



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

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

# Grapevine

**Friday, November 7, 2025**

**This Sunday: Remembrance & Legacy**



The church office will be closed this **Tuesday, Nov. 11** for Remembrance Day.

**Taizé service TODAY at 1:00 pm**



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



**Join the Tea Cozy Ladies TOMORROW at the  
United Church Women's Fall Bazaar from 9 – 12 in our main hall!**

*Home baked goods for sale! Pies, squares, cakes, cookies & more.*

*Treat yourself or stock up for Christmas guests.*

*Jams and preserves*

*Books and puzzles*

*Previously loved treasures including jewelry, golf clubs, kitchenware, and so much more to discover*

*Live musical entertainment*

*Free admission*

*Tea Room! Relax and enjoy cookies & tea for \$3*

*Donations drop off TODAY between 1 - 3 pm or TOMORROW MORNING at 9 am.*

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## Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Gloria Herauf**

Greeters: **Merrilee Cameron**  
**Ray Morin**

Coffee: **Ray & Margaret Morin**

PowerPoint: **Barb Page**

Livestream/Audio: **Ken Newman**  
**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](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.

For more information about our faith community, see [comoxunitedchurch.com](https://comoxunitedchurch.com)



*Crest of  
Affirm United*



## A new Website Tip every week!

To check out the latest addition to the website, go to the church website, click on **Ministries**, then scroll down to **Affirming**. Click on **View More** to see the mission statement and upcoming events. Enjoy!

This is your website! Send comments to **Joyce Wagland**.  
([websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com](mailto:websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com) or 250-207-5650)

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## No Coffee & Conversation this week

The weekly **Coffee & Conversation** group, which usually meets at Comox Golf Club on Tuesdays at 10 am, is cancelled this week due to Remembrance Day.

## Pancake Breakfast for Men next Saturday

Men in the congregation are warmly invited to a pancake breakfast **at 9 am next Saturday, November 15** in the Church Hall. Barrie Turnham, Scott Agur and Mike Stewart will be responsible for preparing the breakfast.



There will be no program but there will be a discussion around what men think about re-starting the Men's Breakfast. Mike, Barrie and Scott need a commitment of volunteers, including cooks, to carry on with these breakfasts. So this breakfast next Saturday will be an opportunity to discuss the viability of ongoing breakfasts. With volunteers to prepare and set up the breakfast and with some firm ideas about program, we certainly can continue. But your active help is what is truly needed! The ball is in your court!

Please RSVP to Barrie Turnham (chemist@telus.net) if you plan to come and whether you can help with set-up, cooking or clean up.

## New Front Door: Update

When we arrived for worship this past Sunday, the new front door was blocked off! This was because **Doug Hoon** had poured a concrete ramp. Now wheelchairs and walkers can easily roll into the church, and the door sill is no longer a tripping hazard. **Thanks for your fine work, Doug!**

Also, the Venue Team is aware that the door latch is somewhat difficult to depress for some of us. Thanks for your patience as they work on improving this.

## ...And remember to lock up!

Just a reminder that if you are part of a group or committee using the church, please lock the front door after your members have arrived, and lock up when you leave. The locking/unlocking instructions are posted both in the new notice board outside the new door, and on the bulletin board just inside the new door.



## Rainbow Gathering: Improv Night!

The next monthly Rainbow Gathering will be “Improv your Life!”, an improv night led by local improv leaders Susan Osso, Bill Pozzobon and our own **Cameron Cairncross**. (See below for Cameron’s other improv initiative.)

This is going to be both a funny and a fun event! And you’ll enjoy the usual Bayside Bistro coffee, goodies, snacks and welcome atmosphere.

It all happens on **Friday, November 21 at 7 pm** at the Bayside Bistro (5th St and Cliffe Ave in Courtenay). It’s free, but please pre-register via Eventbrite at [eventbrite.ca/e/improv-your-life-tickets-1774890107089](https://eventbrite.ca/e/improv-your-life-tickets-1774890107089)

## Board Game Fun Night next Friday at 7 pm

Do you enjoy playing board games? As a joint project with the Unitarian congregation, we are organizing regular board game nights. Our next one is next Friday (Nov. 14) **at 7 pm**. Feel free to bring one of your favourites 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?

