



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Grapevine

Friday, November 28, 2025

This Sunday: Advent I

Traditional “Hanging of the Greens” TONIGHT

Decorating of the church & Potluck dinner followed by short service

You are warmly invited to our **Hanging of the Greens Potluck** TONIGHT! Come at 4 pm to help decorate the Sanctuary for Advent, dinner will be at 5:30 followed by a short service to bring in the season. If you are able, please bring a casserole, salad or dessert to share.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

— Fiona Curry, Congregational Life Coordinator

Advent & Christmas at Comox United



Sunday Morning Services

Sunday, November 30: **Advent I**

Sunday, December 7: **Advent II**

Sunday, December 14: **Advent III**

Sunday, December 21: **Advent IV**

Sunday, December 28: **Christmas I**

Sunday, January 4: **Epiphany**



Other services and events

Friday, November 28, 4 pm

Hanging of the Greens

Monday, December 8, 12:15 pm

UCW Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 13, 2 pm

Blue Christmas

Monday, December 15, 2 pm

Gloria's Christmas Singalong

Wednesday, December 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: **Bev Agur**

Klaus Jennerman

Coffee: **Janet Bjarnson**

Peter Senior

PowerPoint: **Arlene Bell**

Livestream/Audio: **Ken Vaux**

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 see what newcomers are told about our church, go to our church website, click on **About**, then click on **I'm New**. 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

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** on **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.



Glacier Grannies Sale this Sunday

One day only: Table pots and door swags

Following worship **this Sunday**, the Comox Valley Glacier Grannies will be in the church hall selling beautiful Christmas swags for your front door and festive pots for your table. Hand-made with fresh local greenery, augmented with colourful ribbons and other decorations, each creation is unique and will be slightly different from samples shown here. In addition you can order Outdoor Wreaths (Medium 14" \$25 and Large 18" \$35 online at

glaciergrannies.org



5" Table Pot \$15

Payment this Sunday can be made by cash, debit, credit card or e-transfer. If you won't be at church this Sunday, visit the [Glacier Grannies website](http://glaciergrannies.org) for other ways to order your door swags and table pots.

All proceeds go to the Comox Valley Glacier Grannies and their support for the

[Stephen Lewis Foundation's](http://www.stephenlewisfoundation.org)
[Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign](http://www.grandmotherscampaign.org).



Door Swag \$25



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."

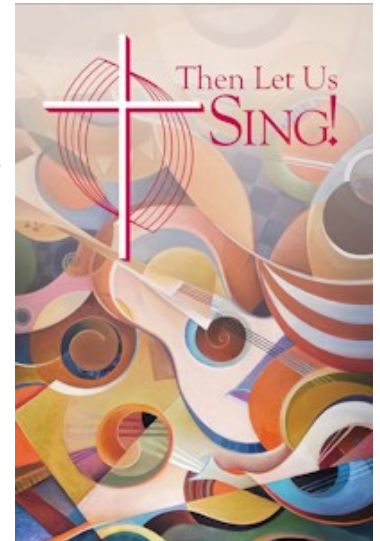
The lyrics will be provided and there will be a donation basket at the door. Always a fun time, bring a friend, and don't miss it!

Extended until Dec. 14: Sponsor or dedicate a new "Then Let Us Sing!"

We've extended the deadline! If you would like to help us, you can buy a copy of the new "Then Let Us Sing!" song book for the church and dedicate it to someone special in your life for \$35 each. Or you can buy a copy for yourself.

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") **before Sunday December 14.**

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



New song book has new style

Some of you may have noticed that on the projection slides of songs from the new *Then Let Us Sing* (TLUS) songbook, only the first word of the title is capitalized. Some songs use Canadian spelling, others use American spelling. These are not mistakes — this is the way each song appears in the book. Canadian composers get Canadian spelling, American composers get American spelling, and only the first word of each title is capitalized. These choices were made by the editors of TLUS and we're doing our best to copy each song exactly as written.

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United Church Women's Christmas Luncheon on 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 on Monday December 8th at 12:15.

Chocolate
Makeup

Donations requested by Transition House:

Gift cards
Journals

Socks
Toiletries

Pyjamas

Write to Minister of Health: Loss of Hospice Beds

Although the six beds at Aitken Community Hospice are currently full, cuts in funding of contract nurses means that three of these will be "temporarily" closed as soon as they are empty. The duration of this closure is unknown.

Due to the loss of beds, families will have to take their loved ones out of town to another hospice should the three remaining beds be full.

We all know people who have accessed Hospice services (whether emotional support or a physical bed) and the role the Hospice has played in our community for over 40 years. Halving the beds available WILL impact this community and letting our politicians know how harmful this will be to our community may help to drive a reversal on these bed closures. If you are able to write and/or call Josie Osborne (Minister of Health) and Brennan Day (MLA), it would be most appreciated! Personal stories, of course, can have a powerful impact.

Honourable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health
PO Box 9050 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC, V8W 9E2
Phone: 250-953-3547
E-mail: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Brennan Day, MLA, Courtenay-Comox
Official Opposition Critic for Rural and Seniors Health
437 5th St Courtenay, BC V9N 1J7
Email: Brennan.Day.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Phone: (250) 703-2410

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

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

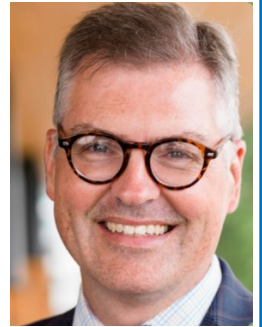
St. George's United: Evangelism Workshop

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 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".

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."



Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart

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.

Comox Valley Presbyterian: Creches of the World

Come see hundreds of nativity sets on display at Comox Valley Presbyterian Church, 725 Aspen Rd. Includes live music, children's area and lighted room, Free Admission! Three admission times only:

- TODAY
 - 1:00-3:00 pm (Seniors and those with mobility needs only)
 - 3:00-6:30 pm (Everyone welcome!)
- TOMORROW (Saturday Nov 29)
 - 10:00 am—3:30 pm (Everyone welcome!)



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.)



Some help needed for New Couple at CxU!

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

They are currently living in a 5th wheel, and are looking for a place to rent. Lawrence is working (more than) full time.

Does anyone know who has a second hand car, as their 2006 van is dying (Transmission etc)?

Food

They still have need of non perishable foods that they can microwave or put in an air fryer. However they don't have a freezer & only a small fridge e.g. tins of soups, stew, ravioli, noodles. (Note: Lawrence is diabetic.)

Pet food –

dogs - Kibble eg. Beneful

cats - Kibble eg. Whiskas

Cold weather clothing

The weather is changing and they are in need of 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.

Winter jackets - Lawrence Size Med-Lge, Bobby Size XXL

Pants –

Lawrence - sz 34, inseam 30, height he is about 5' 10"

Bobby - sz 40, inseam 32, he is 6' 2"

Warm Tops - sweaters, fleece, sweat shirts (size as for coats)

Shoes – Lawrence – sz 10, Bobby – Sz 13/14

Other items

A drill and a few bits.

A laundry basket

Queen duvet cover

Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

TODAY 4⁰⁰ p.m. Hanging of the Greens

Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Worship: Advent I

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 1⁰⁰ p.m. Taizé service

Next Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Advent II: Communion

Coming Soon...

Dec 8 United Church Women Xmas Lunch
Knitters

Dec 9 Coffee & Conversation

Dec 10 Queer Bible Study

Dec 11 Choir rehearsal

Dec 14 Worship: Advent II
Givings Admin 4x4x4 Open House



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.)