



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

# Grapevine



**Friday, February 6, 2026**

**This Sunday: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

## No projection screens this Sunday

Due to the Beach Street Players theatrical sets in the sanctuary this weekend, we won't be able to use our projection system. So we'll be singing hymns from the pew hymn books (do you remember how those work?), while other lyrics and prayers will be printed in the bulletin.

There will be extra copies of the bulletin on Sunday, but when you get our email with the bulletin this week, you may want to print your own copy and bring it to church just in case.

## Contemplative service TODAY at 1:00 pm

The Taizé service on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month has blossomed into a Contemplative Service that now includes extra elements such as *Lectio Divina*. You are invited **TODAY** to a Contemplative 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.

## NEXT Friday at 10 am: Centering Prayer

**Next Friday at 10 am**, there will be a time of Centering Prayer in Room 101 on the church's lower level.

**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 offered on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 10 am. We're telling you about this now because the *Grapevine* is emailed to you on Fri morning after it starts.

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

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, will be on February 18 this year. Each year the Ash Wednesday service moves from church to church in the area – this year, it will be at St. John the Divine Anglican Church (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.



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

## Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Marni Fisher**

Greeters: **Marj Adams,  
Margaret Griffith-Cochrane**

Coffee: **Ray and Margaret Morin**

Livestream: **Ken Newman**

## 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!

To see a comprehensive list of the many emergency resources available in our community, to our church website, and scroll down below the banner photo and click on **AHERO Guide to Emergency Community Resources**. Learn!

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

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

# National Church News

## Lenten video series: *Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator*

Our Moderator, Rev. Kimberly Heath, will be the host of a six-part video series, “Kitchen Conversations with the Moderator” that will explore food, faith, and the power of invitation.

Drawing inspiration and recipes from the United Church’s new Lenten devotional, *Bless Break Share: Recipes for Faithful Living*, Kimberly meets in the kitchen with guests from across the church, including book contributors, United Church youth, and her own family.



The series will debut on Shrove Tuesday (Feb 17), with new episodes each Sunday during Lent. Aim your phone at the QR code or click on [united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-kimberly-heath-45th-moderator/kitchen-conversations](https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/organization-and-governance/moderator/right-rev-dr-kimberly-heath-45th-moderator/kitchen-conversations) to find these videos, as well as downloadable recipe cards.

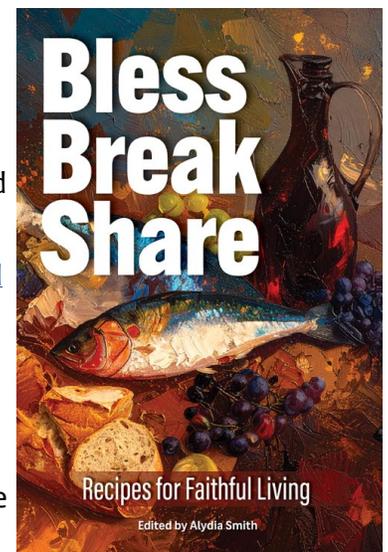


Rt. Rev. Kimberly Heath

## Lenten Devotional: *Bless Break Share*

The United Church’s Lenten daily devotional book this year is *Bless Break Share: Recipes for Faithful Living*, which features inspiring devotions and prayers for each day of Lent, along with recipes from throughout the United Church. It is available via the online UCRD bookstore at [ucrdstore.ca/collections/bless-break-share/products/bless-break-share-recipes-for-faithful-living](https://ucrdstore.ca/collections/bless-break-share/products/bless-break-share-recipes-for-faithful-living). The cost is \$18.95 + shipping for a physical book, or \$8.95 for an e-book.

Starting Tuesday, February 24 from 11 am-12 pm, Rev. Dr. Christine Jerrett will lead a 5-week online Lenten study. If you sign up for the six-week course (\$40), you’ll receive a 15% discount for *Bless Break Share*.





## 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.**

### Group reports for 2025 due next Sunday

If you are the leader of a team or committee, this is your last week to prepare your group's annual report. Please send your 2025 report to Lorna in the church office by **next Sunday, February 15.**



### Book Discussion continues this Monday at 10 am

The book discussion group is continuing to discuss *North of Nowhere: Song of a Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner*. Their next meeting will be this Monday (Feb 9) at 10 am in Room 1010 (lower level).

