



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Grapevine

Friday, August 21, 2026

This Sunday: 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Student minister Barbara Nienaber starts September 8



Student minister Barbara Nienaber will be spending some time with us this fall. We asked Barbara for a bit of a bio, and she was happy to send us this:

Hi, everyone. My name is Barbara Nienaber, and I am studying to become a minister at Vancouver School of Theology. As part of my Master of Divinity studies and training, I am very pleased to be working with your community of faith from September to November and also from January to April.

I am a lifelong member of the United Church. My first career was in public libraries in the lower mainland, having a great time doing just about everything one can do without becoming part of administration. When I retired in 2020, my husband Fred and I moved from Maple Ridge to Parksville, partly to be closer to our granddaughter (and her parents) who live on Gabriola Island. The other reason is that we love Vancouver Island. Fred and I are active in the Knox United congregation in Parksville.

Three Things About Barbara

1. Her alter ego is a Christmas elf called Megnog.
2. She has both a hearing impairment and a creative imagination, which leads to some interesting conversational interpretations.
3. She respectfully prefers to be called **Barbara** instead of Barb. (She tends not to hear (see item 2) Babs and Barbie.)

We are looking forward to Barbara's time with us, which begins the day after Labour Day.

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Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Marni Fisher**

Greeters: **Karen Spencer**
Jane Wilson

PowerPoint: **Joyce Relyea**

Coffee: **Rod and Tanya**
Montague

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!

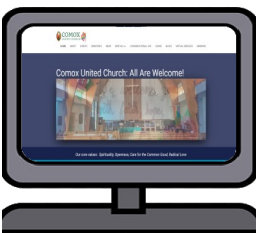
If you are new to Comox United Church, we welcome you as God welcomes us all.

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.

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



*Crest of
Affirm United*



A new Website Tip every week!

Have you ever wondered exactly what parts of our church are rented out to community groups? To read all about this, go to our website, click on **Rentals**. Browse!

Never forget, this is your website! Send comments to **Joyce Wagland:**

websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com or 250-207-5650

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Walking Group this Sunday at 2 pm Exploring Puntledge River Recreation Trails

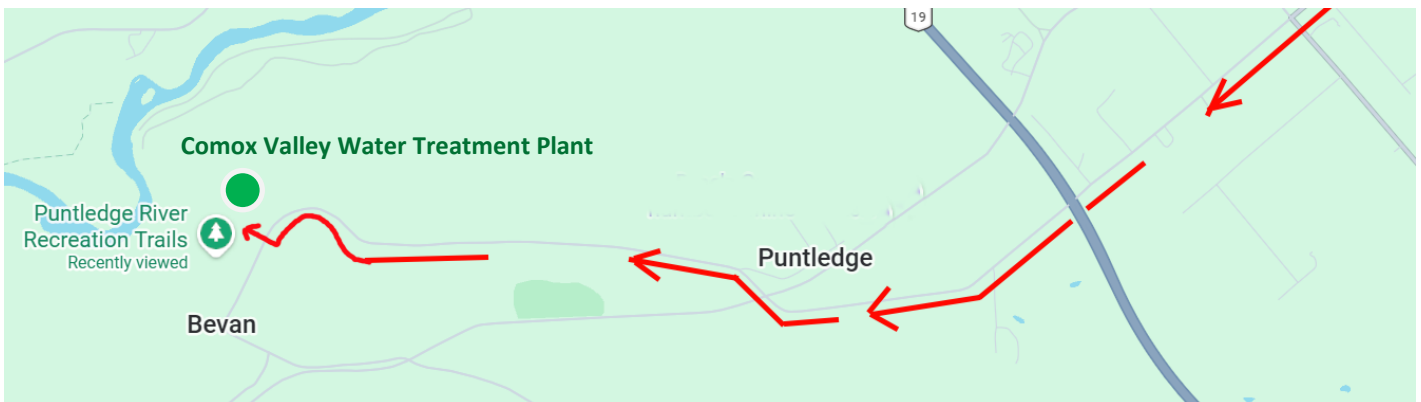
Who is up for a walk this Sunday? The Walking Group, which meets monthly, is heading out **this Sunday afternoon at 2pm**. They are going to follow some trails along the Puntledge River that are on the opposite side of the river from Nymph Falls Nature Park. The trails are well maintained and are mostly shaded.

