



Comox United Church

250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

[www.comoxunitedchurch.com](http://www.comoxunitedchurch.com)



**Friday, Aug 1, 2025**

**This Sunday: Worship at Comox United!**



**The church office will be closed this Tuesday, August 5**

## **Queer Bible Study: New book in August**

Queer Bible Study (QBS) took a break during July, but will be back starting this coming **Wednesday, August 6 at 10 am**. The book we will be studying is the Gospel of Thomas, an early book of the Christian church that had been lost for over 1500 years until a copy was discovered in 1945 in Egypt buried with a cache of other ancient Christian books. Make sure to join us at in Room 207 (M7) on Wednesday mornings in August at 10 am. And remember, *Queer Bible Study is for everyone!*

### **United Church Women (UCW)**

#### **August gathering!**

All members of the UCW are invited to a gathering at Ruth Giles' home on Monday Aug 11 at 2 pm. Bring only yourself and a sunhat. Ruth is looking forward to seeing you and chatting with you. Call Ruth at 250-339-5609 if you need more info.

## **Sunday morning hymn sings during August**

During Sundays in August, Paul Colthorpe and members of the choir will lead a mini-hymn sing before the service starts so arrive a bit early and fill your heart with song!

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## Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Noreen Robertson**

PowerPoint: **Joyce Relyea**

Greeters: **Marj Adams**

**Merrilee Cameron**

Coffee & tea: **Sonja Stryski**

**Margie van Binsbergen**

Audio/Livestream: **Ken Vaux**

## How to worship with us

### In Person

Sunday worship services are at 10 am.

### Livestream

Our livestream will be on [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@comoxunitedchurch3917/streams) at 10 am (youtube.com/@comoxunitedchurch3917/streams)

### Recorded services

Recordings of all our livestream services can be found at  
[comoxunitedchurch.com/pages/online-sunday-services](https://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](https://comoxunitedchurch.com)

## A new Website Tip every week!



To check out details of our staff members, go to the church website, click on **About**, then click on **Our Staff**. Click on each staff member to read a bio for each person. Enjoy reading about our highly skilled and personable staff!

This is your website! For comments or submissions, contact **Joyce Wagland**.

([websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com](mailto:websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com) or 250-207-5650)

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# The 444 Project

## 4 People x \$4 x 4 occasions

**Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."  
— Matthew 18:20**

### Enjoy English tea in a beautiful garden!

Rod and Tanya Montague sent us word of their event for the 444 Project:

"We would like to invite people for an English afternoon tea in our garden at 1625A 1st Street in Courtenay... (Here's a photo of the patio where we would serve afternoon tea — but the patio will be in the shade. As you can see, we are also getting frequent visits by hummingbirds at the moment!)

The tea would include some traditional items such as cucumber sandwiches and scones with jam and cream — we would also be happy to give our guests a tour of our garden.

We have scheduled the following dates, all starting at 3:00 pm:

- Friday August 8th
- Tuesday August 19th
- Monday August 25th

We can accommodate 4, 5 or 6 guests on each day, **advance reservations only**. To book your place for one of our teas, either see us after church in the hall, or email us at

**rodmontague53@gmail.com**

We look forward to welcoming you to our garden!"



Come together with joy! The *444 Project* will run from May 2025 to April 2026.

## This Sunday after worship, come down to Nautical Days at the Marina to “Meet Your Spiritual Neighbours”

### Volunteers needed to set up space on Sunday morning



For several years, Northgate Church has led a Christian worship service at Nautical Days on the Sunday morning. This year, Nautical Days would like the Sunday morning to more directly reflect the diversity of the Comox Valley, so the Comox Valley Multi Faith Group has been invited to coordinate the time and has come up with a new idea.

Everyone is invited to come to Marina Park this Sunday August 3rd after worship and meet some of the religious and spiritual communities active in the

Comox Valley. There will be a chance to meet and chat with folks from different communities, some of whom you may not even know are here! We ask that all come in the spirit of connection and curiosity seeking to find common ground and perhaps learn something new.

The event will run from 10:30am – 12 noon. We will still worship at Comox United at our regular time, but after the service, Rev. Karen will be heading down to the Marina, and invites everyone to come as well.

We'll be setting up a space, and we have been encouraged to bring clothes, images, objects, brochures, and pamphlets that represent our religious/spiritual affiliations and practices. There will also be a conversation space set up with conversation starters.

We will need some volunteers to set up our space at 9 am, and some people to staff the table from 10:30 to 12 (yes, you'd have to miss church that morning), as well as takedown and clean up at 12 noon.

