



250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9

250-339-3966

www.comoxunitedchurch.com

Grapevine



Friday, September 25, 2026

This Sunday: Orange Shirt Sunday



The church office will be closed this Wednesday.

Wednesday is National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This Sunday, you are invited to wear an orange shirt to our worship service.



Ministry & Personnel Committee

This Sunday: Help us celebrate Paul Colthorpe's 35-Year Anniversary as Director of Music Ministries!

For three and a half decades, Paul has been the musical heartbeat of our worship, lifting our spirits and directing our voices with his unique style and enthusiasm. Both the choir and the congregation have benefited from his unsurpassed passion.

This **Sunday September 27th**, we will celebrate a monumental milestone in the life of our church as we honour and appreciate Paul Colthorpe's dedication and faithful service to Comox United Church.

We invite everyone to join us in expressing our deepest gratitude for Paul's enduring musical leadership after Sunday service on September 27th in the hall where cake and coffee will be served.

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Sunday Worship

Worship leader: **Rev. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Gloria Herauf**

Greeters: **Sue Fabrizio**
Evy Gillespie

PowerPoint: **Joyce Relyea**

Coffee: **Debra Monk**
Joan Hanson

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

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!



To find out more information about our new student minister Barbara Nienaber, go to our website, click on **About**, click on **Our Staff**, and click on **Barbara Nienaber**. Enjoy!

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

websiteadmin@comoxunitedchurch.com or 250-207-5650

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Rev Karen's Corner

Needed: Area rug

Does anyone have an area rug (8'x10', for example) that is sitting around? Wednesday Prayer for Peace is looking for a rug to make a cozy space for prayer. Please let me know if you can help - thanks!

Blessings,

Karen



Municipal Candidates' Forum this Sunday

This Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m., we are hosting a community forum where candidates for Comox Council will have the opportunity to address questions relating to local government, as well as their priorities for Comox Council.

As in the past, due to time considerations, a committee has consolidated submitted questions. Although there will not be any questions taken from the floor, there will be time to talk with candidates at the end of the evening.

“From Being Bullied to Building Belonging!”

Meet Mark Tewksbury on Thursday, October 8

Olympic champion Mark Tewksbury is coming to the Comox Valley on **Thursday, October 8** to deliver a powerful presentation, “From Being Bullied to Building Belonging!” Mark will address the many barriers faced by Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queer youth age 18 – 25, based on his own experiences as an out gay Olympic hero.

There's a gala dinner at 5:00 p.m. at Native Sons Hall. The presentation itself will be at 7:30 p.m. at Sid Williams Theatre. Tickets for both the gala dinner and the lecture can be purchased through the Sid Williams box office:

- Lecture: \$25 adult / \$15 student + fees and taxes
- Gala dinner: \$140 (includes a \$100 tax receipted donation to Gukwas sa Wagalus)



All proceeds will support Gukwas sa Wagalus (Rainbow House). This evening is an initiative of our Affirm Committee, using a grant from the region's Pro-Vision Fund.

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Walking Group: Riverway this Sunday

The Walking Group, which meets monthly, is heading out **this Sunday afternoon**. Come and join in as they explore the Courtenay Riverway Heritage Walk. They're gathering at the Children's Airpark Playground on Mansfield Drive. The trails are well maintained and mostly flat. They will start at 2 pm and will walk for about an hour. For more information contact

Charlene (charlene.stanway@gmail.com). Feel free to bring your friends and / or leashed dogs!

Administrator vacay coming up

Our able administrator Lorna will be taking some well-earned annual leave October 6–22 to visit her sister in New Brunswick. During her absence, Laurel Walton will be handling the office chores.

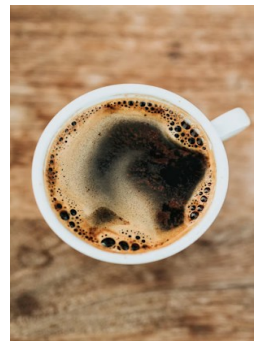
Large print “Voices United” hymn books available

Large print editions of our *Voices United* hymn book are available in the lobby before Sunday worship — just as a greeter for one! They are on the same cart as the new *Then Let Us Sing* hymn books.

Pause-café en français ce dimanche!

Rev. Karen apprend le français. Les 2^e et 4^e dimanches du mois, après le culte, un groupe l'aide en conversant avec elle en français. Si vous souhaitez vous joindre à nous, retrouvez-nous dans la salle 207.

(Rev. Karen is learning French. On the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month after worship, a group is helping her by having French conversation. If you'd like to be part of this, look for us in Room 207.)



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 got this, please return it to the office ASAP. Thanks!

The S.A.G.E. Page

Sustainability Action Group for the Environment

Upcoming Event recommended by S.A.G.E.:

This Sunday: Comox Valley Climate Action Day

This Sunday, September 27, join us for the **Comox Valley Climate Action Day** at River Heights Church (2201 Robert Laing Drive, Courtenay).