If you have questions email Liz ([egoodger@gmail.com](mailto:egoodger@gmail.com)).

## Improv at Comox United is back!

Cameron Cairncross, who offered his popular improv sessions through our “Comox University” fundraiser last spring, writes:

*“Come out and participate in some Improv comedy at the church. As part of the **4x4 Project**, we will have 4 sessions on Thursdays November 13, 20, 27, and Dec. 4, 10am to 11:30am in the main hall. Cost for all four sessions will be \$20 per person. There is limit of 12 people, and I am restricting the group to our Comox United congregation. The first 12 people that contact me ([cairncross@live.ca](mailto:cairncross@live.ca) or 250-339-0739) will be in.”*



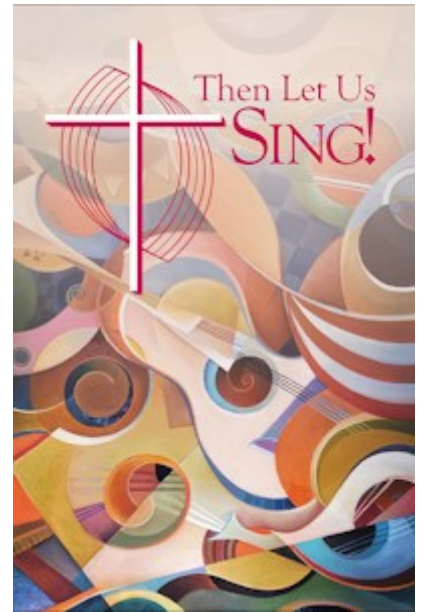
## Sponsor or dedicate a new “*Then Let Us Sing*” song book!

The United Church of Canada has created a new song book, *Then Let Us Sing*, and the first print run has sold out!

Comox United is planning to bulk order a shipment of *Then Let Us Sing* so as to get a 15% discount. If you would like to help us, you can sponsor or dedicate a copy for the church — or even purchase your own copy — for \$35 each. (That includes the 15% discount.)

If you are interested, fill out an order form (available on the lobby table or in the church office) and return to the church office (with a cheque made out to “Comox United Church”) **as soon as possible**.

Any copies that are not sponsored will be purchased with funds from the Memorial Fund.



### Concerts at Comox United

Following upgrades to our building by our Venue Team, our sanctuary has become a popular place for local choral groups and artists. Here's what's coming up in the next few weeks:

**This Tuesday, November 11, 2:30 pm (Note correction to time)**

“Lest We Forget — A Remembrance Day Concert”

The Quarantones and the Military Wives Choir (Admission by donation at door)

**Saturday, November 15, 2<sup>30</sup> pm**

“Songs for the Birds: A Benefit Concert for MARS”

Indigo Jazz, Crown Island Piano Duo and various other artists (Tickets: [marswildliferescue.com](http://marswildliferescue.com))

**Saturday, November 22, 2<sup>30</sup> pm**

“Feel Your Hearts Beat”

Island Voices Chamber Choir (Tickets: [islandvoiceschamberchoir.bc.ca](http://islandvoiceschamberchoir.bc.ca))

**Monday, December 1, 7<sup>30</sup> pm and Tuesday December 2, 10<sup>30</sup> am**

“Mendelssohn & Stravinsky”

Sarah Hagen, piano, and Pamela Highbaugh Aloni, cello (Tickets: [sarahhagen.com](http://sarahhagen.com))

## Traditional “Hanging of the Greens” on Nov. 28

### Potluck dinner followed by short service & decorating of the church

Mark in your calendar. For many years, Comox United had a tradition called “Hanging of the Greens” on the Friday before the first Sunday of Advent. We are continuing this tradition on **Friday, November 28 at 5:30 pm** with a potluck dinner, a short service and decorating the church for Advent and Christmas.

