office Hours

Wednesday - Friday by appointment (email listed above, or phone the church office.)

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CUU: New classes!

Comox United University (CUU) is a scripture-based fundraising effort where all of us have the opportunity to offer classes for a fee to our friends and members of the community. There are so many things in your life that you can pass on to others!

We have a number of **new classes!** Sign up now, and forward this newsletter to your friends!

The Basics of Microsoft Excel

Even if you have used Excel before, what you might not know is that hidden behind that rather plain spreadsheet is a set of pre-made tools to help you with your task, be it developing a home budget, watching your investments or creating a report for your social club.

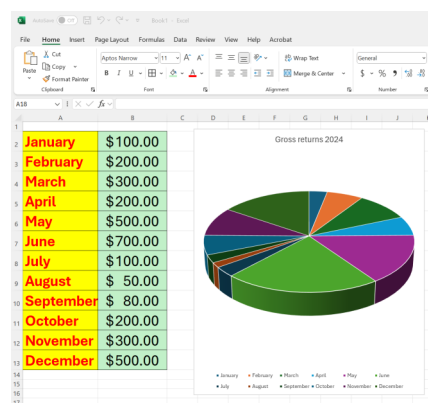
This two-hour class will show you the easiest and most basic tools to help you get started.

Date: Tuesday, March 11th, 2⁰⁰-4⁰⁰ pm

Location: Comox United Church Main Hall

Instructor: Alan Brown

Cost: \$10 (payable in cash at start of class)



New Class!

To register please **contact Elaine Brown** at broelaine@gmail.com.

Decorate a Ukrainian Easter Egg

There's been so much demand for this course that we are now offering **a second class!** In this hands-on workshop you will discover how Ukrainian Easter eggs are made and decorate one (or more) yourself. While you work you will hear the history of Ukrainian egg making and learn about the meaning of many of the symbols and colours in traditional egg. Today modern artists are taking the methodology of Ukrainian egg making and creating beautiful expressive fragile works, while families teach their children how to make simple expressions of love through colour. Come give it a try. It's easy to make an egg for you to display at Easter or year round!

Date: Sunday, March 30, 2025

Time: 12³⁰ - 3³⁰ p.m.

Location: Comox United Church (Main Hall M1)

Cost: \$10 + \$5 materials fee

Instructors: Elaine Brown



Second class added!

To register please **contact Elaine Brown** at broelaine@gmail.com.

CUU: New classes!

The Evolution of Goaltending



Goaltending in hockey is probably the position which has evolved more than any other position in sport over the last 100 years. The NHL playoffs start soon ... making this is the perfect time to discover more about this fascinating and unique hockey position as you watch playoff action unfold. Learn about goaltending's history, the techniques, rules and changes to equipment over the years. Find out about the great goalies of the last century and their legacies. See and touch modern-day goalie equipment. Plus, special hockey puck cookie snacks will be available for your enjoyment at intermission. Presenter **Howard Robertson** is a dedicated hockey fan whose infectious humour, and enthusiasm will make this two-hour session fun for all participants.

Date: Saturday, March 29th, 9³⁰–11³⁰ am (with intermission)

Location: Comox United Church Main Hall

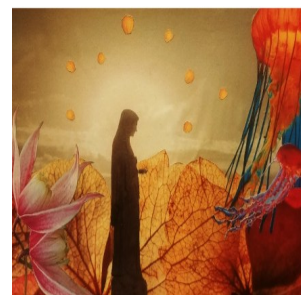
Cost: \$10 (payable in cash at start of class)

New Class!

To register please **contact Elaine Brown** at broelaine@gmail.com.

Soul Collage with Rev Karen

Soul Collage connects with the expression of our souls. Alongside the other participants, you will ask simple questions as you select images for your collage and assemble them in a way that expresses your own truth. Please bring any additional magazines with images you would like to contribute. Join this creative and thought-provoking interactive workshop.



Maximum number of participants: 20

Date: Sat March 1st, 1–4 pm, Comox United Church, Room L1 (lower level)

Cost: \$10 + \$10 material fee

Instructor: Rev Karen Hollis

To register please **contact Elaine Brown** at broelaine@gmail.com.

CUU (cont.)

True Colors Personality Assessment Workshop

Why is your friend ALWAYS late? Why can't people make up their minds more quickly? Why does that person on the committee always want to bend the rules?

OR

Why is your friend so uptight about the time? How can people make up their minds until they have analyzed all the facts? Why does that person on the committee insist on sticking to the rules?



All of us have different personalities, and we might react to situations much differently than our friends and acquaintances. Because of this, working and communicating with some people can be challenging. "True Colors" will help you understand how your own personality traits affect how you see the world, and just as importantly, you will get an idea of how other people see the world differently. Realizing this can reduce stress and create happiness with the different personalities in your life.

