



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Grapevine

Friday, September 19, 2025

This Sunday: 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Early hymn sing on Sunday morning

Paul Colthorpe and the Choir will again be offering an early Hymn Sing before the start of the service. Arrive before 9:45 am to participate!



Taizé service TODAY at 1:00 pm

You are invited **TODAY** to a Taizé Service in Room 101 (in the lower level) from 1:00 pm to 1:30 pm. Please enter from the door in the lower parking lot.

Marie Wilson to speak after worship this Sunday

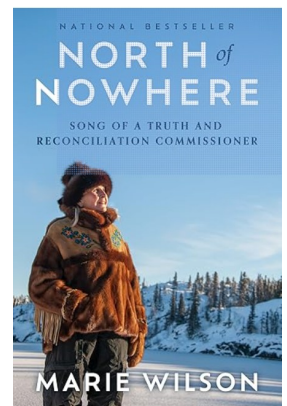
Contact church office for free ticket

As one of three commissioners of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Marie Wilson criss-crossed Canada for six years, documenting the history and lasting impacts of the Canadian Indian residential school system. She has recently written a book, *North of Nowhere*, and will be speaking at Comox United following worship this Sunday from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. There will also be time afterward for conversation around the book sales table. To tide us over, a bit of extra nourishment — buns,

cheese and veggie trays — will be available during our regular coffee time.



The public will also be invited to this event, so we would ask you to reserve a free ticket by using this QR code, by calling or emailing Lorna at the church office, or you can go to [the EventBrite page for this event](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/learning-and-sharing-with-truth-reconciliation-commissioner-marie-wilson-tickets-1637168648499).
(www.eventbrite.ca/e/learning-and-sharing-with-truth-reconciliation-commissioner-marie-wilson-tickets-1637168648499)



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Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Marni Fisher**

PowerPoint: **Joyce Relyea**

Greeters: **Karen Spencer**
Evy Gillespie

Coffee & tea: **Sonja van Sickle**
Mae Padgin

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!

Want to learn about Cumberland's Japanese and Chinese cemeteries - and about natural burial? Go to the church website and scroll down to **Community Events**, then click on **"Natural and Conservation Burial."** Enjoy!

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

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New front doors installed next week!

Old keys will no longer work on the new doors

Howard Robertson of the Venue Team is excited to let you know that New Front Doors are scheduled to be installed this coming week, thanks to a fund for building improvements that we have called the Thomas Bequest.



For those scheduled people and groups who currently have front door keys — uh oh! Your keys will no longer work on the new front doors, so **stayed tuned for a plan for exchanging your keys.**

If you have a front door key, but are not using it for scheduled or regular entrance to the church, we'll be asking for its return shortly.

Truth & Reconciliation Day Movie: Sugarcane

Contact the church office to register

On **Monday, September 29 at 7 p.m.**, we will be screening the Academy Award-nominated documentary *Sugarcane*. It is a groundbreaking investigation into an Indian residential school, shedding light on years of forced separation, assimilation and



abuse that Indigenous children experienced at the hands of Church and government. This urgent and timely film brings the hidden story of cultural genocide to audiences worldwide while celebrating the resilience of Native people as they work to overcome cycles of intergenerational trauma.

To register to attend, either click on this QR code, or contact Lorna in the church

Searching for new PowerPoint operators

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.

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Ministry & Personnel Committee (M&P)

The M&P Committee is happy to announce that the Temporary Office Administrator position has been filled. **Laurel Walton** (partner of Rev Keith Simmonds) will be acting in this position starting October 1st for 3 weeks. Let us all welcome Laurel to this posting and to Comox United.

Council: The Governing Body of our Community of Faith

Our Church Council is like the board of Comox United Church. It is made up of a chair, secretary, treasurer, the chair of the Ministry & Personnel Committee, the chair of the Trustees, and individuals from other committees and members-at-large. Also, the minister must be present at Council meetings in order to pass motions. Currently our Council has 13 members.

Council meets once a month except in July. Here is a taste of what happens at our meetings.

At our August Council meeting:

- We endorsed a grant application that the Affirming committee is submitting to the ProVision Fund for their 2026 community outreach activities.
- We discussed copyright and SOCAN fees, and who is responsible for these when an outside group holds a concert in our building – it's more complicated than you think.
- We made a small change to the Communication Policy which will result in more events being listed in the newsletter and on our website.
- We discussed the need for a multi-year property maintenance plan and budget, which is the responsibility of a Property committee chair, but we don't currently have anyone in that role. Interested?

If you'd like more information about any of these items (or what else we did), please contact the Council Chair, **Joanne Wiens**, at councilchair@comoxunitedchurch.com.

Have a meeting at the church? Remember to book your space now!

Our church administrator Lorna would like to remind you that our church building is a busy community hub, and is increasingly busy used for rentals, church activities and community groups. Don't assume there will be room for your meeting or that you can instantly set up a room for a meeting.

Contact Lorna at the church office to book your meeting space or building usage!

The S.A.G.E. Page

Sustainability Action Group for the Environment

Exploring Natural and Conservation Burial

This Sunday, Sept 21 at 10 a.m.

How can natural and conservation burial bring new life to the earth after we are gone? A special presentation at Nikkei No Haka Japanese Cemetery in Cumberland will consider the impacts of disposition/interment of our body for the earth and all her creatures, re-imagining together old and simple ways that bring our bodies back into the circle of life. There will be a facilitated walk between two cemeteries, an informative handout, questions and discussions, and an opportunity to meet other folks interested in growing natural/conservation burial opportunities in this community. Let's explore the impacts of modern technological forms of decomposition of the body, while taking a deeper dive into how natural and conservation burial practices are viable and possible choices right now.