Google maps says that it will take 17 minutes to get to the trailhead from the church, so give yourself enough time to arrive by 2 pm. As usual, they will walk for about an hour.

Directions to the trailhead:

1. In Courtenay, go to **Lake Trail Rd.** (which starts at Willemar Ave.)
2. On Lake Trail Rd, drive out of Courtenay towards the mountains, which will take you under the Inland Highway.
3. Keep going on Lake Trail Rd. for another kilometre. When you get to a stop sign, continue straight through.
4. Follow Lake Trail Rd. for a bit more than 2 kilometres to the **Comox Valley Water Treatment Plant**.
5. Turn right into the plant, then left, and drive up a small hill to the large trailhead parking lot.

Bring along friends or dogs or both!



Follow Lake Trail Rd out of Courtenay and under the Inland Highway to Comox Valley Water Treatment Plant.

Turn right into water treatment plant, then left and up small hill into recreational trail parking lot.

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It's back! Men's Breakfast on Saturday Sept 19 at 9 am

Special guest speaker Dale Erhart

After a brief summer hiatus, Men's Breakfast returns on Saturday, September 19 at 9 am. The guest speaker will be **Dale Erhart**, an active member of our congregation who served as a pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force, was a commercial airline pilot and flew privately in the Mediterranean. He is also an actor in our very own "Beach Street Players"!

Dale will regale us with tales about the explorer Ernest Shackleton and "Antarctic Rescues in Aviation."

Please let Scott Agur know by Wednesday, September 16 if you plan to attend. (250-871-2027 or agur@shaw.ca)

Pride Parade and Pride in the Park on Saturday Aug 29

Volunteers needed to walk in parade and man our booth in the park

Comox Valley Pride Day is fast approaching. Like last year, on **Saturday, August 29** it will start with a parade down 5th Ave in Courtenay, and end with "Pride in the Park" in Lewis Park!

We plan to have a presence in the Parade again, and an info/welcoming tent in Lewis Park. For both of those things to happen, we need your help.

- Everyone is welcome to join Comox United **in the Parade**. We'll meet at 10:30am at Harmston Park (6th St and Harmston Ave.) The parade down 5th street will begin around 11:30am, and walk from Harmston Ave down 5th St., across the bridge and into Lewis Park.
- "Pride in the Park" will run from 12:30 – 3:30 pm. There are three timeslots for volunteers:
 - 11 am – 1 pm: Set up tent and be welcoming
 - 1 pm – 3 pm: Be welcoming. Hand out bags of Skittles!
 - 3 pm – 4:30 pm: Be welcoming. Then strike the tent.
- We also need someone to make up packets of Skittles! (You may have to sample some, strictly for Quality Assurance purposes, of course.)

If you can help man the welcoming tent, or if you could package Skittles, please contact Bruce Curtis (bwcurtis@shaw.ca)

Concerts at Comox United

This Thursday, August 27, 7 pm

Sarah Hagen, piano

"Of Water I Sing!"

Jeux d'Eau (Ravel), *Reflections in the Water* (Debussy), Chopin, Liszt & more.

(Tickets: sarahahagen.com)



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Regional Church News

Thank you, Naramata Centre

Naramata Centre, which will celebrate its 80th birthday next year, is a well-known retreat space that normally features children's programming, potlucks, worship and Music Week.



Naramata Centre

Amid a difficult few weeks of wildfires that have destroyed homes and impacted communities across our region, we want to pause and say thank you to Naramata Centre for showing us what it looks like to love your neighbour.

As wildfires have forced people from their homes across the Okanagan, Naramata Centre made a remarkable choice to cancel all planned summer programming and accommodations and instead open their rooms to people who had nowhere else to sleep. They have welcomed evacuee families, even in the middle of the night, created free programming for children and youth, and opened a food pantry for evacuated households in the area.

Loving our neighbour is not always an abstract idea. Sometimes it looks like opening a spare room. Sometimes it looks like making breakfast for a family who has lost their home. Sometimes it looks like giving children a place to laugh and play while their parents have a moment to breathe. And sometimes it means giving up something we had planned so that someone else can have what they need.

