



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Grapevine

Friday, December 5, 2025

This Sunday: Advent II — Communion

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.

- The gooseneck lamp on the piano downstairs is broken. If you have a small to medium-sized gooseneck lamp that could replace the broken one, please call Marni (778.428.1996)
- There will not be a Taizé service on December 19. Our next Taizé service will be on **Fri Jan 2**.



Advent & Christmas at Comox United



Sunday Morning Services

Dec 7 **Advent II**

Dec 14 **Advent III — Lessons & Carols**

Dec 21 **Advent IV**

Dec 28 **Christmas I**

Jan 4 **Epiphany**



Other services and events

Monday, Dec 8, 12:15 pm

UCW Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, Dec 13, 2 pm

Blue Christmas

Monday, Dec 15, 2 pm

Gloria's Christmas Singalong

Wednesday, Dec 24, 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve Service

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Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Gloria Herauf**

Greeters: **Evy Gillespie**
Jane Wilson

Coffee: **Steve & Vange Thiessen**

PowerPoint: **Sue Newman**

Livestream/Audio: **Julie Whitman**

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



We are celebrating Communion this Sunday. Our Communion table is open to all. You do not have to be a member of Comox United, or the United Church of Canada, or any church—**everyone** is welcome at the table. There are several ways we serve Communion, so during the service Rev Karen will indicate which way is being used.

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 see what's happening at the church, in **Calendar** form, go to our church website, click on **Events**, then click on **Calendar**. Enjoy!

This is your website! Send comments to **Joyce Wagland**.

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

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Blue Christmas & Celebrate a Life Service next Saturday

Feeling Blue about the Holiday Season? You're not alone

Christmas can be a painful time. It may be the first Christmas without loved family members who have recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. Come and join us for a **Blue Christmas & Celebrate a Life Service** next **Saturday, December 13th at 2⁰⁰ p.m.**, a time of selected readings, poetry and music, and to remember those no longer with us.



This short service, a collaboration between Comox United and Comox Hospice Society, will be followed by light refreshments.

Contributions of Christmas baking needed

If you would like to contribute some Christmas baking to the Blue Christmas service, there will be a sign-up sheet in the church hall this Sunday during coffee time. Bring your baking to the church kitchen anytime next week prior to the start of the Blue Christmas service.

Next Sunday: Lessons & Carols and White Gift Sunday

Next Sunday (December 14) Paul Colthorpe and the Choir will present "Lessons and Carols", a service of seasonal readings and music.

It will also be **White Gift Sunday**, one of four special appeals that we make each year. This year we are continuing to raise funds for a tiny home with WeCan Shelter Society. You can put cash or a cheque into one of the special offering envelopes that will be available, or you can e-transfer your special offering to the church treasurer. (See last page for the Treasurer's email address.) After the service, you'll have an opportunity to meet Kim Hamilton, who has lived in a WeCan tiny home for 3 1/2 years.

♪ Choir rehearsals ♪

If you're interested in joining the Choir for the Christmas season, here's when they'll be rehearsing:

- Sun Dec 7, 9 am
- Thu Dec 11, 6:30 pm
- Sun Dec 14, 9 am
- Thu Dec 18, 6:30 pm
- Sun Dec 21, 9 am
- Wed Dec 24 (Christmas Eve), 6:30 pm

Following Christmas, the next Choir rehearsal will be Thu Jan 8 at 6:30 pm

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United Church Women's Christmas Luncheon this Mon Dec 8th at 12:15

This photo is from our 2024 Women's Christmas Luncheon, where we came together for a lovely meal, fellowship and good social cause. We had so much fun we're doing it again! The luncheon hosted by the UCW is free, but we encourage attendees to bring a potluck dish to share and



donations for the Comox Valley Transition Society (see below), which provides temporary emergency shelter and support for women including trans-women and non-binary individuals seeking safety from violence, abuse and threats. There will be great food, games, music and a chance to win a prize! We hope you will join us this Monday December 8th at 12:15.

