



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Grapevine

Friday, December 12, 2025

This Sunday: Advent III

This Sunday: Lessons & Carols and White Gift Sunday

This 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.

Share a creche next 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 that morning to put on the display. (Remember to take it home after church!)



Advent & Christmas at Comox United



Sunday Morning Services

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

Dec 21 **Advent IV**

Dec 28 **Christmas I**

Jan 4 **Epiphany**



Other services and events

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

Spirituality • Openness • Care for the Common Good • Radical Love

Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Gloria Herauf**

Greeters: **Karen Spencer**
Jane Wilson

Coffee: **Sonja Stryski**
Margie van Binsbergen

PowerPoint: **Joyce Relyea**

Livestream/Audio: **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](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!

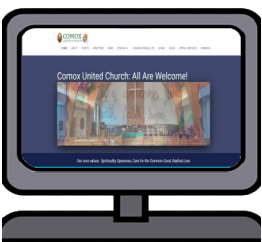
If you are new to Comox United Church, we welcome you as God welcomes us all.

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 check out our new Moderator's video message for this Advent season, go to our church website, click on **News**, scroll down and click on **Moderator's Advent Message**. Enjoy!

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

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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!

Blue Christmas & Celebrate a Life Service tomorrow

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 tomorrow (Sat, Dec 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, bring your baking to the church kitchen prior to the start of the Blue Christmas service.

♪ Choir rehearsals ♪

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

- 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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Coffee & Conversation News

The Coffee & Conversation group, which meets weekly on Tuesday mornings at 10 am, invites everyone to join them for ... well, coffee and conversation.



This week (Tues Dec 16), if you are interested in starting with breakfast, come to Comox Golf Club at 9 am. If you are just interested in coffee time, come at the regular time of 10 am.

Coffee & Conversation will continue to meet at Comox Golf Club on **Tues Dec 23** and **Tues Dec 30 at 10 am**.

In the New Year, we'll stick with our usual meeting time of Tuesday mornings at 10 am, but for the month of January, we'll be meeting at the new Views Café on the second floor of The Views. (The new structure built beside the old St. Joseph's Hospital.)



Happy birthday, Stewart!

Stewart Crerar, who has been a member of Comox United for many years, celebrated his 99th birthday this week. Not willing to just sit by and listen during his celebration, Stewart, nattily dressed as always, sang a song for everyone accompanied by our pianist, Gloria Herauf!

Social Justice Committee

Delicious harvest of Palestinian dates available

Order now, pick them up this 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 are still \$27 for the 2 lb. box. You will be able to pick them up after church this Sunday Dec. 14th. To order, send Dave Talbot an email (kyl_bay@shaw.ca). You can pay Dave when you pick them up this Sunday by cash or cheque, or by sending an e-transfer to his email.



Queer Bible Study

Queer Bible Study (which is for everyone) will meet this **Wednesday (December 17) at 10 am in Room 207** (formerly M7).

We'll then take a break until Wednesday January 7.

Camp Spirit Bursary Fund is empty

For thirteen summers, CAMP SPIRIT has partnered with United Church congregations throughout the Pacific Mountain Region to support children and families to live lives of faith, hope, and compassion in the world. Each summer, we use the Camp Spirit Bursary Fund to ensure that no child is turned away from participating in CAMP SPIRIT for financial reasons. This past summer, the bursary fund was emptied, and it needs to be refilled. \$190 will send one child to camp.

You can contribute to the fund online (campspirit.ca/donate-now.html), or by mailing a cheque made out to Camp Spirit Bursary Fund to 6000 Sussex Ave., Burnaby BC V5H 3C2



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 principles 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 .

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.

The 444 Project 4 People x \$4 x 4 occasions

Tally Update

A huge thank you to everyone who has entertained and contributed to the 444 Project this year. As the end of 2025 nears, our current donation tally is **\$1902**.

The 444 Project will continue until April, so start the New Year resolving to invite some friends over for \$4 worth of fun and friendship. As you can see, \$4x4x4 adds up very quickly!

