



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Grapevine



Friday, September 4, 2026

This Sunday: 16th Sunday after Pentecost



The church office will be closed this Tuesday.

This Sunday, we welcome back **Rev. Phil Spencer**, who will be leading us in worship. Phil was part of an interim ministry leadership team here at Comox United in 2020.

We usually celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of the month, but this month it will be moved back one week to September 13.



Glacier View service moves to Sunday Sept. 13 this month

We usually hold services at Glacier View on the third Sunday of the month. However, Glacier View is holding a fundraising walk on the third Sunday, so we are moving our service up one week to Sunday, September 13 at 1³⁰ 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:kjmann@shaw.ca).

Centering Prayer next Friday morning at 10 am

Centering Prayer will be offered next **Friday September 11 at 10 am** 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 happens on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 10 am.

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Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Phil Spencer**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Marni Fisher**

Greeters: **Karen Spencer**
Sue Fabrizio

PowerPoint: **Arlene Bell**

Coffee: **Steve Thiessen**
Vange Thiessen

Livestream/Audio: **Dale Erhart**
Julie Whiteman

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.

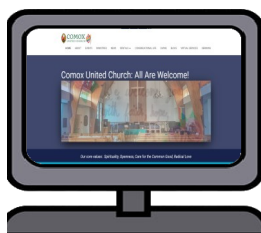


*Crest of
Affirm United*

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

A new Website Tip every week!

Last year, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the creation of the United Church of Canada. A church in Vancouver made ten videos commemorating ten decades of history of the United Church. To access those videos, go to our website, click on **News**, scroll down and click on **Page 3**, scroll down to **Commemorating 100 Years—Part 1**. To access the rest of the videos, scroll up and click on each video. Enjoy!



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

websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com or 250-207-5650

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News & Notes from Rev. Karen

Monthly “Prayer for Peace” on 4th Wed of each month

With so much in flux in the world and within us, all are invited to gather and pray for peace: peace in the world, peace in families, peace within. Gather to light candles, sing, and pray together. Join us in the sanctuary on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. starting Wednesday, September 23.

Supporting the Queneesh Trailer Park Community

The Queneesh Trailer Park is a community of manufactured homes that was built on Komox First Nation land over fifty years ago. You may have heard the news that the residents have been given 2 years to vacate the property, which will be used by Komox First Nation for much-needed housing and services.

We have been approached by an advocate for the community to consider walking alongside them as they navigate this very difficult situation. The residents are looking for friendship, listening, shared meals or community gatherings, neighbourly care, and pastoral or spiritual support where it is welcomed.

The church council supports our congregation coming alongside these neighbours of ours and is looking for someone to connect with the advocate for Queneesh and begin to build relationships. If this ministry interests you, please contact me.

Organizers needed for Worship and Pastoral Care Committees

The roles of Worship chair and Pastoral Care chair are currently vacant, and our church leadership is thinking about how to fill those roles in a sustainable way.

We're looking for people who would like to co-chair one of these two committees to not only lighten the load, but to encourage people to work together and have each other's backs. These committees both have great teams of people who show up and care about their ministry. They just need a couple of people to help keep things organized. If you think you can help out this year, please contact me.

Blessings,

Karen

Student minister Barbara Nienaber starts next week



Student minister Barbara Nienaber will be spending some time with us starting next week. 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.)

Barbara will lead new weekly “Yucky Bits” Bible study Starts Thursday, Sept 17 at 10 am

Our student minister Barbara will be leading a weekly “Yucky Bits Bible Study” that will focus on the difficult parts of scripture, the ones that can be hard to understand (which could be all of them!) and that might even make us cringe! When exploring these challenging passages and making them relevant for the 21st century, we will use tools already in our toolbox and add some new ones.

This will be happening on Thursday mornings at 10 am in Room 207, and will run from September 17 to October 29.

This is a drop-in program — but Barbara would appreciate knowing who is interested. Email her at barbara@comoxunitedchurch.com

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)

Learn Scottish country dancing this Wed Sept 9 at 1:30

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.

