



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

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www.comoxunitedchurch.com

# Grapevine



**Friday, January 30, 2026**

**This Sunday: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

## **Ash Wednesday service at St. John the Divine this year**



Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, will be on February 18 this year. The service moves from church to church each year – this year, it will be at St. John the Divine Anglican Church (5th St, Courtenay) at 10 am, where our own Rev. Karen will be preaching. There will also be an Ash Wednesday service at Weird Church in Cumberland at 12:15 pm.

## **Men's Breakfast: Hockey Talk with Howard Robertson**

**All men invited to breakfast on Sat Feb 21 at 9 am**

The guest speaker at our next Men's Breakfast on Feb. 21 at 9 am will be **Howard Robertson**, an active member of our congregation who is deeply involved in our Comox Valley community. Howard is a musician and a storyteller, but one of Howard's deep loves is hockey, playing goalie in a local men's hockey league. Howard will share some of his passion for the sport as well as some interesting stories and statistics. This will be a compelling presentation! If you plan to attend, please let Scott Agur ([agur@shaw.ca](mailto:agur@shaw.ca)) know by Wednesday, February 18. The cost for the breakfast is a modest \$15.00. Please plan to come and as Howard would say, "keep your stick on the ice!"



## **Comox United Annual General Meeting: March 1**



It's that time of the year again! Mark in your calendar that our Annual General Meeting will happen following worship on **Sunday, March 1**.

If you are the leader of a team or committee, please send your 2025 report to Lorna in the church office by **Sunday, February 15**.

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## Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Marni Fisher**

Greeters: **Margaret Griffith-Cochrane**

Coffee: **Heather Flint**  
**Leone King**

PowerPoint: **Joyce Relyea**

Livestream/Audio: **Julie Whitman**  
**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.



Crest of  
Affirm United

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



## A new Website Tip every week!

Want to prepare for our Annual General Meeting? Go to our church website, and click on **About**, click on **Church Council**, then scroll down to **Downloads** and click on **March 2nd, 2025 AGM Minutes**. Enjoy!

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

([websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com](mailto:websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com) or 250-207-5650)

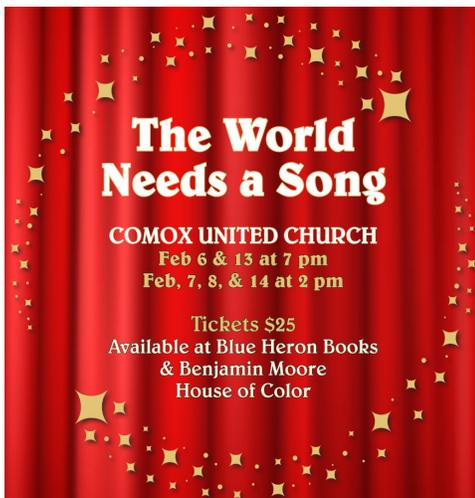
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## The S.A.G.E. Page

### Sustainability Action Group for the Environment

#### Learn about Recycling Best Practices

Come join us **Saturday, February 28, 1:30 - 2:30** for learning RECYCLING best practice with guest speaker Lindsay Eason (CVRD waster diversion specialist). With small improvements we can make a big difference. Bring a friend, being your neighbours - it will be interactive and informative!



#### Only one week until “The World Needs a Song” Musical!

**Buy your tickets before they sell out!**

Only one week until Gloria Herauf and the Beach Street Players offer “The World Needs A Song”! Come out for one of five performances and enjoy a time filled with fun, laughter, and great harmonies.

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

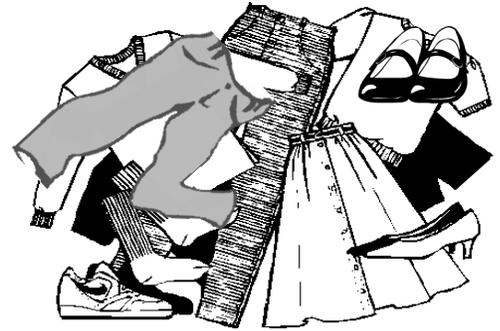
Matinees (2 pm): **Sat Feb 7, Sun Feb 8 and Sat Feb 14**

Tickets are available at Blue Heron Books (Comox) and Benjamin Moore House of Color (Courtenay). Or you can also buy your tickets during coffee time following worship. These shows always sell out, so get your tickets early!

#### “The Bible and the War on Gaza”: A 3-Week Study

Campbell River United is running a three-week study via Zoom titled “The Bible and The War on Gaza”. Each of the three Tuesday evening sessions runs 90 minutes. The study starts this Tuesday (February 3) at 6:30 pm. You can join by clicking on this Zoom link: <https://pacificmountain.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0999ab25e10c4c23a874af7fe&id=ce4b4572d5&e=b043df9380>

## Gently Used Women's Clothing Sale: Saturday Feb. 21



On Saturday, February 21 from 10 am-12:00 in Room 101 (lower level), our church will host a Gently Used Women's Clothing Sale where you pay by donation. The sale is being run by a local branch of the P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization ) Sisterhood.

