



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Grapevine



Friday, Aug 15, 2025

This Sunday: 10th Sunday after Pentecost

This Sunday, Rev. Karen will be away on Continuing Education leave. We look forward to welcoming **Rev. Keith Simmonds** from Campbell River United, who 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 folks might remember us.”



Stay after church to hear about Keith's experiences in Palestine

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.

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!



Some rooms inaccessible all Tue and Wed am

This Tuesday, the floors of the **church hall, kitchen, main floor bathrooms and main floor stair landing** will be professionally cleaned and waxed. You won't be able to access these areas until Wednesday at noon.

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Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Keith Simmonds**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Carol Jennermann**

PowerPoint: **Merrilee Cameron**

Greeters: **Jane Wilson**

Loraleigh Fitzgerald

Coffee & tea: **Steve & Vange Thiessen**

Audio/Livestream: **Joanne Wiens**

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

Welcome, Newcomer!

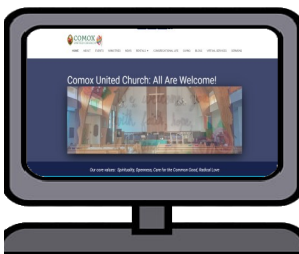
If you are new to Comox United Church, we welcome you as God welcomes us all.

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 the origins of the Men's Shed, go to the church website, click on **Congregational Life**, then click on **Men's Shed**. Enjoy!

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

(websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com or 250-207-5650)

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National Church News

Kimberly Heath is the church's new Moderator

The United Church holds a General Council every three years, and part of the business is to elect a new Moderator. At last week's General Council 45 in Calgary, Rev. Dr. Kimberly Heath was elected as the church's 45th Moderator., succeeding Carmen Lansdowne.

Kimberly was born in Lusaka, Zambia, where her Canadian parents, Rev. Alan & Wendy Bennett, were serving as teachers through the United Church of Canada. After her parents moved back to Canada, Heath spent her early years in small towns across Canada as her father moved from church to church.

After earning her M.Div. from Emmanuel College, Heath was ordained in 1999, and her first post was a two-point charge in Claresholm/Stavelly, Alberta. After eight years in Western Canada, Heath returned to Ontario in 2007 to be the minister of Wall St. United Church in Brockville, a post she filled until her election as Moderator. During that time, Heath earned a Doctorate in Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary.

In 2025, Heath was nominated for the role of Moderator. Writing about the church before the election, Heath noted, "We are smaller than we used to be, and we are going to be smaller still. Rather than fear this, it's time to embrace being small. Why? It's our reality, and God seems to like small. You only need a little bit of yeast to make bread rise. You only need a little bit of salt to flavour a meal or seriously irritate an eye ... God makes the small vibrant, vital and courageous ... More than anything as a church we are called: called by God to join the movement, join the resistance, join the life."

Heath, one of five nominees, was elected to the post of Moderator on the third ballot.

She is married to Alex, a lawyer, and they have four daughters: two have "flown the nest", one is studying nursing at Queen's University, and the youngest is in high school.

United Church apology to 2SLGBTQIA+ Communities

Last Friday, during a moving worship service at Knox United Church in Calgary during the 45th General Conference, the United Church of Canada acknowledged and apologized for the many shortcomings and the harm the church has caused to the 2S and LGBTQIA+ communities. The church committed itself to radical love and affirming people of all identities, strengthening its witness to justice and love in action.



Ministry & Personnel Committee (M&P)

SEEKING TEMPORARY OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR FOR THREE WEEKS IN OCTOBER

Our hardworking Office Administrator Lorna is taking a much-deserved vacation in October, so the M&P Committee is actively looking for a temporary Office Admin for the first three weeks of October.

The duties of the temporary position will include:

- Greeting and assisting visitors to the church
- Performing basic secretarial and administrative duties
- Preparation and distribution of weekly documents such as the church bulletin, newsletter and PowerPoint slides
- Managing front-end room rental process

If you or someone you know is interested in applying for this paid contract position, please reach out to either Bev Agur (bevagur@shaw.ca / 250 871-2027) or Karen Spencer (karenspercernlp@gmail.com / 647 465-1522). Thanks!

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

Project 444 Update!

A shout out to everyone who has participated in a Project 444 event so far. In our first three months \$528 has been donated to the church for contribution to affordable housing in the Comox Valley. People have been hosting dinners, wine & appies evenings, and card game nights with more events coming up. Project 444 runs for nine more months so think of how you can meet up with your friends for a great cause. After hosting your event, simply put the money raised into an envelope with the following:

Project 444 Donation

Donated by: _____

Donor address: _____

Hand your envelope to Project 444 Coordinator Elaine Brown or ask a greeter to have it put in the church office safe. See the last two pages of today's *Grapevine* for more info about this project.

