



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Grapevine



Friday, February 20, 2026

This Sunday: Lent I

Lenten Contemplative service TODAY at 1:00 pm

To mark the start of Lent, today's Contemplative Service will have a Lenten tone. You are invited **TODAY** to a time of music, holy readings, 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.

Rainbow Gathering: Spin some Love Stories TONIGHT

TONIGHT'S Rainbow Gathering event is *a story-telling night!* Come to Bayside Bistro (Cliffe Ave., Courtenay) **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-requited 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

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Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Gloria Herauf**

Greeters: **Bev Agur**
Jane Wilson

PowerPoint: **Barb Page**

Coffee: **Debra Monk**
Joan Hanson

Livestream/Audio: **Ross Griffith-Cochrane**

How to worship with us

In Person

Sunday worship services are at 10 am.

Livestream

Our livestream will be on [YouTube](#) at 10 am

(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.



*Crest of
Affirm United*

For more information about our faith community, see comoxunitedchurch.com



A new Website Tip every week!

To read - and share - the prayers of the United Church of Canada and our moderator, the Rt. Rev. Kimberly Heath, for Tumbler Ridge, go to our church website, click on **News**, and scroll to **Tumbler Ridge** (two items). Hold the people of Tumbler Ridge — and all of us — in your prayers.

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

(websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com or 250-207-5650)

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Men's Breakfast: Hockey Talk with Howard Robertson

All men invited to breakfast tomorrow at 9 am

The guest speaker at our next Men's Breakfast tomorrow 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) 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!"



Ministry & Personnel Committee (M&P)

Interested in joining M&P?

The Ministry & Personnel (M&P) Committee is looking for two new members to join the current five-member team consisting of **Karen Spencer, Mike Stewart, Bev Agur, Marion Brydon** and **Dale Erhart**. We are a confidential body providing support to church personnel. Annually, we conduct performance reviews as well as produce recommendations to council regarding staff compensation. Acting as a human relations body, we endeavour to ensure a healthy working environment for all staff.

We meet independently every second month. If you are interested in becoming involved or have questions about the M&P Committee, please contact Karen Spencer (karenspercernlp@gmail.com or 647 465 1522)

Gently Used Women's Clothing Sale: TOMORROW

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.



Comox United Annual General Meeting: March 1

It's just over a week until our Annual General Meeting that will follow worship **next Sunday, March 1.**

Coffee & Conversation at Comox Mall this Tuesday

Our Coffee & Conversation group has been awaiting the finish of renovations to the Comox Golf Club's restaurant (which are taking longer than expected.) For the next two weeks (Feb. 24 and March 3), the group will meet in Comox Mall outside the Soup Shack, where you can get coffee and pastries. Cameron Cairncross is going to poll the group on where they should meet going forward.

Walking Group: Rotary Trail this Sunday

The Walking Group, which meets monthly, is heading out **this Sunday afternoon.** Come and join in as they walk along the Rotary Trail in Courtenay. The trail is flat and well graded. They'll leave from the parking lot at Bill Moore Park at 2 pm and walk for about an hour. Friends and dogs are always welcome!



How to get to Bill Moore Park: Take the 17th Street Bridge, go up to Fitzgerald - turn left. Turn right on 23rd Street and it will take you right to the park entrance. Meet at the right (north) end of the parking lot.

Do you have a CxU commemorative plate?

Do you have a plate with the United Crest Church or with a line drawing of Comox United Church that you would like to donate? Please call Leslie Fraser 250 339 6930

Caregiver Retreat weekend, May 1-3

Are you a Caregiver or have been a Caregiver and recently lost the person you were caregiving for?

The Pastoral Care Committee is hosting a caregiver retreat at the Ocean Resort in Oyster River from Friday, May 1 to Sunday, May 3. Registration forms are available from the church office or by emailing: admin@comoxunitedchurch.com. While the majority of costs are covered by a grant, there is a registration fee of \$150 per participant. In some circumstances, the registration fee may be waived.

Those attending will have time to just relax OR join in on the few activities planned. It is a time you can just BE, with no responsibilities.