Before the event starts, you can take part in a **Green Home Bike Tour** starting at 12:30 pm that goes from Simms Park to River Heights Church. Along the route, you will see local solutions, including a passive house, and a fossil-free home with heat pumps, electric fireplace and induction heating.

The main event starts at River Heights Church at 2:30 pm, where you can join any three action area dialogues based on your interests:

- Healthy electrified homes and renewable energy
- Sustainable and electrified mobility
- Decarbonizing your bank account and investments
- Planet-friendly diets & responsible consumption
- Using your Voice and Your Vote to make a difference.



Space is limited! Click on this QR code to register, or go to climateday.eventbrite.com

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.

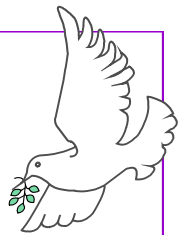
Then on October 7 at 1:30 pm, we'll share what we learned and enjoyed in our reading. At the conclusion of each discussion we will select the theme for the next circle.

Please email Elaine at elainestewartnwt@gmail.com by Friday, September 25 if you would like to join the Reading Circle or if you have any questions.



Memorial Service...

The memorial service for **Alex Robertson** will be on Saturday, October 3 at 11 a.m.



Unitarian Corner

Screening of "Incandescence" on Fri Oct 16 at 1:30 pm

We have a covenant with the Comox Valley Unitarians, and a Joint Liaison Committee works to help both congregations live into that relationship. We have an opportunity next month to share time with each other at a screening and discussion of the recent film *Incandescence* on Friday, October 16 at 1:30 pm.

Wildfires are burning with increasing intensity around the world. Following the rhythms of the seasons, Nova Ami and Velcrow Ripper's *Incandescence* is an immersive cinematic experience, weaving on-the-ground footage with extraordinary stories of survival and adaptation that transform our understanding of wildfire. The film takes shape from the ancient patterns embodied in fire: destruction, aftermath and rebirth. From the flightpath of bees to an osprey's aerial perspective, floating over the landscape: the Earth comes back.

Enjoy tea and refreshments during the discussion!

United Church Women (UCW)

Save the Date & Think of Us!

Saturday November 7th is the date for the next UCW bazaar here at the church from 9-12. If you are cleaning out cupboards and have **small items** you wish to donate, please set them aside for us. **(Item drop off will be the day before, on Friday Nov 6th between 1-3).** Used books, puzzles, glassware, jewelry, accessories & decorative pieces are some of the items we would love to receive. We also appreciate donations of preserves, homemade candy & baking of all types. Please **NO clothing, CDs, DVDs, plants or large items.**

Where does the money raised from our fall and spring bazaars go to? Here are the donations our Comox United UCW have made so far in 2026:

- \$2000 Comox United Church
- \$1000 Mission & Service Fund of the United Church of Canada
- \$500 Canadian Red Cross Venezuela Relief
- \$500 UNICEF Cuban Relief
- \$500 Child Haven Nepal Relief
- \$350 Eureka Support Society Comox Valley
- \$350 Lush Valley
- \$350 Comox Valley Food Bank
- \$300 Doctors Without Borders
- \$300 Healthy Babies Comox Valley Chapter
- \$300 Comox Care Society
- \$300 Child Haven Overseas
- Plus, thanks to the women who attended our Spring Women's Luncheon, several bags of toiletries and some cash donations were provided to Stepping Stones Recovery House.

We look forward to seeing you on Fri Nov 6th for item drop-off and Sat Nov 7th for our Bazaar. You can look forward to finding delicious goodies to eat, previously loved treasures, your next good book, all while listening to live music. When finished shopping you can join your friends for tea, coffee and home baked cookies and muffins. Thank you for your donations and your shopping support!

Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

Sun	10 a.m.	Worship: Orange Shirt Day
	11 a.m.	35th anniversary: Paul Colthorpe Pause-café en français
	7 p.m.	Municipal Candidates' Forum
Mon	1 ³⁰ p.m.	Knitters
Tues	10 a.m.	Coffee & Conversation (Comox Golf Club)
Wed		Church office closed
	10 a.m.	Queer Bible Study
Thurs	10 a.m.	"Yucky Bits" Bible Study
	6 ³⁰ p.m.	Choir
Sat	11 a.m.	Celebration of Life: Alex Robertson
Sun	10 a.m.	World Communion Sunday

Coming Soon...

Oct 5	Knitters
Oct 6	Coffee & Conversation
Oct 7	Queer Bible Study CxU Library Reading Circle
Oct 8	"Yucky Bits" Bible Study Choir Evening with Mark Tewksbury
Oct 9	Centering Prayer
Oct 11	Worship: Thanksgiving

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

Barbara Nienaber, Student Minister: barbara@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.)