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

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Note from Rev Karen

Blue Christmas service Coordinator needed

I am working with CV Hospice to plan this year's **Blue Christmas service**. This is a wonderful collaboration between the Hospice and Comox United that serves a large group of people in the Comox Valley. The sanctuary is consistently full for this service and it seems to fill the need well for the participants.

We are looking for someone to coordinate the reception for Blue Christmas just for this year, which includes recruiting set up and clean up help, goodies to eat, coffee/tea. Please let me know if you would like to serve in this way.

Thanks!

Karen

New PowerPoint operators sought

If you've always wanted to change the PowerPoint slides during worship services, now's your chance! We are looking for a couple of PowerPoint operators. Training will be provided.

Please contact Lorna in the church office.

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 Lower/Main/Top 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.

Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

TODAY 10⁰⁰ a.m. Men's Shed

Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Worship (Come early for Hymn Sing)
Presentation by Rev. Keith Sim-

monds

Mon 1¹⁵ p.m. Knitters

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

Wed 10⁰⁰ a.m. Queer Bible Study

Fri 10⁰⁰ a.m. Men's Shed

Next Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Worship

Coming Soon...

Aug 25 Knitters

Aug 26 Coffee & Conversation

Aug 27 Queer Bible Study

Aug 29 Men's Shed

Aug 31 Worship



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.)

The 444 Project

4 People x \$4 x 4 times

Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

— Matthew 18:20

Our church is much more than a building, it is a community of faith: people who have been brought together by a common love for God and a desire to live out acts of faith, hope, peace and love. During this time of political uncertainty, sovereignty threats, wars, rising prices and environmental challenges, coming together to enjoy companionship and simple shared pleasures bring us comfort, support, escape, and joy. This challenging environment makes now the perfect time to begin the **444 Project**.

A combination of community building and fundraising for our church, the **444 Project** invites us to reach out to friends and invite them (in groups of **4**) to join us in a shared interest while asking them to contribute **\$4**. For example, when we **invite 4** friends over for dinner, a hike in the woods, a games night, a concert at Simms Park, etc.

"I'm holding a coffee and dessert night as a fundraiser for my church where participants are asked to donate \$4. Will you come?"

When each of the **4** invited people contribute **\$4** to the gathering, \$16 is raised. When we do this **4** times over the next year raising \$16 over **4** occasions, that equals \$64. We then donate the money we have raised back to the church as a **444 Project** charitable donation. If 75 congregation members participate and host **4 x 444 Project** events over the next twelve months, we will raise \$4800 to help the church with its work, with the added bonus that 75 (and possibly more) members will have had the opportunity to connect more deeply through fun and enjoyment with 16 other church members, family and friends.

While not everyone has space to host dinners, we can reach out and invite **4** friends to join us

- at the marina to share a thermos of tea
- for a walk in the forest
- for whale and sea lion watching at Point Holmes
- to play cards
- to meet to discuss a book in a park.

The **444 Project** represents simple pleasures that provide us with enjoyable opportunities for discussion and fellowship. And if meeting with **4** people at a time seems too much, we can invite 2 people over 8 times over the year.

Along the way, we hope to share some photos of our group gatherings in our *Grapevine* newsletter.

The 444 Project

Frequently Asked Questions

What does the 444 in the title of the project stand for?

4 People x \$4 x 4 times. Invite 4 people to join you in an enjoyable activity explaining it is part of a fundraising campaign for the church. Ask each of them to contribute \$4 to the activity, and do this four times over the year. **\$4 x 4 people = \$16 x 4 = \$64 raised and donated to the church.** If 75 people participate, \$4800 will be raised.

What will the money be used for?

Our church council is still discussing what the project's earnings will be used for. You will be updated when that decision has been made.

Will the money I donate be considered a charitable donation for tax purposes?

Yes.

It's hard to ask people for money.

It can be. But if someone asked you over for dinner and explained about their church fundraiser, would you have a problem giving them two toonies for an enjoyable activity with friends? By asking for such a small amount it's easy. We make money for the church by the multiplication of \$4 but we also benefit from socializing.

Are we inviting church members or other people?

We hope that there will be increased socialization among our own congregation members because that helps our church community grow stronger. However, this is also a great opportunity to once again talk about something fun our church is doing to people outside of our church which increases our visibility and awareness. You choose whatever works for you.

Does it have to be 4 people?

Invite the number of people you are comfortable with. If for your own reasons you want to only invite 2 people to join you that's great. If you want to have a backyard BBQ for 20 people that's fantastic! Do what you are comfortable with. Remember you have until next May so you can spread out your invitations.

Do I have to do something with the money I collect?

Please put it in an envelope with your name, address and 444 Project on the outside of the envelope. Give the envelope to the 444 Project Coordinator Elaine Brown who will look after the banking of it, sending you a copy of the deposit slip, and ensure that the information is provided to our Givings Administrator for tax receipt purposes.