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Regional Church News

Lay Leadership for a Thriving Church

The Pacific Mountain Region has been holding a series of Zoom meetings with church volunteers — including board or committee chairs and members, trustees, regional reps, and those who participate in various ministries as individuals or as groups such as pastoral care, outreach, justice, etc. — calling it “A Time to Share and Connect.” The next Zoom meeting will be this

Monday, February 23 from **7:00- 8:00pm** to share experiences, learn from one another, and reflect on topics identified at our last meeting. It’s a chance to step beyond individual congregations, hear diverse perspectives, and remember we are not serving alone.

This is a space for conversation, listening, and mutual encouragement. Whether your volunteer role is visible or behind the scenes, your voice is welcome. To register, fill out the on-line form at

form.jotform.com/260275964484973



In Support of Palestine and against Genocide:

Marianna Harris, a retired United Church Minister, is organizing a monthly Zoom meeting of mostly United Church people who are taking actions around the province in support of Palestine and against Genocide. The first meeting will be **TODAY at 1:00 pm** via zoom and then on the third Friday of the month thereafter.

Interested? Here's the link us02web.zoom.us/j/85181693086

Unitarian News

The Comox Valley Unitarians, with whom we have a covenant relationship, have invited us to their “Living Interdependence” service on Sunday March 1 at 4 pm in our church hall., when the guest speaker will be Reilly Yeo, a Unitarian ministry candidate and co-founder of My Climate Plan.

Reilly writes, “ *What would it mean to live in a culture where we truly focused on sharing each others’ pains and joys? As social isolation continues to rise, we come together as Universal Unitarians to imagine and to try to practice that culture. With our commitments to interdependence and to encouraging each others’ spiritual growth, we remain a countercultural faith. Come and explore the unique gifts we have to offer a world in crisis.*”

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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 next **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.

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 until next Saturday.
- Or host a soup and bun afternoon to watch the Closing Ceremony of the Milano Cortina Winter Olympics this Sunday.
- 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: Next Sat Feb 28

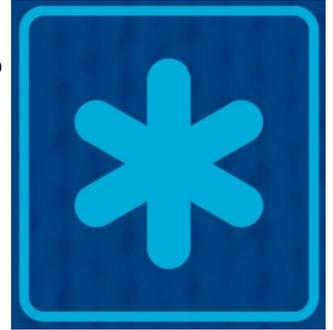
Join our team of walkers!

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
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!

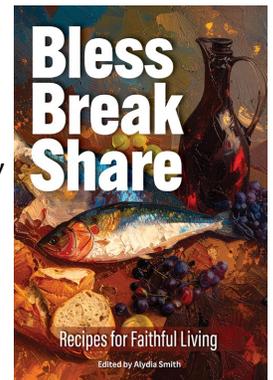
Our first team goal this year is \$5000, so set your fundraising sights high! Contact friends and family, and ask if they have sponsored someone yet. Encourage others to join our team, or to donate to the team either through you or online, and to come and show their support at the event. Every \$20 or 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.



National Church News

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. The cost is \$18.95 + shipping for a physical book, or \$8.95 for an e-book.



Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

TODAY 1⁰⁰ p.m. Lenten Contemplative Service

Sat 9⁰⁰ a.m. Men's Breakfast
10⁰⁰ a.m. Gently Used Clothing Sale

Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Lent I

Mon 1³⁰ p.m. Knitters

Tue 10⁰⁰ a.m. Coffee & Conversation (Comox Mall)

Wed 10⁰⁰ a.m. QBS

Thu 10⁰⁰ p.m. Choir

Fri 10⁰⁰ a.m. Centering Prayer

Sat 1³⁰ a.m. Recycling Best Practices
4⁰⁰ p.m. Coldest Night of the Year

Next Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Worship: Lent II
11¹⁵ a.m. Annual General Meeting

Coming Soon...

Mar 2 Knitters
Mar 3 Coffee & Conversation
Mar 4 Queer Bible Study
Mar 5 Choir
Mar 6 Contemplative Service
Mar 8 Worship: Lent III



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