



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Grapevine

Friday, October 24, 2025

This Sunday: Season of Creation

TONIGHT at 7 pm: Board games & Fun!

Do you enjoy playing board games? **TONIGHT (Fri Oct 24) at 7 pm**, come out to the church hall and join Greg Olynyk for board games! He will bring many to play, but feel free to bring a good one of your own to share.

If you bring a game, think about these things:

- Can at least 4 people play?
- Is it easy to teach?
- Can it be played in 30-45 minutes?
- Is it fun?



Some favourite games include Qwirkle, Blokus, The Mind, CodeNames, and Azul. Greg will bring these and more! If you have questions email Liz at egoodger@gmail.com

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!

Soup & Bun this Sunday after worship!

Just about our favourite activity is “Soup & Bun”, and it’s happening this Sunday following worship. Everyone is welcome! This month’s lunch is sponsored by the Church Council.

Walkers circle the Airpark this Sunday at 2 pm

Our monthly walking group heads out every 4th Sunday of the month. The walk this month will be around the Airpark in Courtenay. Park on Mansfield Drive and we'll meet by the children's playground. We'll start at 2 pm and walk for about an hour. Everyone (including dogs) is welcome to join us.

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Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Gloria Herauf**

Greeters: **Julie Whitman**
Sue Fabrizio

Coffee: **Debra Monk**
Joan Hanson

PowerPoint: **Barb Page**

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

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](https://www.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 remember - or learn about - the Visioning process this congregation spent the better part of a year working on, go to the church website, click on **Virtual Services**, then scroll down to **Sunday May 29, 2022!** (Or click on [this link](#).) Think about the ideas expressed there, and consider how many of our goals have been achieved! This is your website! Send comments to **Joyce Wagland**.

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

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Fall Bazaar & Tea Room is only two weeks away!

The air is getting crisper, the days are getting shorter, so we must be getting close to the **UCW Fall Bazaar** which will take place on **Saturday November 8** from **9 a.m. to Noon**.

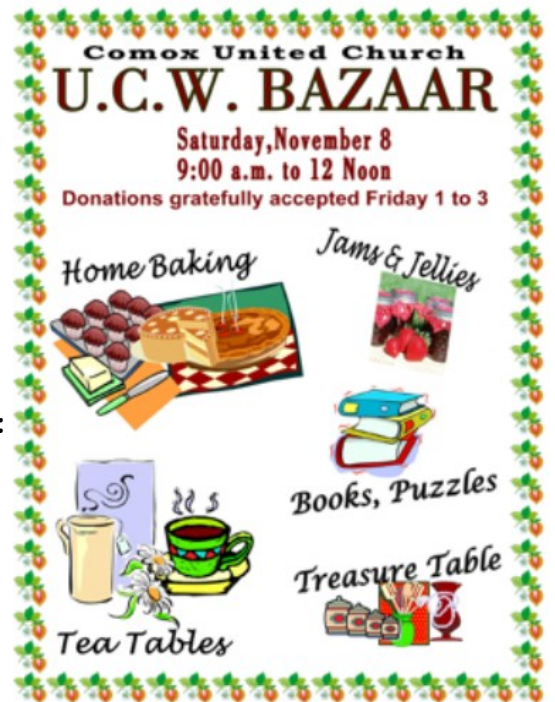
Remember, every year the UCW uses the money raised at this event and their spring sale to fund good works by a variety of charities. In the past two years the UCW has made donations to:

Dawn to Dawn	Child Haven	Comox Bay Care Society
Covenant House	Comox Valley Transition Society	
Dawn to Dawn	Doctors without Borders	
L'Arche	Operation Eyesight	
Santa's Workshop	Stepping Stones	

... as well as contributions to our church's Memorial Fund.

We also use some funds to provide connection and two opportunities each year for all the women of the congregation to come together for a shared meal and activity.

So come on out, bring a friend and enjoy some tea and cookies and browse through all of our treasures!



Donations of bazaar goods and baking gratefully accepted the afternoon of Friday, November 7

Do you have gently used items to donate? We have success selling **small goods, artwork**, and of course we welcome **donated baking and preserves!** Please don't bring clothing, large heavy items, or large plants.

