



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

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www.comoxunitedchurch.com

# Grapevine



Friday, March 13, 2026

This Sunday: Affirm Sunday

It's PIE Day tomorrow! Let's eat pie and watch a movie!

Help celebrate our Affirming church at 7<sup>00</sup> pm



PIE Day, also known as National Affirming Day, is a day to celebrate our status as an Affirming church! "PIE" stands for *Public, Intentional, Explicit Inclusion of 2SLGBTQIA+ People*. Every year, we celebrate PIE Day on March 14<sup>th</sup>. (March 14 = 3.14 =  $\pi$  = pi = PIE, right?)

On Saturday, March 14 we are going to celebrate PIE Day! Meet us at 7<sup>00</sup> p.m. for **lots of pie** and a screening of the movie *Small Town Pride*, an intimate look at the joys and challenges of being queer in a small town. Filmed in Alberta, Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories, the film follows LGBTQ2S+ people and allies as they prepare for their local Pride celebrations. Organizing in church basements, classrooms and around kitchen tables, they take on a conservative town council that won't fly a rainbow flag and bend some rules to create a safe space for youth to come out. But despite experiences of isolation and discrimination, they love their communities and strive to make them places where everyone, no matter who and how they love, can live and thrive. This event is free, donations in support of Gukwas sa Wagalus gratefully accepted

## Glacier View Service this Sunday at 1<sup>30</sup> pm

On Sunday at 1<sup>30</sup> 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](mailto:kcjmann@shaw.ca).

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## Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Gloria Herauf**

Greeters: **Karen Spencer**  
**Sue Fabrizio**

PowerPoint: **Barb Page**

Coffee: **Sonja van Sickle**  
**Mae Pagdin**

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](https://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.

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



*Crest of  
Affirm United*

## A new Website Tip every week!



To read the minutes of our AGM on March 1, go to our church website, click on **About**, click on **Council**, and scroll down to the first title under **Downloads (AGM Minutes March 1, 2026)**. Enjoy!

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

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

## News from Rev Karen

### Student minister coming to Comox United in the fall

I am excited to announce that we will welcome Vancouver School of Theology student Barbara Nienaber to complete an internship with us starting in the fall! Barbara is a life-long United Church person. She lived in the lower mainland until moving to Parksville in 2021, and is now an active member at Knox United.

Starting in September, Barbara will be with us for 10-12 weeks (8-12 hrs/wk), and she will spend another 10-12 weeks with us in 2027. Her internship will be focused on her growth as a leader, which may include things like leading Bible study, leading worship, pastoral care, or retreats. Barbara brings with her own unique skills — which are many —including offering dramas in worship and her training as a death doula.

Barbara will be visiting us for a worship service sometime in April, at which time the congregation will have a chance to meet her in person.

### Friday, March 27 at 1 pm: Art Therapy Fun Event

On **Friday, March 27 from 1 to 3 pm**, we will be holding an Art Therapy Fun Event at the church . Join us for a time of creative relaxing ideas to treat yourself to some easy self-care mini-art inspired projects

*Rev. Karen*

## Board games TONIGHT!

Do you enjoy playing board games? **TONIGHT at 7 pm**, come out to the church hall and join Greg and Liz for board games! This is organized by the joint liaison committee that coordinates activities with us and the Unitarian congregation.

Some favourite games include *Qwirkle*, *Blokus*, *The Mind*, *CodeNames*, and *Azul*. Greg and Liz will bring these and more, but feel free to bring your own favourite, as long as it can be played by 4 or more people, is easy to learn, and can be completed in 30-45 minutes! If you have questions email Liz at [egoodger@gmail.com](mailto:egoodger@gmail.com) .



## Bruce Curtis speaks to Men's Breakfast next Sat Mar 21

At our next Men's Breakfast on Saturday, March 21, Dr. Bruce Curtis will be our guest speaker. Bruce is a member of Comox United Church and is very active in our church and in the valley community. He has been deeply involved in the Comox Valley Community Justice Centre, valley choirs and the Affirm Committee of Comox United Church. Bruce will speak on restorative justice with particular reference to Benjamin Perrin's book "Indictment: The Criminal Justice System on Trial" in which the author suggests that the Canadian Criminal Justice System should be repealed and replaced with an Indigenous based system of Restorative Justice. Come and enjoy Bruce and the gathering of men at this breakfast! Sat March 21 at 9 am.

