



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Grapevine



Friday, May 22, 2026

This Sunday: **Pentecost**

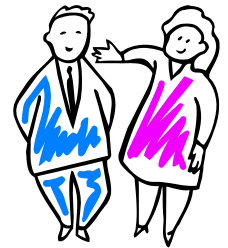


In the book of Acts, we read that fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus, the Holy Spirit came upon the followers of Jesus like a living flame. This day, which marked the beginning of the Christian church, became known as **Pentecost**—*pentekoste* is Greek for “fiftieth” — and is the last day of the Easter season.

Each year at Comox United we commemorate Pentecost by wearing **yellow, red and orange**. So dig around in the clothes closet and find something bright to wear!

Welcoming new members this Sunday

On the first Pentecost, the new Christian community welcomed many new members. This Sunday, we will be welcoming four people into our community of faith: **Ron Burr, Virginia East, Peter van Kessel** and **Johannes van Kessel-Crozier**. All of them have provided a brief biographical sketch so that you know something about them. You can find those bios on page 3.



Walking Group will see displays of lupines this Sunday



The Walking Group, which meets monthly for a one-hour walk, is heading out **this Sunday afternoon at 2pm** along a newly created trail by Lazo Road. They'll leave from the parking lot off Brent Road, and walk by Lazo Marsh to the new trail which begins at Guthrie Road. There is a great display of lupines along the trail. It'll be fairly flat walking with a well graded surface. All are welcome and feel free to bring your friends and / or your dog!

How to get there: From Point Holmes follow Lazo Rd to Brent Rd. Turn right and the parking lot will be on your left. From Comox follow Lazo Rd to Brent Rd. Turn Left and the parking lot will be on your left.

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Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Gloria Herauf**

Greeters: **Evy Gillespie**
Julie Whitman

PowerPoint: **Barb Page**

Coffee: **Ray & Margaret Morin**

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](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.



*Crest of
Affirm United*

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



A new Website Tip every week!

To watch the two TED talks presented in the past by SAGE, go to our website, click on **Ministries**, click on **.SAGE (Sustainability Action Group for the Environment)**. From the left hand menu, click on **TED Talks**, then click on one of the two options. Enjoy!

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

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

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New members

Our four new members have each provided a brief biographical sketch:

Ron Burr

I've been coming to Comox United for the past few years after the passing of my wife. I enjoy Karen's sermons, and that all are welcome, no matter where we are on this journey in life. We should care for all humans and the environment on which we live.

Virginia East

I was born and raised in the United Church. I am passionate about First Third Ministry, camping ministry, and environmental stewardship. Camping ministry brought me to British Columbia, where I have worked with Camp Spirit and summer camps on Vancouver Island. I have served as a Presbytery and Conference representative in the former Northern Waters Presbytery and Toronto Conference, now the Shining Waters Regional Council. In Pacific Mountain Regional Council I have served three times as an AGM representative. Outside church, I enjoy curling, winter sports, exploring local beaches, and being active in the community. I look forward to making Comox United Church my new church.

Peter van Kessel

I grew up in the Dutch Roman Catholic church. In the 80's I joined a Catholic parish where 2nd Vatican 2 was lived out in a robust and inclusive way. We had women priests, the male priests moved out the traditional church house to an apartment and dressed in regular clothes like jeans. We acknowledged same sex marriages, also having gay priests, as part of our church community. The Sunday service was led by all parishioners, it was a very flourishing and happy community with 2500 members (400 children and teenagers included). Pope John Paul II brought an end to all of this.

Being in Comox United is like feeling at home, all the values I believe in are lived out here. I don't need to fight for it. In the Netherlands over the years I've been very active with the World Council of Churches, and inter-church peace groups, and I have been active for 20 years with the Taizé community — it made my horizon grow. Coming to Canada in 1996 I followed Henry Nouwen (I met him in Taizé) and became a member and worked at L'Arche first in Vancouver 6 years and then here in the Valley for 16 years. I'm now retired but I still do volunteer work with the poverty reduction platform, health network and regional district. I have a wife Angela, a son Johannes and our daughter Thia. I'm engaged to bring my lived experience to Comox United Church and be helpful wherever I can.