You can drop off your donations the day before the sale on **Friday November 7th between 1 – 3 p.m.**



Coffee & Conversation this Tuesday at 10 am

Thanks to everyone for coming out to our Breakfast last week — it was fun! We'll do it again sometime in the future. This week we're back to our regular schedule of Coffee and Conversation at Comox Golf Club on Tuesday at 10 am. Everyone is welcome!

Queer Bible Study: The Gospel of Thomas

Queer Bible Study (which is for everyone) queerries sacred texts with openness and curiosity **every Wednesday at 10 am in Room 207** (formerly M7).

We are currently looking at an ancient text known as the Gospel of Thomas that was discovered buried with a trove of other ancient manuscripts in 1945.

Everyone is welcome to join our queery.



4th-century copy of the Gospel of Thomas

Church Council News

Comox Valley Weather Forecast for January 2026:

Temperature -3C° · Wind SE 35 km/hr · Heavy blowing snow

There are over 200 people in the Comox Valley experiencing homelessness and 20% of them are seniors. Can you imagine navigating winter weather without a home? **On Sunday, November 16th, at 11:45pm** after coffee time, there will be an information session in the church hall to explore the possibility of opening an **Extreme Weather Response Shelter (EWR)** at Comox United Church.

Late in 2023, the need for an EWR in Comox was identified and tentative discussions in the Church Council commenced in September of 2024.

So what is an Extreme Weather Response Shelter?

If current or forecast weather conditions reach a certain pre-defined threshold, the regional district will declare an EWR. EWR Shelters then open between specified hours (often 7pm to 7am OR 8pm to 8am).

A third-party agency that has extensive experience running shelters both in the lower mainland and on the island would run the shelter at Comox United. There is a predetermined maximum number of clients allowed (in our case probably 10). When that number is reached, the doors will be closed and no further clients would be admitted.

The Comox United Council invites us to explore together the possibility of an EWR Shelter that provides a substance-free space and is run as a pilot project for one season.

To learn more, please join us for a conversation on November 16 after church (and coffee). Please send questions to Rev. Karen prior to the gathering at minister@comoxunitedchurch.com

You're also welcome to talk with Rev. Karen, Ken Newman or Joanne Wiens after this Sunday's worship service.



Get Advent candles from L'Arche

We are only a month away from the start of Advent. L'Arche has made bundles of five Advent beeswax candles (one for each Advent Sunday and one for Christmas Eve), in either pillars (\$30) or tapers (\$15). These candles are long-burning and naturally scented.

You can order yours by email by next Friday, October 31 from herve@larchecomoxvalley.org or call 250-871-6288. Supplies are limited, so place your order as soon as possible!



Social Justice Committee

This Monday at Comox United at 7pm we have a special opportunity to meet one of Canada's leading voices of support for Palestinians. **Rabbi David Mivasair** will speak on "Hope and Despair: How Direct Aid Helps Gazan Families Survive". Rabbi David has lived in Israel for four years and has returned twice to assist in the West Bank through the Center for Jewish Nonviolence. He embodies what it means to speak difficult truths so that the suffering of others, Palestinians in this case, is not made invisible.

The Social Justice Committee warmly invites you to this by-donation evening event to listen and learn from a rabbinic perspective based on Jewish teachings and perspectives. To ensure accessibility for a wider audience, the presentation will also be available to watch by donation at davidmivasair.eventbrite.ca.

PowerPoint Operator needed

Would you like to learn how to become a Worship PowerPoint operator? All training is provided! Speak to Lorna in the church office.

Joint CxU/Unitarian Committee plans events

The Joint Liaison Committee is organizing some Friday Night social events to give United Church folk and Unitarians an opportunity to get to know one another and enjoy some fun activities. Our first night **TONIGHT** will feature board games (see page 1). Mark these other dates in your calendar for future fun events: November 14th, January 9th and March 13th.

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National Church News

Pray, Fast, Act: Stand with Gaza

Join Moderator Kimberly Heath

This Wednesday, you are invited to join a sacred movement of prayer, fasting, and advocacy for Palestinians in Gaza. Led by our newly elected Moderator Kimberly Heath, we will gather on Zoom at 8:00 a.m. PT for a 30-minute prayer circle focused on themes of compassion, justice, and peace.