If you are interested and available to help out with this outreach please call Bruce Curtis and leave a message or send an e-mail to [bwcurtis@shaw.ca](mailto:bwcurtis@shaw.ca) indicating how you are willing to help out and for which time period.

## Thanks for the delicious treats last Sunday!

Fiona Curry writes: “Thank you to all who brought delicious treats to share with our guests for our combined service last Sunday. It was most welcome!”





## On August 17, stay after church to hear about the experiences of Rev. Keith Simmonds

On Sunday, August 17, Rev. Keith Simmonds, who is currently serving at Campbell River United, will be leading us in worship. Keith tells us, “My partner Laurel Walton and I were married at Comox United, and our son Liam was baptised there too. Some folk might remember us.”



In 2020, Keith served as a Human Rights Witness in Bethlehem after being commissioned by the World Council of Churches, and he observed and reported on the Occupation of Palestine by Israel.

After our worship service, Keith would like to share some of the stories of the people he met (Jewish Israeli and Palestinian) and the events he witnessed. Attempting to grow understanding and foster commitment for change, he knows we can bring about peace in our time. Come find out how!

Keith will be giving his presentation in the church hall during coffee time.

## Social Singles has a new coordinator

Social Singles have a new coordinator, Alison. Please feel free to call her (250 650 1723) if you would like to join this very social group!

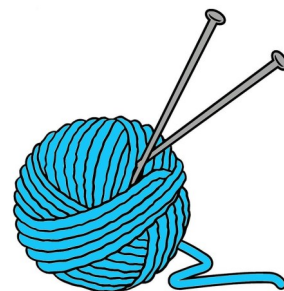
## New door numbering system

You may have noticed new numbers on most of the building's doors. The Venue Team, with Lorna's help, have changed from the previous L/M/T system to a 100/200/300 system. (100 is the Lower level, 200 is the Main level, and 300 is the Upper level) New labels have been installed on most doors, but there are still six doors that need a little TLC before the labels can be attached. If you want to request a room reservation, just use the old system, and Lorna will tell you the new number.

Look for other improvements to internal signage in the next few weeks too.

## Knitting Group continues during the summer

The Knitting Group, which usually meets at the church on Mondays, continues to meet during the summer, usually on the outdoor courtyard at Berwick. If the weather looks iffy, you should contact **Bev Agur** ([bevagur@shaw.ca](mailto:bevagur@shaw.ca)), as sometimes they make other arrangements due to inclement weather.



## National Church News

### Apology to 2S and LGBTQIA+ Communities next Friday morning

During the 45th General Council next week in Calgary, the United Church of Canada will offer an historic apology for ways in which the denomination has hurt and harmed 2S and LGBTQIA+ communities within and beyond the United Church. The apology will take place in the context of a special livestreamed worship service at Knox United Church in Calgary **next Friday, Aug 8 at 8 am PT** (that's the morning, not evening).



The service will be available on Zoom with English and French interpretation. To be included in the Zoom call, register at

[united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5bmmHb7SXqiSDA\\_83RONw#/registration](https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5bmmHb7SXqiSDA_83RONw#/registration)

Online participants are invited to have a bowl of water and branches ready for a special blessing.



### Act for Just and Lasting Peace in Gaza

Our faith compels us to act for a just and lasting peace in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territories and to demand an immediate end to the starvation of Gaza. The United Church of Canada invites and encourages communities of faith to:

- Pray for Palestinians and Israelis resisting the Israeli government's genocidal acts on Gaza
- Consider "A Fast for Gaza", for up to 40 days
- Call for Canada to impose comprehensive sanctions on the Israel government – join the daily calls to Members of Parliament
- Join the World Council of Churches Campaign to Stop Annexation, End the Occupation: Pave a Path for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel

It will take all of our efforts to get the Government of Canada to take action. Please act and share this call to solidarity.

## Coming Events at a glance

### This Week...

**TODAY** 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Men's Shed

**Sun** 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Worship (Come early for Hymn Sing)

11<sup>00</sup> a.m. Nautical Days Multifaith Tent

**Mon** BC Day

**Tues** Church office closed

10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Coffee & Conversation (Comox Golf Club)

**Wed** 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Queer Bible Study

**Fri** 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Men's Shed

**Next Sun** 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Worship — Communion

### Coming Soon...

**Aug 11** United Church Women (UCW) gathering

**Aug 12** Coffee & Conversation

**Aug 13** Queer Bible Study

**Aug 15** Men's Shed

**Aug 17** Worship

Presentation by Rev. Keith Simmonds



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

**Laurel Erhart, Treasurer:** treasurer@comoxunitedchurch.com

**Debra Monk, 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.)