Please park in the lower parking lot and enter at lower side entrance. If you have any questions contact Elaine Stewart (elainestewartnwt@gmail.com).

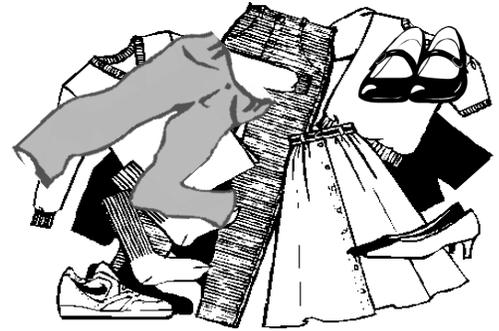
### Rainbow Gathering: Spin some Love Stories this month

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, unrequited 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)

## 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.

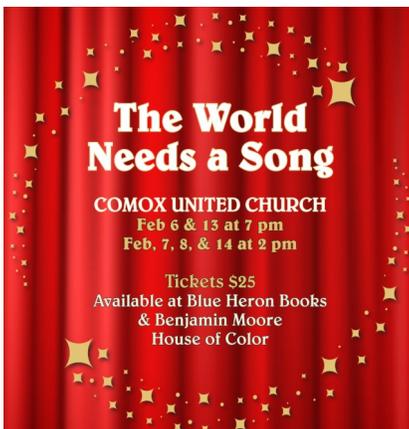
## Men's Breakfast: Hockey Talk with Howard Robertson

### 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 also deeply involved in our Comox Valley community. Howard is a musician and a storyteller, but one of his deep loves is hockey, demonstrated by 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!"



## "The World Needs a Song" premieres tonight!



Tonight, Gloria Herauf and the Beach Street Players premiere "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. A limited number may be available at the door.

## 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.*

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

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

### Sustainability Action Group for the Environment

#### Learn about Recycling Best Practices

Too much recycling is done incorrectly and then ends up as garbage instead. Our hope is that education will lead to improvements in sorting and handling, putting recycled materials on a useful path instead of prematurely filling the landfill.

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.

You're also welcome to bring any items that consistently stump you – you know, the ones you suspect can be diverted somewhere but you're not sure where!

This event is free, interactive and informative! Please join us and spread the word.

#### Tax Receipts for 2025

Tax Receipts for your gifts to Comox United Church will be available following the services on Feb. 8 and 15. In addition they will also be available from the Church office as of Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. Please make an effort to pick up your receipt so that we can save on postage costs. Thank you. Debra Monk, Givings Administrator

#### The Bible and The War on Gaza Study

- MULTI-SESSION WORKSHOP/COURSE

With Campbell River United Church

Three Tuesdays: February 3, February 10, February 17, 2026

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Online via Zoom

The Zoom link can be found at:

<https://pacificmountain.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=0999ab25e10c4c23a874af7fe&id=ce4b4572d5&e=b043df9380>

**In Support of Palestine and the against Genocide:** A monthly gathering of mostly United Church people who are taking actions around the province in support of Palestine and against Genocide. We will meet on Friday, February 20th at 1pm via zoom and on the third Friday of the month thereafter. Marianna Harris, a retired United Church Minister coordinates and encourages us.

## Coming Events at a glance

### This Week...

**TODAY** 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> a.m. "The World Needs a Song" (2/5)

**Sun** 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Worship: Communion  
 2<sup>00</sup> p.m. "The World Needs a Song" (3/5)

**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** 10<sup>00</sup> p.m. Centering Prayer  
 7<sup>00</sup> p.m. "The World Needs a Song" (4/5)

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

**Next Sun** 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Worship: Transfiguration Sunday  
 1<sup>30</sup> p.m. Glacier View Service

### Coming Soon...

**Feb 16 Family Day**

**Feb 17** Church Office closed  
 Coffee & Conversation

**Feb 18 Ash Wednesday**  
 (No Queer Bible Study)

**Feb 19** Choir

**Feb 20** Lenten Service

**Feb 21** Men's Breakfast  
 Gently Used Clothing Sale

**Feb 22** Worship: Lent I



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