Together, we will:

- Pray for healing and hope
- Fast in solidarity with those who hunger
- Act through meaningful action and advocacy
- Light a candle for peace (bring your candle to the webinar)
- This week's theme week will be "Peace and Remembrance"

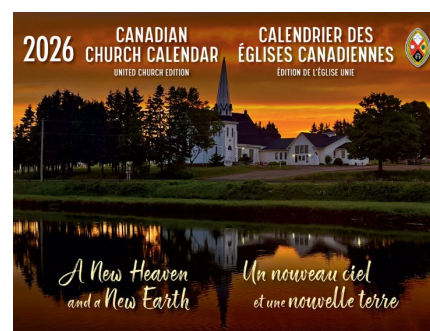


To register to join the prayer circle, go to:

united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/zvcBredGTHy6WT0x4P41Lw#/registration

Order your 2026 Church Calendar

Each year the United Church Calendar features beautiful photos of churches across Canada. If you would like a copy (it makes a great Christmas gift), contact our administrator Lorna by next Friday Oct. 31. The cost will be \$15.



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Some help needed for New Couple at CxU!

We have a new couple to our congregation who are in need of some support. Bobby and Lawrence, who you may have already met at coffee hour, are new to the Comox Valley. They recently lost everything in a house fire and have moved to the Comox Valley to rebuild their lives. They are currently living in a 5th wheel while they apply for housing. The CxU Council invites the congregation to participate in a winter clothing/toiletries/food drive for them.

Below is a list of their needs. You can help out in a couple of different ways:

- bring physical items to the church (food, toiletries, smaller clothing items)
- give money through the Minister's Discretionary Fund for gift cards (we encourage giving this way if you would like to help with larger clothing items, like coats, pants, and shoes)

We are looking for a coordinator for this short-term project. If you feel called to it, please contact Rev. Karen.

Non-Perishable Food Items for microwave, such as:

veggie soups
ravioli

Other items:

dog food
cat food
plastic (or non-breakable) bowls/plates/cups
cutlery
electric frying pan
dish soap
kitchen sponges
warm blankets
umbrellas

Toiletries, such as:

men's deodorant
sanitizer
hand soap
tooth brush/paste
q-tips
men's razors and shaving gel

Clothing:

white cotton socks
wool socks
undershirts
underwear
winter clothing (coats, warm sweatshirts,
warm pants, shoes, toques)
Sizes for person 1: Medium tops, 34 pants
Sizes for person 2: XXL, XXXL tops, 40 pants

Regional Church News

Pacific Mountain Justice Ministry presents “What the Hell?”

On-line discussion series
on Wednesday at 6⁰⁰ pm



In “What the Hell?”, we will come together for thoughtful engagement on how bad theology affects us all. The 2SLGBTQIAP+ community has long been menaced with images and threats of hell, and a certainty that queer folks will end up there if they do not renounce the way that God lovingly created them. But what is hell? What were/are we told about hell in our churches and faith communities? How does this affect images in wider society and how society is in relationship with both 2SLGBTQIAP+ people, the church and hell?

In this series we will explore themes from Queer Theology, the Affirming Ministry movement, and Liberation Theology. By exploring these themes, we may begin to create a deeper and broader understanding of what Queer theology is, of how it enriches the life of the church and the theology of the United Church, and of the expansive connections Queer Theology shares with struggles for rights and equality in our everyday lives; not just for queer people, but for everyone.

This series is led via zoom by Kendra Mitchell-Foster, Regional Minister, and Pam Rocker of Affirming Connections. We will also welcome special guest Rev. Mark Tremblay!

To register, go to:

[us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/qyBomAOATQC3WXhbfTKe8g#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/qyBomAOATQC3WXhbfTKe8g#/registration)

Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

TODAY 10⁰⁰ a.m. Men's Shed
7⁰⁰ p.m. Board games

Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Worship
11¹⁵ a.m. Soup & Bun Lunch
2⁰⁰ p.m. Walking Group

Mon 1³⁰ p.m. Knitters

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

Wed 10⁰⁰ a.m. Queer Bible Study

Thu 6³⁰ p.m. Choir

Fri 10⁰⁰ a.m. Men's Shed

Next Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Worship

Coming Soon...

Nov 3 United Church Women (UCW)
Knitters

Nov 4 Coffee & Conversation

Nov 5 Queer Bible Study

Nov 6 Choir rehearsal

Nov 7 Men's Shed
Taizé Service

UCW Bazaar donations drop-off

Nov 8 UCW Harvest Tea Room & Bazaar

Nov 9 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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