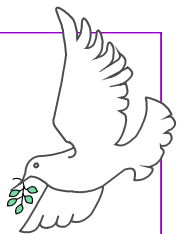
If you can walk and count to 8, you can do this. It's fun, it's social and it's good exercise. \$5 a person. A minimum of six people will make it possible. Please contact me (celtic-heron@telus.net) to register.

Office's Concert binder is missing

We've put out an APB on our white Concert Binder, which has gone missing from the office. If you've borrowed this, please return it to the office ASAP. Thanks!

Memorial Service...

The memorial service for **Alex Robertson** will be on Saturday, October 3. More details will follow.



Join the CxU Library Reading Circle

First theme to be discussed will be Indigenous/First Nations

We're starting the CxU Library Reading Circle, a book/discussion group! The first Book Circle will be **Wednesday, October 7 at 1:30 pm** in Rm 101 (formerly L1), and the theme will be Indigenous/ First Nations.

In the time between now and then, select any type of book in which you'd like to explore this theme (history, fiction, memoir...) You can find books on this theme in our CxU Library, or you could select books from your own book shelves, or the community library as well. If you have trouble finding something you like, Elaine Stewart is willing to loan out her books as well.

Then on October 7 at 1:30 pm, we'll share what we learned and enjoyed in our reading. At the conclusion of each discussion we will select the theme for the next circle.

Please email Elaine at elainestewartnwt@gmail.com if you would like to join the Reading Circle or if you have any questions.



Thank you to rhodo pruners

In the fall of 2011, the North Island Rhododendron Society, which meets monthly at our church, offered to plan, donate and plant a number of rhododendrons in front of the church.

With funding from the CxU Men's Group, Doug Hoon built the wooden garden beds, and Alice Potts donated the watering system. Margaret Griffith-Cochrane helped coordinate this collaborative project.

In case anyone asks - plants sure grow in our west coast rainforest climate!! Over the past 15 years, the rhodos, the pines, and now huge yews started spreading out onto the walkway, impacting the heat pump and blocking the administration office windows.

We asked the Rhododendron Society to do some pruning, and thanks also to Ross Griffith-Cochrane and Kirk Waugh for their "logging" this past week, when they filled a large utility trailer with the greenery from these former little shrubs.

A fine-tuning of the rhodos will happen next year after they bloom.



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Church Council News

More chairs and chair trolleys

As part of the Council update to the Congregation on August 23, Council Chair Joanne Wiens mentioned that on August 19 Council approved the purchase of 48 additional folding chairs and 3 new chair trolleys for the Hall. This project was completed this week, within budget, by Dale and Laurel Erhart, and with the help of Dave Talbot. They refurbished the old carts and tidied up the chair room. This is a wonderful advantage to all of the groups using the Hall, including our congregation. A huge Thank You to Dale, Laurel and Dave for such quick work.



Repairs by Dale



The finished products

Social Singles meets next Friday September 11!

The Social Singles group, which meets monthly for conversation over a meal, will meet next Friday, September 11 at 5pm for their final summertime dinner down at Comox Marina. You can either bring a packed dinner or use the food trucks.

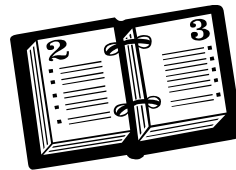
Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

Sun	10 a.m.	Worship led by Rev. Phil Spencer
Mon		Labour Day
Tues		Church office closed
	10 a.m.	Coffee & Conversation (Comox Golf Club)
Wed	10 a.m.	Queer Bible Study
	2 p.m.	Scottish Country Dancing
Thurs	6 ³⁰ p.m.	Choir
Fri	10 a.m.	Centering Prayer
	5 ³⁰ p.m.	Social Singles (Comox Marina)
Sun	10 a.m.	Worship: Communion
	1 ³⁰ p.m.	Glacier View service

Coming Soon...

- Sep 14** Knitters
- Sep 15** Coffee & Conversation
- Sep 16** Queer Bible Study
- Sep 17** "Yucky Bits" Bible Study
Choir
- Sep 19** Men's Breakfast: Dale Erhart
- Sep 20** 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.)