Watch for more details!

## Local Church News

### St. George’s United offers Evangelism Workshop

Rev. Ryan Slifka of St. George’s United in Courtenay has shared with us:

*“I am writing to invite each of you to a workshop being held by St. George’s about the dreaded E-Word —Evangelism!*

*On the morning of Saturday, November 29, Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart from the Vancouver School of Theology will be presenting “I Love to Tell the Story? A Faith Sharing Workshop”.*

*As Christians we are part of God’s wonderful story of reconciling love in Jesus Christ. God’s love story with humanity that we read about in Scripture is meant to be shared with all. Yet, so often as Christians we struggle to find the words to express our faith in an increasingly secular and pluralistic world. Do you struggle to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love? You are not alone and there is a hopeful way forward! Join Rev. Lockhart for a fun and interactive workshop as we deepen our ability to speak the faith and cheerfully share the gospel story.*

*This event is free, but we will be taking up a free will offering to help cover expenses. To register online, go to our website, [www.stgeorgesunited.com](http://www.stgeorgesunited.com).*



**Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart**

## 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](mailto:minister@comoxunitedchurch.com)

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

## Comox Valley 2025 Homeless Count Report

Last March, the Homeless Services Association of BC conducted a "Point in Time" Homeless Count to try to establish how many people were experiencing homelessness. This was the fourth such count done in the Comox Valley, the previous one being 2023. The report of this count is attached to the same email that was used to send you this newsletter. You are invited to read the report to get some sense of the scope of the issue in our community.

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## United Church Women (UCW)

Whew — it's a busy week for our United Church Women! First the bazaar and tea room on Saturday, and then their regular monthly meeting on Monday (Nov. 10) at 1<sup>15</sup> pm in Room 207 (formerly M7.)

We are always happy to welcome new members. Meetings are a mix of business and social gathering over tea and goodies. Why not join us and discover what we do?



## 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. Coordinator Sue Newman 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)

### **Updated List of needs for Lawrence and Bobby Nov 6<sup>th</sup>**

Thankyou so much to everybody who has already donated items or funds to them. They are VERY grateful to you all, and say that you have been life savers.

#### **Food**

They still have need of non perishable foods that they can microwave or put in an airfryer.

However they don't have a freezer and only a small fridge.

Eg. Tins of Soups, Stew, ravioli, noodles. (NB. *Person 1 is diabetic*).

**Pet food** – dogs - Kibble eg. Beneficial cats - Kibble eg. Whiskers

**Clothing** – Undershirts and underwear (*for Person 1 Size Med-Lge, Person 2 XXL*)

**The weather is changing and they need some warm clothing.**

**Monetary Donations to Karen's Discretionary Fund might be the best for these cold weather items, through which they can purchase what they need.**

**Pants** - Person 1- sz 34 inseam 30, about 5' 10"      Person 2 -sz 40, inseam 32, 6' 2"

**Warm Tops** - sweaters, fleece, sweat shirts

**Coats** – Person 1 Medium      Person 2 XXL

**Shoes** – Person 1 – sz 10,      Person 2 – Sz 13/14

#### **Other items**

Double sheets

Anyone know who has a second hand (van style) car for sale, theirs has died.



# The 444 Project

## 4 People x \$4 x 4 occasions



The seasons have changed, and colder weather lends itself to new ways to connect with friends and family while raising money for Project 444. It only takes inviting four people to join you in a fun activity for a per person fee of \$4. Or you can make it a party and invite 20 x \$4 which would raise \$80 for the church! Here's some ideas to get you started:

- A walk in the woods followed by hot chocolate/mulled wine/hot toddy back at your house
- A fun game of *Scattergories* complete with popcorn and beverages
- Invite friends over to watch a special newly released movie.
- Get your game-on and host a spontaneous potluck Grey Cup watching party
- Set the date and invite friends to help decorate your Christmas tree complete with cheese crackers and holiday cheer!
- Love to bake for Christmas? Invite four people to bake for the afternoon and send them away with some cookies as a thanks for joining the fun.
- Ask some friends to join you at one of the valley Christmas tree lighting events and then return to your place for pizza
- Enjoy the holiday Hallmark Romcoms? Invite some friends to come watch and you provide the ice cream and toppings.
- All this rain is sure to bring lots of snow on Mount Washington. Ask some friends to join you for snowshoeing and you provide some cookies and a thermos of hot cider.