Christmas Season Drop-in



Your Givings Administrator, **Debra Monk**, is holding an 4 x 4 x 4 Open House. Come to her place this **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.)

Unitarian Fellowship News

CVUF Invites you to “Joy of Community” Dinner

The Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship (CVUF) has invited us to their Solstice service and “Joy of Community” Dinner next 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.

The Beach Street Players present Five Performances of “The World Needs a Song” in February

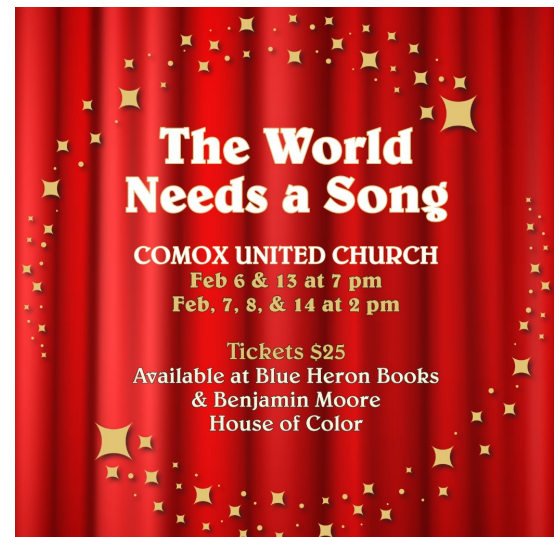
Tickets available in January

It’s time for another big musical production, courtesy of our own Gloria Herauf and the Beach Street Players. Come out for one of five performances in February and enjoy a time filled with fun, laughter, and great harmonies.

Evenings (7 pm): **Fri Feb 6 & Fri Feb 13**

Matinees (2 pm): **Sat Feb 7, Sun Feb 8 and Sat Feb 14**

Tickets will be available in January! Be sure to get yours, the shows always sell out!



United Church Women (UCW)

This past Monday, the ladies of the church met for a potluck lunch hosted by the UCW! It was a resounding success with 46 women in attendance.

We enjoyed an amazing array of potluck dishes and desserts. Donations were brought for the Women's Transition Society, and Dani gave us a short talk on their work supporting and housing vulnerable women in our community. Gloria provided music before our lunch, and led a group of women who sang some Christmas songs for us. Isobel McLeish read one of her famous, humorous Christmas stories about a family's yearly adventure searching for the perfect Christmas tree. Marj Barteaux won the contest guessing the number of candies in the jar. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship! Thank you to all who made it a successful event!



Local Church News

St. George's United: Cookie Walk this Sunday

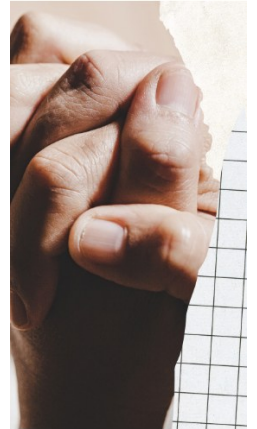
St. George's United in Courtenay is holding their annual "Cookie Walk and Carol Sing" as a fundraiser for The Anchorage, new housing for adults with diverse abilities. All you have to do is buy an empty box for \$15 (cash only), then walk past 90 dozen festive homemade cookies, pick which ones you want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



Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

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

House

Mon 1³⁰ p.m. Knitters
2⁰⁰ p.m. Gloria's Singlaong

Tue 9⁰⁰ a.m. Coffee & Conversation Breakfast
10⁰⁰ a.m. Coffee & Conversation (Comox Golf

Club)

Wed 10⁰⁰ a.m. Queer Bible Study (last until Jan 7)

Thu 6³⁰ p.m. Choir

Next Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Advent IV
1³⁰ p.m. Glacier View Service

Coming Soon...

Dec 24 Church office closes at 12 noon
Christmas Eve Service

Dec 24 Christmas: Church office closed

Dec 24 Boxing Day: Church office closed

Dec 28 no service at Comox United we are
invited to worship with St. George's 10:30



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.)