Please let Scott Agur (agur@shaw.ca) know by **Wednesday, March 18** if you are planning to attend — he orders the food based on RSVPs. Scott will need a few men at 8:15 am to complete set ups and a few men to clean up following the breakfast. Please let him know if you can assist.

### 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)

## 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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## Holy Week Services

The week before Easter, known as Holy Week (March 29–April 5 this year), represents some of the holiest times in the Christian year, and there will be several special services hosted by various churches.

### Sun March 29: Palm/Passion Sunday

Comox United, 10<sup>00</sup> a.m.

### Thu April 2: Maundy Thursday (The Last Supper)

St. Peter's Anglican (Comox)

Soup Supper at 5 pm, Worship service at 6 pm



### Fri April 3: Good Friday

Comox Valley Presbyterian Church (Comox), 10<sup>30</sup> a.m.

### Fri April 4: Holy Saturday

St. George's United (Courtenay), 6<sup>30</sup> p.m.

Great Vigil of Easter: Worship, Baptisms, and Holy Communion



### Sun Apr 5: Easter Sunday

6<sup>40</sup> am Sunrise Service and Fish Fry at Goose Spit

10<sup>00</sup> am Easter Celebration at Comox United

## Maundy Thursday Soup Supper at St. Peter's on April 2 RSVP to Lorna if you want to attend, and if you can bring soup

Many of the special services during Holy Week are “shared” services that move from church to church each year. This year, St. Peter's Anglican (Comox) is hosting the Maundy Thursday Soup Supper. This will be followed by a short Maundy Thursday service. As part of the service, there will be an opportunity for foot washing, if you choose to participate, as well as Communion. (Communion is “open table” — that is, you don't need to be Anglican to partake.)

***Please RSVP Lorna in the church office by next Sunday, March 22 if you wish to attend, and if you wish to contribute soup for the supper.***

## The 444 Project

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

### **Save the Date! 444 Project Potluck Dinner Sunday April 19!**

We're known for it! United Church members are really good at making fabulous potluck dishes, ensuring everyone eats delicious food at our potluck events. Project 444 will be wrapping up at the end of April so what better way to bid it farewell than coming together for a celebratory dinner. On **Sunday April 19**, bring a dish of your choosing and a donation towards the 444 Project. Everything will be set up, you just need to arrive at 4:45 and add your dish to the appropriate section (appetizers, salads, mains, side dishes and desserts). Tea, coffee and water will be provided but you are welcome to bring your own beverages.

Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

— Matthew 18:20

The *Grapevine* editor, Alan Brown, will be out of town for a few weeks. In his absence, Office Administrator Lorna will be putting together the newsletter. You can send articles to Lorna at [admin@comoxunitedchurch.com](mailto:admin@comoxunitedchurch.com). Please help Lorna by respecting the publication deadline of Thursday at 12 noon.

### United Church Women (UCW)

#### Are you spring cleaning?

The morning of Saturday May 2 is the date for the next UCW bazaar at the church. If you are cleaning out cupboards and have small items you wish to donate, please set them aside for us. (The item drop off will be Friday May 1 between 1-3). Used books, puzzles, glassware, jewelry, accessories and decorative pieces, are some of the items we would love to receive. We also appreciate donations of preserves, homemade candy and baking of all types. (Please no DVDs, clothing, or large items. ) Thank you for your support!

### Come & Go Tea for Ruth & Robin on Sat April 18th

Robin and Ruth Giles are celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary in April, and invite you to a Come & Go tea at d'Esterre Seniors Centre in Comox on **Saturday April 18th, 2-4 pm**. No cards or gifts, your presence is your gift.

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## ***A Note from Gloria & Les Herauf***

*A generous gift of dinner for two to LOCALS restaurant was left on the piano after the Beach Street Show in February, and we do not know who gave us this thoughtful gift. It was unsigned. Can whoever did this, please let us know. We want to know who the angel is before we use it. PLEASE!!*

— Gloria & Les

## **Reconciliation Journey: The People of the K'omoks Nation**

On Thu April 23 at 7 pm, join us at the Sid Williams Theatre for "The Story of the K'ómoks: Cultural Topography of Traditional Indigenous Land Use at Pentlatch" presented by K'ómoks First Nation archaeologist Dr. Jesse Morin and K'ómoks First Nation Culture Manager Pamela Mitchell.