There are so many possibilities and enjoyable ways to come together to raise money for our church. So far, we have raised **\$1407** just by connecting at \$4 each. Let's keep it going!

Questions? Contact Project 444 Coordinator Elaine Brown ([broelaine@gmail.com](mailto:broelaine@gmail.com)).

## Fiesta World Craft Bazaar—our baby—is next weekend!

### Volunteers needed!

The **Fiesta World Craft Bazaar** started at Comox United 36 years ago, and while it may have moved to the Florence Filberg Centre, we have played a big role in its success in a number of ways, especially in volunteering. It will take quite a number of volunteers to cover the two days of the event next Saturday Nov 15 and Sunday November 16, as well as set up next Friday night. While the three high school Interact Clubs and some college students have been a big help, there is still a need for some adults.

Fiesta supports many local organizations that work with disabled adults, the unhoused, refugees, the environment, and local groups that are making a difference in the lives of marginalized people in developing countries. There will also be five fair trade stores and 23 vendors who sell products to support women and families in a large number of countries.



If you feel you could give a hand next Friday, Saturday or Sunday for a few hours please **give Dave a call at 250 339-4975**. And of course please come and enjoy the Valley's favourite Fair!

## Healing Touch/Reiki offered to chemo/radiation patients on Tuesday afternoons at the church

Are you presently receiving chemo or radiation? Did you know Comox United gives support on Tuesday afternoons for patients right here at the church through Healing Touch/Reiki? These can help:

- Promote relaxation and reduces stress
- Support pain relief for acute and chronic pain and discomfort
- Enhance the beneficial effects of medications
- Reduce the unwanted side effects of medications, including chemotherapy
- Promote faster healing after surgeries, fractures and other physical injuries
- Assist the healing process for those experiencing emotional and mental upheavals, including grief, loss and major life transitions
- Provide a sense of overall well being and calmness
- Promote a healthy immune system

The Comox Hospice supports us by taking appointments for us. To make an appointment:

**Call 250-871-0696 or email: [reception@comoxhospice.com](mailto:reception@comoxhospice.com)**

## Coming Events at a glance

### This Week...

**TODAY** 1<sup>00</sup> p.m. Taizé service  
1<sup>00</sup> p.m. Fall Bazaar donations drop-off

**Sat** 9<sup>00</sup> a.m. Fall Bazaar and Tea Room

**Sun** 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Worship: Remembrance and Legacy

**Mon** 1<sup>15</sup> p.m. United Church Women (UCW)  
1<sup>30</sup> p.m. Knitters

**Tue** Church office closed (Remembrance Day)

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

**Thu** 10<sup>00</sup> p.m. Improv with Cameron (Session 1 of 4)  
6<sup>30</sup> p.m. Choir

**Fri** 7<sup>00</sup> p.m. Board Game Fun Night

**Sat** 9<sup>00</sup> a.m. Men's Pancake Breakfast

**Next Sun** 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Worship  
11<sup>45</sup> a.m. Emergency Warming Info Session  
1<sup>30</sup> p.m. Glacier View Service

### Coming Soon...

**Nov 17** Knitters

**Nov 18** Coffee & Conversation

**Nov 19** Queer Bible Study

**Nov 20** Improv with Cameron (2 of 4)  
Choir rehearsal

**Nov 21** Taizé service  
Rainbow Gathering: Improv Night

**Nov 23** Worship  
CxU Walking Group



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