This workshop is a fun, easy to understand, interactive way to discern yourself and others better. We will each do a personal analysis and then have fun delving a little deeper into what makes each of the different personality types special. It's easy to understand and easy to remember!

Who should take this: If you have family and relatives. If you have friends. If you're on a committee or team. If you need to motivate others. If you are curious why you need to keep a list (or make it up as you go), or need to be on time (or don't even own a watch), or love to organize the party (or prefer to organize the spreadsheet).

Elaine Brown is an experienced True Colors facilitator who has offered this workshop at CBC and Elder College, as well as at her former church in Burlington.

Date: Saturday, February 22nd, 1- 4 p.m.

Location: Comox United Church, M1 (main hall)

Instructor: Elaine Brown, True Colors Certified Instructor

Cost: \$15

To register: Email broelaine@gmail.com

Tomorrow!
Last chance to
register!

CUU (cont.)

Three Part Climate Talk “The Atmosphere” coming February 26th, March 5th & 12th

Imagine a time and place where the death penalty would be imposed on residents of a town for burning coal or wood. This outrageous law enacted in 1307 by King Edward I was due to the intolerable air pollution in London and is one of the earliest recorded and most extreme examples of humankind contaminating the atmosphere.

There are many other examples. They include the Spaniards arriving off the California coast in 1542 and referring to the area where Los Angeles now stands as Baya de los Fumos, the Bay of the Smoke due to the persistent air pollution. Then there is the great London smog of 1952 which is estimated to have killed somewhere between four and twelve thousand people.

Destruction of the ozone layer, the part of the upper atmosphere which protects us from harmful ultraviolet radiation by certain classes of man-made chemicals, led the countries of the world to sign an agreement in Montreal in 1987 to phase out manufacture and use of these substances. And now we have increasing carbon dioxide levels due to industrialization that are possibly irreversibly changing our climate.

The atmosphere, a thin layer of transparent gas molecules, which wraps around the earth, is all that protects us from the lethal rays of the sun. Without this protection neither animal nor plant life would be possible.

In a series of three 90-minute talks, Dr. Ken Newman, a retired professor of chemistry and climate activist Dr. Joan Gillies will talk about how the sun and atmosphere work in tandem to make our planet habitable – and how our actions are upsetting this balance. On top of global warming, we’ll also find out how ground level air pollution is affecting all of us right now.

Come and find out what we can do, and what we shouldn't be doing. "The Atmosphere: Our Precious, Fragile Shield" will be presented on three Wednesdays at 1 pm starting February 26 at Comox United Church, 250 Beach Drive, Comox. Cost of the three-week program is \$30 payable at the door. To register to attend email Elaine Brown at broelaine@gmail.com.

Dates: Three Wednesdays, February 26–March 12, 2025

Time: 1⁰⁰ - 2³⁰ p.m.

Location: Comox United Church (Main Hall M1)

Cost: \$30 for the three-class series

Instructors: Ken Newman (who promises to only use 1 mathematical equation) & Joan Gillies

To register please **contact Elaine Brown at broelaine@gmail.com.**



CUU: Sign Up! (cont.)



Living Colour: Learn How to Take the Stress Out of Selecting Colour for Your Home

Colour holds a great importance to our mood. Visual impacts affect everyone. Come join Interior Designer Pat Wickware to discover how you can creatively and inexpensively, adjust or enhance the mood in your home.

Pat completed her interior design training at Ryerson University in Toronto and now with 40 years of experience and several awards along the way, wants to share some tips and design secrets that will help you easily

transform your personal space.

Date: Tuesday, March 25th, 2–4 pm

Location: Comox United Church Main Hall

Cost: \$10 (payable in cash at start of class)

To register please **contact Elaine Brown** at **broelaine@gmail.com**.

New Class!



Arxtp ub Ebacr Dtzubktxve! (Learn to Solve Cryptograms!)

A **cryptogram** is a sentence or quotation in which different letters are substituted for the correct ones. In this two-hour class, you will learn some of the tips and tricks that will help you solve a coded puzzle, allowing you to enjoy the quotation as well as the satisfaction of breaking the code. Try this one, which is the title of a hymn we sang recently, where x=i: **X FD HCK JXACH PO HCK YPEJV! (clap, clap)**

Date: Tuesday, March 4th, 1⁰⁰–3⁰⁰ pm

Location: Comox United Church (M7 boardroom)

Cost: \$10

Instructor: Barbara Page

To register please **contact Elaine Brown** at **broelaine@gmail.com**.