Donations requested by Transition House:

Chocolate
Makeup

Gift cards
Journals

Socks
Toiletries

Pyjamas

Social Justice Committee

Delicious harvest of Palestinian dates available

Order now, pick them up next Sunday

There is some good news from Palestine, particularly from the Jordan Valley. The farmers have been able to ship a limited supply of their delicious, hand-selected Medjoul dates. They will be arriving in Comox in the next two weeks. They are still \$27 for the 2 lb. box —shipping is expensive — but the rest of the money goes to the farmers. You will be able to pick them up after church next Sunday Dec. 14th. To order, send Dave Talbot an email (kye_bay@shaw.ca). You can pay Dave when you pick them up next Sunday by cash or cheque, or by sending an e-transfer to his email.





Joy to the World! It's Gloria's Christmas Singalong!

Join us on Mon Dec 15th at 2 pm

It's the most wonderful time of the year when we sing together at **Gloria's Singalong on Monday, December 15th at 2 pm.**

Gloria says, "We all love to sing Christmas Carols and favourite Seasonal songs, so this is your opportunity to raise your voices in this joyful season. Singing is so unifying, so good for the soul and the carols and familiar songs of the season bring back many precious memories for all of us."

The lyrics will be provided and there will be a donation basket at the door. Always a fun time, bring a friend, and don't miss it!

Share a creche on Sun Dec 21

On the Sunday before Christmas (Dec 21) — which will be an Open Space Sunday — we would like to have a display of nativity scenes at the front of the sanctuary. You are invited to bring ONE small to medium creche set that morning to put on the display (and then take it home after church).



Book Study: *North of Nowhere* by Marie Wilson First session on Thu Jan 8 at 10 am

Some of you attended a presentation on September 21 by former Truth & Reconciliation Commissioner Marie Wilson, where she talked about her new book *North of Nowhere: Song of a Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner*. As promised, now that you have had a chance to read the book, we will have a book study group that will begin on Thu January 8 at 10 am. This will be facilitated by Elaine and John Stewart, both of whom had the honour of working with Marie in aligning the NWT Education system with principals of reconciliation and trauma-informed practice. We know that others of you have also had experiences in working with and learning from Indigenous communities and we welcome that learning into the discussion circle as well. Some of you may want a single discussion session, and others may wish for more – we can accommodate both options. If you have specific questions that arose from reading the book or other questions about the history and legacy of residential schools, feel free to send those questions and comments to Elaine (elainestewartnwt@gmail.com). Of course, it will be fine for the questions to arise within the session(s) as well. Supported by Comox United's Social Justice Committee .

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National Church News

Moderator's Advent Message

The Right Rev. Kimberley Heath was elected to the post of Moderator of the United Church of Canada — the spiritual leader of the church — in August. In her Advent Message, which you can find at youtu.be/DooXoUJSE1s, she offers a reflection that makes space for all our feelings—the joy, the grief, the hope, and the weariness.

The world feels heavy, but Advent is a season for connection. Drawing on the stories of Mary and Elizabeth, Rev. Heath reminds us that even miracles can feel complicated. Their bold "yesses" to God's call were mixed with seclusion, whispers, and fear. Yet, their simple connection brought a blessing and multiplied their joy.

How do we get in the spirit of the season amid pain and injustice? We start with connection. This Advent, know this: you are not alone. God is growing a miracle in our midst. The United Church of Canada wishes you a blessed Advent.

Service to commemorate Tenth Anniversary of Full Communion Agreement with United Church of Christ

In 2015, the United Church of Canada and the American denomination The United Church of Christ entered into a formal full-communion agreement in 2015, following unanimous votes by both denominations. As we celebrate that 10th anniversary this year, we gather for an online worship service on **Saturday, Dec 13 at 9 am PST** rejoicing in the deepening partnership between our churches. We invite you to join us online so that churches and members across both denominations can participate together in this joyful celebration. Together, we celebrate the joy of our shared ministry, affirm our continuing commitment to one another, and look with gratitude and excitement toward all that God is calling us to do—side by side—in the years to come.