Naramata Centre has been a place of hospitality, community, spiritual life and connection for generations. This summer, they are living that purpose in a particularly profound way.

And this response comes with a real cost. Cancelling weeks of programming and welcoming evacuees means a significant financial impact for the Centre at a time when its long-term sustainability already matters. If you are able, we encourage you to support Naramata Centre and their wildfire response by making a donation at

www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/148515

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Centering Prayer next Friday morning at 10 am

Centering Prayer will be offered next **Friday August 28 at 10 am** in Room 101 on the church's lower level. **Rev. Karen** will offer some history, gentle instruction, and will hold the space for us. All are welcome and no experience necessary. Centering Prayer will continue to be offered on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 10 am.



Learn Scottish country dancing on Wed Sept 9 at 2 pm

Heather Flint recently contacted us to say:

In both of our recent church retreats, there was a lot of enthusiasm and laughter when I offered to teach a bit of Scottish country dancing to the group. Unfortunately the stage was not conducive to the numbers and it all ended in glorious confusion.

I propose to remedy this by offering, under the banner of Comox United University, an afternoon class, Wednesday, September at 2:00 pm.

We will meet in the main hall for about an hour and a bit. I hope to have a few of my regular dancers come to support your efforts.

If you can walk and count to 8, you can do this. It's fun, it's social and it's good exercise. \$5 a person. A minimum of six people will make it possible. Please contact me (celtic-heron@telus.net) to register.

Municipal All-Candidates' Debate this fall: Looking for 3-4 Task Force members to organize the event

For the upcoming municipal elections this fall, our Church Council would again like to present an All Candidates Forum sometime between Sept 15 and Oct 15 as a service to the people of Comox. To this end, we are seeking three or four people to form a task force to set up the forum.

Their responsibilities will be to:

- Plan the evening
- Invite candidates and inform them of the ground rules of the event
- Contact local media and invite them to cover the event
- Arrange for hosts for the event, and arrange for a forum moderator.

Comox United has hosted candidates' forums in the past, so we do have resources available. And our tech team will handle the livestreaming and audio setup.

If you are interested, please contact **Council Chair Joanne Wiens** (hojo29@shaw.ca) or **Ken Newman** (kennewman@shaw.ca) either directly or through the church office.

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Garden Retreat on summer Tuesdays and Wednesdays



Rod and Tanya Montague would like to make their garden available as a place to enjoy nature. It can be a place for reading/contemplation/resting or a place to meet with friends (especially for those with no garden of their own).

Times when garden visits can be booked are:

- Tuesdays: 2:30-5:00pm for reading/resting (2 people max.)
- Wednesdays: 2:30-5:00pm for meeting with friends (4 people max.)

Light refreshments will be available.

To book a time, please contact Rod and Tanya at **rodmontague53@gmail.com**

Their address is 1625A 1 st Street, Courtenay.

Award-winning journalism at your fingertips

Contact magazine directly and get two bonus issues!

Broadview is the United Church's monthly magazine about spirituality, justice and ethical living. This spring, *Broadview* received dozens of awards from both Christian and secular publishing organizations.

The Canadian Christian Communicators Association and the Associated Church Press each named *Broadview* the top magazine in their networks. It was also recognized by the National Magazine Awards, the Digital Publishing Awards, and others.

Broadview

The accolades represent an appreciation for excellence in journalism that wrestles with hard questions, holds space for faith and keeps justice at the centre.

Subscribe directly with magazine

This year we are suggesting the best way for you to subscribe is to contact the magazine directly. This will give you two bonus issues! To subscribe, go to

subscribe.broadview.org/BDV/?f=intro2bonus&s=l2510MAIN

The cost for one year (6 issues + 2 bonus issues) is \$36.95

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Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

Sun 10 a.m. Worship
2 p.m. Walking Group

Mon 1³⁰ p.m. Knitting Group (outside)

Tues 10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation (Comox Golf Club)

Wed 10 a.m. Queer Bible Study

Fri 10 a.m. Centering Prayer

Sun 10 a.m. Worship

Coming Soon...

Aug 31 Knitting Group (outside)

Sep 1 Coffee & Conversation

Sep 2 Queer Bible Study

Sep 3 Choir

Sep 6 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.)