Johannes van Kessel-Crozier

I have grown up in church community and church is important and meaningful to me. I am a part of various leadership roles throughout the United Church, I currently serve on the Pacific Mountain Regional Executive Council, and am the Chair of the Business Committee for the PMRC annual general meeting. Some of my previous experiences includes working as Youth Leadership Animator for the General Council Office, member of the Business committee for the 45th General Council, Chair of the Comox Valley Centennial Celebration, member of PMRC Youth Council, Pianist and Organist at Weird Church, and organizer for Re:Unite, a young adult retreat on Vancouver Island. I intend to enter seminary and pursue ministry in the United Church of Canada.

United Church Women (UCW)

Women's Luncheon to Benefit Stepping Stones Recovery House

Monday June 8th, noon to 2 p.m. in main church hall

All congregation women and those who identify as female, are invited to come to our annual Spring Women's Luncheon hosted by the UCW (United Church Women) on Monday June 8th from 12 to 2 p.m.

The lunch is free but you are encouraged to bring a potluck dish to share as well as either a financial donation or items from the list below that will be given to our chosen charity "Stepping Sones Recovery House" which is a residential recovery program located in the Comox Valley whose purpose is to offer a safe, secure, and supportive environment for women seeking to recover from addiction.

Items the program needs are:

Hairbrushes	Nail files	Regular tampons	Super tampons
Body lotion	Deodorant	Face cream	Toothbrushes
Nail clippers	Q-Tip's		

(The program does not need: Shampoo, Conditioner or Sanitary pads)

In addition to the always delicious lunch, there will be games, entertainment, a prize draw and time to visit and meet new people.

Come join the fun! Female friends and neighbours are welcome!

National Church News

UCC calls for Guaranteed Livable Income

Across the country, people are struggling to afford basic necessities. That's why the United Church of Canada is calling on the federal government to create a Guaranteed Livable Income program.

It's easy to contact the Senate Committee that is reviewing Bill S-206 for the creation of a Guaranteed Livable Income program with just a few clicks. **Add your voice today at**

united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/create-guaranteed-livable-income-program

WANTED

CARING HEARTS FOR PASTORAL CARE

- Do you enjoy talking with people and hearing their stories?
- Could you bring comfort to someone in need?
- Do you have a desire to connect with members of our congregation who may be facing loneliness, isolation, grief, or anxiety over a medical issue?

If you possess compassionate listening skills and emotional maturity, Comox United's Pastoral Care Committee welcomes you to join us.

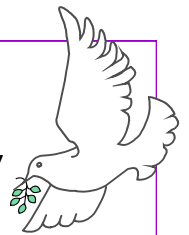
REWARDS

- fulfillment of a sense of purpose
- skills development
- spiritual growth
- building community

Please contact **Noreen Robertson** at noreenr1944@gmail.com
or **Carol Jennerman** at kcjmann@shaw.ca

Memorial Service...

The memorial service for **Reta Walls** will be next Saturday, May 30 at 11am at the Comox Valley Funeral Home. Her obituary was published in the *Comox Valley Record* this week — you can find it at comoxvalleyrecord.com/2026/05/19/reta-m-walls-ne-eastman/



Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

TODAY 10⁰⁰ a.m. Contemplative Service

Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Worship: **Pentecost**
2⁰⁰ p.m. Walking Group

Mon 1³⁰ p.m. Knitting Group

Tues 10⁰⁰ a.m. Coffee & Conversation

Wed 10⁰⁰ a.m. Queer Bible Study

Thu 6³⁰ p.m. Choir

Sun 10⁰⁰ a.m. Worship

Coming Soon...

June 1 Knitting Group

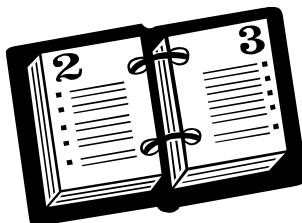
June 2 Coffee & Conversation

June 3 Queer Bible Study

June 4 Choir

June 5 Centering Prayer

June 7 Worship



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.)