This organization, founded in 1869, is dedicated to supporting women who wish to continue their education through loans, scholarships, scholar awards and grants. The Courtenay chapter offers a Bursary through North Island College and contributes to local charities such as Transition House and Care -A-Van.

All money raised from this sale will be donated to our local bursary fund.

## Unitarian News

### Awakening Wonder service this Sunday afternoon

The Comox Valley Unitarians, with whom we have a covenant relationship, invite us to a service this Sunday at 4 pm titled "Awakening Wonder". They will be welcoming guest preacher Rev. Ashley Burczak, new minister of the Nanaimo Unitarian Fellowship , who will be bringing Nanaimo's well-known (and loved) musician, Tony Turner to lead everyone in rousing song.

### Rainbow Gathering: Spin Love Stories this month

The next Rainbow Gathering event is *a story-telling night!* Come to Bayside Bistro (Cliffe Ave., Courtenay) on **Friday, February 20 at 7 pm**. Valentines Day is for everyone so the story-telling will use theme of love, especially for members of the lgbtq+ community and their families and friends.

Sitting in small groups, we'll use a spinner to suggest themes reflecting the variety of ways that love shows up for us: with our animal pets, our families (born and chosen), friendships, short-but-sweet romances, bad romances with no regrets, fool-hardy loves, un-requested loves, worthy crushes, life-changing relationships, and more. Come to tell stories or to listen. Come to be moved, to laugh, and perhaps to be inspired.

If you need a bit of sustenance, Bayside Bistro will be offering their regular food menu for purchase. This event is sponsored by our Affirm Committee. The event is free, but you need to reserve your spot at: [eventbrite.ca/e/rainbow-gatherings-spinning-love-stories-tickets-1980891512839](https://eventbrite.ca/e/rainbow-gatherings-spinning-love-stories-tickets-1980891512839)

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## The 444 Project

### Invite 4 People, Collect \$4 each, Donate, Get tax receipt

February can be dull and cold so what better way to bring some warmth and joy into your life than to invite some friends to join you in a fun activity for a great cause.

- Perhaps you want to invite them to join you visiting some of the locations of the Comox Valley Chocolate Festival which runs from February 1 – 28th.
- Or host a soup and bun afternoon to watch the Opening Ceremony of the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics on February 6th.
- Are you an American Football Fan? Invite friends to join you to watch Superbowl 2026 on Sunday February 8th .
- Go see an Oscar nominated film and then invite friends over to watch the Academy Awards on March 15th with perhaps a fun ‘Guess the Winners’ game with a treat for the winner.
- Book a room here at the church and host a pot luck brunch.

These are just a few ideas to help you with your 444 Project fundraising. Have fun!

(Please put your donation money into an envelope marked **444 Project and your name** and give it to Elaine Brown.)

## Coldest Night of the Year: Sat Feb 28

### Join our team of walkers!

Coldest Night of the Year is an annual charitable walk, raising funds for **Dawn to Dawn** (Action on Homelessness) and **The Transition House**, a safe house for women escaping domestic violence in our community. Team Captain **Sue Newman** sends this message:



*We've always had an enthusiastic team, so join our team this year:*

1. Go to [cnoy.org](http://cnoy.org)
2. Create an account
3. Choose **Comox Valley** as your location
4. Choose **Join a Team**
5. Search for **Comox United Walkers** and follow the steps to join us!

*Our first team goal this year is \$5000, so set your fundraising sights high! Contact friends and family, and ask if they have sponsored someone yet. Encourage others to join our team, or to donate to the team either through you or online, and to come and show their support at the event. Every \$20 or more will get a tax receipt via email. Let's make a difference as we have for many years. I look forward to having you join us, by donating and joining our team if you are able. Let's make it happen.*

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## Coming Events at a glance

### This Week...

*Sun* 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Worship

*Mon* 1<sup>30</sup> p.m. Knitters

*Tue* 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Coffee & Conversation (Views Cafe)

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

*Thu* 10<sup>00</sup> p.m. Choir

*Fri* 1<sup>00</sup> p.m. Contemplative service

7<sup>00</sup> p.m. "The World Needs a Song" (1/5)

*Sat* 2<sup>00</sup> p.m. "The World Needs a Song" (2/5)

*Next Sun* 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Worship: Communion

2<sup>00</sup> p.m. "The World Needs a Song" (3/5)

### Coming Soon...

**Feb 9** Knitters

**Feb 10** Coffee & Conversation

**Feb 11** Queer Bible Study

**Feb 12** Choir

**Feb 13** Centering Prayer

"The World Needs a Song" (4/5)

**Feb 14** "The World Needs a Song" (final)

**Feb 15** Worship: Transfiguration Sunday

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.)