This presentation provides an excellent foundation of understanding about the long-standing presence of Indigenous people in the Comox Valley, exploring how K'ómoks culture is a blend of Kwakwa and Salish culture and shares powerful examples of reconciliation and cultural resilience here in our community.

You can get your free tickets at [www.sidwilliamstheatre.com/events/reconciliation-journey-community-learning-series-the-people-of-the-komoks-nation/](http://www.sidwilliamstheatre.com/events/reconciliation-journey-community-learning-series-the-people-of-the-komoks-nation/)

## **P.E.O. clothing sale May 2, room 101, 9:00 – 12:00**

On Saturday, May 2 from 9 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 .

## **Collection of used eyeglass**

Dr. Limber at Eyes on the Harbour will accept donations of used eye glasses on behalf of the Rotary Club. You will find a basket in the church foyer. Please, **NO sunglasses or eyeglass cases** — if you donated either of these, you will find them in the basket in the foyer.

# The S.A.G.E. Page

## Sustainability Action Group for the Environment

### Highlights from SAGE's Feb 28 Recycling Day

#### Organics recycling program:

- Home compost bins do not require a liner, but if using one, use a paper bag, newspaper or a "Bag to Earth" (available at Canadian Tire). *DO NOT USE ANY PLASTIC BAGS – EVEN IF THEY SAY THEY ARE COMPOSTABLE*. No plastic bags are compostable in Comox Valley facility and mess up the machinery (they have to be hand-picked out at the organics landfill).
- Any plastic food container that say they are compostable (like from a restaurant) are NOT compostable here. Put them in appropriate recycling. Ideally take your own Tupperware- type containers to a restaurant for take-home items (keep some in your car!).
- Pizza boxes, paper towels, paper napkins and paper plates can go in.
- Liquid grease cannot go in. Coffee cups cannot go in (but they can go in paper recycling).

#### Of Interest:

- Unusable textiles (Fully worn clothing etc) can be taken to the Salvation Army on Ryan Road or Too Good to be Threw (they need to be labelled RAGS and placed in a plastic bag). These are sent for re-use in making products (dog beds, sound panels etc).
- *All* of the products that go to our recycling program (including soft plastic) ARE REUSED! Soft plastics *must be taken into a depot* – they cannot go in the recycling multi-item green bins.
- If you are unsure whether something should go into recycling or become garbage – either ask at one of the recycling depots or throw it out. Contamination of recycled materials is serious business and can damage machinery or render a larger load of recyclables unusable.

There are pamphlets available on the SAGE board for organics and recycling to provide help with sorting.

**Ocean Legacy** [oceanlegacy.ca/](http://oceanlegacy.ca/) - recovers marine based plastics and creates products with them making plastics as part of a circular economy and protecting our marine ecosystem.

**Solid waste and Recycling resources/updates:** [engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp](http://engagecomoxvalley.ca/swmp)

**Comox Strathcona Waste Management videos:** [www.youtube.com/@cswm](http://www.youtube.com/@cswm)

## Coming Events at a glance

### This Week...

**TODAY** 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Centering Prayer  
 7<sup>00</sup> p.m. Board Game Night

**Sat** 7<sup>00</sup> p.m. PIE Day Move Night

**Sun** 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Affirm Sunday  
 1<sup>30</sup> pm Glacier View service

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

**Tue** 10<sup>00</sup> a.m. Coffee & Conversation (Comox Golf Club)

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

**Thu** 6<sup>30</sup> p.m. Choir

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

**Sat** 9<sup>00</sup> a.m. Men's Breakfast

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

### Coming Soon...

**Mar 23** Knitters

**Mar 24** Coffee & Conversation

**Mar 25** Queer Bible Study

**Mar 26** Walk the Labyrinth

**Mar 27** Centering Prayer  
 Art Therapy Fun Event

**Mar 29** Worship: Palm/Passion Sunday



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.)