



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Grapevine

Friday, December 19, 2025

This Sunday: Advent IV

Share a creche this Sunday

This Sunday (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 before the service to put on the display. (Remember to take it home after church!)



Glacier View Service this Sunday at 1³⁰ pm

On Sunday at 1³⁰ pm, everyone is welcome to join the residents of Glacier View to sing favourite hymns and hear a prayer or two. Besides singing along, Comox United Church folks can also help by turning songbook pages. If you would like to learn more about this monthly event feel free to contact Carol Jennermann at 250-339-9246 (landline) 250-703-1440 (cellphone) or kcjmann@shaw.ca.



Christmas Eve Service: 7:30 pm

**Come and hear the Christmas Story
through word and music**



Sunday, Dec 28: No Worship Service at Comox United

The Sunday after Christmas (December 28), there will be no worship service at Comox United, but we have been invited to Christmas worship at St. George's United in Courtenay at 10:30 am. (That's a half hour later than our services.)



The church office will be closed next Thursday and Friday for Christmas and Boxing Day. There will be no *Grapevine* next week.

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Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Gloria Herauf**

Greeters: **Sue Fabrizio**
Klaus Jennerman

Coffee: **Debra Monk**
Joan Hanson

PowerPoint: **Barb Page**

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

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 find out about the 2025 Indigenous Ministers' Retreat in Manitoba, go to our church website, click on **Our Beliefs**, scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on **If you prefer information via YouTube**. Enjoy!

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

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Reflections Retreat with Rev Karen on January 2

On **Friday, January 2nd**, Rev. Karen will be offering a one day Reflections retreat. All are welcome to come and reflect on the past year and consider the new year. One might even make an intention or choose a word for the new year. Karen has cultivated this practice for years and has led many retreats of this kind. We will reflect with silence, writing, conversation, art, and Taize worship.

January 2nd, 10am – 3pm in room 101. Bring your lunch and any snacks or beverages you need for the day. No charge, though a \$5 suggested donation for supplies would be appreciated.

Starting in January: Biweekly Centering Prayer

Starting on **Friday, January 9th**, we will be offering a time of Centering Prayer. Bev Sparks will offer some history, gentle instruction, and will hold the space for us. All are welcome and no experience necessary.

Centering prayer is an ancient Christian contemplative practice for developing a deeper relationship with God by resting in God's presence.

Centering Prayer will be on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at 1:30 pm in Room 101 on the church's lower level.

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.

Coffee & Conversation will meet at Comox Golf Club at 10 am 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.)



Gloria's Singalong: Another sell-out!

The 4th annual Singalong led by Gloria Herauf last Monday was a resounding success! The church was filled to capacity with people from the wider community as well as many from our congregation.

Everyone sang both beautifully and enthusiastically, and the event raised \$1,153.10 from good will donations.

Church office has a new phone

The church office has entered the 21st century, thanks to Dale Erhart and his son Joel, who installed a new phone system. Church administrator Lorna should have the new system (and its headset) figured out very quickly.

This means we now have two surplus large-button office phones in excellent condition. They are free for the taking — see Lorna for details.



↑ This old phone
needs a new home



Camp Spirit Bursary Fund is empty

For thirteen summers, CAMP SPIRIT has used the Camp Spirit Bursary Fund to ensure that no child is turned away from participating in summer camp 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*. We will have a book study group that will begin on Thursday January 8 at 10 am. This will be facilitated by Elaine and John Stewart. 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 .

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

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 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!

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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.

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 we approach the end of 2025, our current 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!

United Church Women (UCW)

No more canning jars needed, thank you!

The UCW sends their thanks and appreciation for all who have returned/donated canning jars. No further donations required at this time.

Unitarian Fellowship News

CVUF Invites you to two events:

“Joy of Community” Dinner: This Sunday at 4 pm

The Comox Valley Unitarian Fellowship (CVUF) has invited us to their Solstice service and “Joy of Community” Dinner this Sunday, December 21 at 4 pm in the church hall.

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. 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.

Fire Communion: Sunday, January 4 at 4 pm

You are invited to a time for letting go of whatever will lighten your load for this new year. This is a ritual of "burning" our no-longer-needed memories, emotional triggers, and whatever else burdens your heart. A new year is just beginning.

Join us on Sunday, January 4 at 4 pm in the church hall.

Local Church News

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 IV
1³⁰ p.m. Glacier View Service

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

Wed Christmas Eve (Office closes at 12)
6³⁰ p.m. Choir rehearsal
7³⁰ p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Thu Christmas (Church office closed)

Fri Boxing Day (Church office closed)

Next Sun 10³⁰ a.m. Service at St. George's United

Coming Soon...

Jan 1 New Years Day: Church office closed

Jan 2 Reflections Retreat
Taizé Service

Jan 4 Worship: Epiphany — Communion

Jan 5 Knitters

Jan 6 Coffee & Conversation (Views Café)

Jan 7 Queer Bible Study

Jan 8 Choir

Jan 9 Centering Prayer
Board Games

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.

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.)