Tickets are \$25 and you can get them at

www.eventbrite.ca/e/re-imagining-end-of-life-death-natural-conservation-burial-tickets-1514224429029

Award-winning journalism at your fingertips

Time to renew your *Broadview* subscription

Broadview is the United Church's monthly magazine about spirituality, justice and ethical living. This spring, *Broadview* received dozens of awards from both Christian and secular publishing organizations.

The Canadian Christian Communicators Association and the Associated Church Press each named *Broadview* the top magazine in their networks.

It was also recognized by the National Magazine Awards, the Digital Publishing Awards, and others.

Broadview

The accolades represent an appreciation for excellence in journalism that wrestles with hard questions, holds space for faith and keeps justice at the centre.

If you would like a subscription, or would like to renew your current subscription, contact Lorna in the church office.

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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

Project 444 Update!

A shout out to everyone who has participated in a Project 444 event so far. In our first four months, **\$1,287** has been donated to the church. People have been hosting dinners, wine & appies evenings, and card game nights with more events coming up. Project 444 runs for eight 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 put it in the church office safe.

Come together with joy! The **444 Project** will run from until April 2026.

Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship News

Explore "Forest Bathing" with Tamiko Suzuki

On Sunday, October 5th at Comox United, the Unitarian service at 4 pm will feature a presentation by Tamiko Suzuki, an active longtime member of the Environment Team with Vancouver Unitarians. Tamiko will reprise her Earth Day service (because every day is Earth Day) to talk about *shinrin yoko*, or Forest Bathing, and her journey to becoming a Forest Therapy Guide. The walks she leads aim to reconnect participants with themselves and with Nature. In this service everyone will be invited to use their senses and imagination to join in an imaginary walk in the forest.



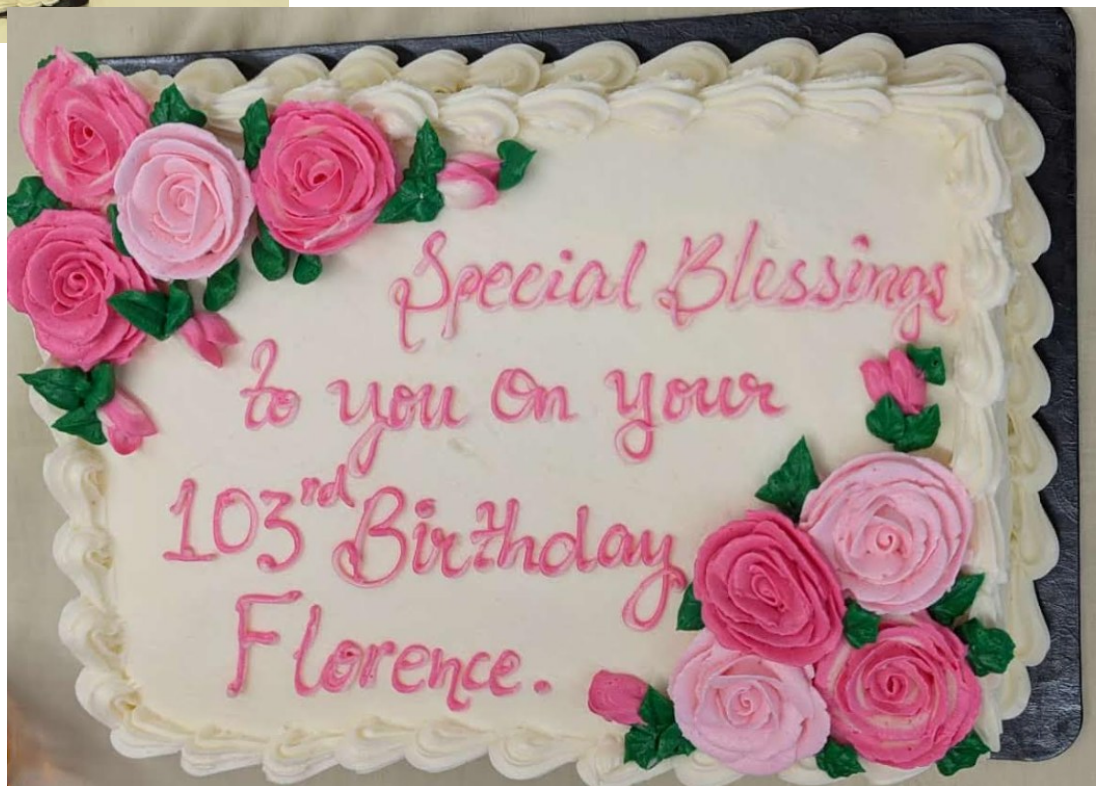


Happy Birthday to Florence!

Everyone enjoyed a piece of cake last Sunday to celebrate Florence Robertson's 103rd birthday!

For those of you who are counting, Flo was born in 1922, and lived through the Great Depression and World War II, and was part of the generation that raised the Baby Boomers!

Happy birthday, Florence!



Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

TODAY 10⁰⁰ a.m. Men's Shed
1⁰⁰ p.m. Taizé service
7⁰⁰ p.m. Rainbow Gathering: Softball

Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Worship
11³⁰ a.m. Marie Wilson Presentation & Reading

Mon 1³⁰ p.m. Knitting Group (Rm 101)

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: TRC Sunday

Coming Soon...

Sep 29 Knitters

Sept 30 Coffee & Conversation

Oct 1 Queer Bible Study

Oct 2 Choir rehearsal

Oct 3 Men's Shed
Taizé Service

Oct 5 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

Joanne Wiens, Church Council Chair: councilchair@comoxunitedchurch.com

Rev Karen's Office Hours

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

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