To watch the service on Zoom, you can register at ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ybgctzsWRsKlafXyufKD1A#/registration

Unitarian Fellowship News

Invitations to two seasonal Unitarian services

The Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship (CVUF) has invited us to two of their special services:

The Turn of the Seasons, the Heart of the Spiral

This Sunday, December 7 at 4 pm

Join us for a journey into the heart of the spiral. Celebrate the turn of the seasons and the coming of winter, time of reflection and introspection. We'll be walking a spiral, lighting candles and making wishes for the coming year. This is all within a very special circle of chants and songs within a special gathering service. There will be an opportunity for an extra collection for donations towards "[Seedchange](#)".

If you are able please bring pine or fir boughs to be placed on the floor.

Solstice and "Joy of Community" Dinner

Sunday, December 21 at 4 pm

Please join us to unapologetically share our values of love, justice, connection and joy as resistance. These are antidotes to the darkness of the times and the season. "Joy will not wait for the struggle to be over." (Anon)

There will be chili dinner spiced with music and readings, possibly a skit or a dance or a story. Gifting of one's talent and skill is an honour, and in some faiths a sin not to share your talents. So, bring five to ten minutes of yourself to share during dinner and dessert.

It is an evening to enjoy the grace that allows us to be together here and now. Join us in celebrating the Return of the Light.

Contact Barbara Huhn (250)702-8426, bjchuhn@gmail.com if you have something you would like to share.

If you are able, please bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

Local Church News

St. George's United: Cookie Walk on December 14th

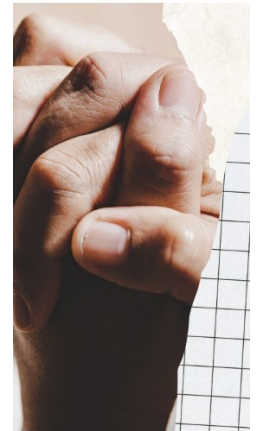
St. George's United in Courtenay is holding their annual "Cookie Walk and Carol Sing" as a fundraiser for The Anchorage, new housing for adults with diverse abilities. All you have to do is buy an empty box for \$15 (cash only), then walk past 90 dozen festive homemade cookies, pick which ones you want and fill your box! It all happens on Sunday December 14 from 2—4 pm.

Weird Church: *Grief & Grace* – an 8-week series

Grief brings up an array of emotions that can be overwhelming, confusing, uncomfortable and unexpected. *Grief & Grace* is an 8-week series for anyone experiencing grief due to the loss of a loved one. Each week we will explore and learn about the many facets of grief as we make space and honour the experience of each participant. We will practice tools that support your journey through grief. Included will be various artistic activities, designed to express feelings, thoughts and life experiences that are difficult to verbalize.

This confidential group will be limited to 10 participants, and will happen on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30-3 pm from Jan 14 to Mar 4. The cost is \$125.

For more information and to register, go to the Weird Church website (weirdchurchcumberland.com)



The 444 Project

4 People x \$4 x 4 occasions



Christmas Season Drop-in

Your Givings Administrator, **Debra Monk**, is holding an 4 x 4 x 4 Open House. Come to her place on **Sunday, December 14 from 1 pm to 3 pm**, enjoy some coffee/tea and treats, and see how crazy she is for Christmas. Debra's address is on the Household List or you can email her at envelopesecretary@comoxunitedchurch.com or you can ask Lorna in the church office. (Lorna is co-hosting this event.)



Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

TODAY 1⁰⁰ p.m. Taizé service

Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Worship: Advent II — Communion

Mon 12¹⁵ p.m. UCW Christmas Lunch
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

Sat 2⁰⁰ p.m. Blue Christmas

Next Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Advent III: Lessons & Carols
1⁰⁰ p.m. Givings Admin Christmas Open House

Coming Soon...

Dec 15 Knitters
Gloria's Singalong

Dec 16 Coffee & Conversation

Dec 17 Queer Bible Study

Dec 18 Choir rehearsal

Dec 21 Worship: Advent IV
Glacier View Service



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.)