250 Beach Dr, Comox BC V9M 1P9
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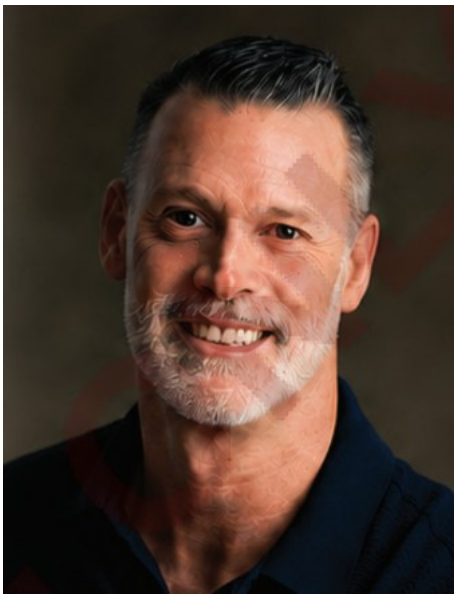
Grapevine

Friday, October 2, 2026

This Sunday: World Communion Sunday

"From Being Bullied to Building Belonging!"

Meet Mark Tewskbury this 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 Pacific Mountain Region's Pro-Vision Fund.

Centering Prayer next Friday morning at 10 am

Centering Prayer will be offered next **Friday October 9 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. Karen Hollis**

Director of Music: **Paul Colthorpe**

Pianist: **Gloria Herauf**

Greeters: **Les Herauf**
Marj Adams

PowerPoint: **Arlene Bell**

Coffee**: Raymond Morin**
Margaret Morin

Livestream/Audio: **Julie W., Dale E.**

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



We are celebrating Communion this Sunday. Our Communion table is open to all. You do not have to be a member of Comox United, or the United Church of Canada, or any church—***everyone*** is welcome at the table. There are several ways we serve Communion, so during the service Rev Karen will indicate which way is being used.

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 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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United church calendar

If you would to order a UC calendar please let the office know by Oct. 16, 2026.

We will be ordering them through the Campbell River UCW.

Cost has yet to be determined.



Lorna on vacation for next three weeks

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 ask a greeter for one! They are on the same cart as the new *Then Let Us Sing* hymn books.



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!

PEO clothing sale on Sat Nov 7, 9–11 am

P.E.O. will host a pay-by-donation Gently Used Women's Clothing Sale on Sat Nov 7 from 9-11 am. 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.

Memorial Service...

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



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 dfay 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!

Healing Hands workshop in Victoria



James Bay United Church in Victoria is offering a "Healing Hands" Phase 1 Workshop this on Friday, Nov 27 and Saturday Nov 28. This is an introduction to the basic concepts of healing hands within the Christian tradition.

For registration and inquiries, please contact Jackie Cox-Ziegler: healingpathway@jamesbayunited.com .

For more information about Healing Pathway go to **www.healingpathway.ca**

Rainbow Gathering on Fri Oct 16 at 7 pm: Screening of "*Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance*"

The next Rainbow Gathering will be a community screening of the powerful and informative documentary *Parade: Queer Acts of Love & Resistance* on Friday, October 16th at 7 pm, at the Bayside Bistro (Cliffe Ave in Courtenay).

This film is a bold and unflinching documentary that charts the rise of Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ rights movement through powerful first-person testimony and rarely seen archival footage. From drag shows and community organizing to police raids and protests on Parliament Hill, the film honours the elders and activists whose defiance helped shape a more inclusive society

Ben Wang of the Bayside Bistro is offering his regular menu for purchase by those needing a little sustenance to strengthen themselves, and something to slake their thirst. The menu includes a number of sushi and maki rolls, several onigiri items, and a variety of combos which includes spring rolls, steam buns, gyoza and dumplings.

The event, sponsored by our Affirm Committee, is free, but please reserve a ticket at

www.eventbrite.ca/e/rainbow-games-film-parade-queer-acts-of-love-resistance-tickets-2002477148055

Do you know someone who would appreciate a prayer shawl?

We have a beautiful selection of prayer shawls waiting to be delivered to some one you might be aware of who is in need of comforting. This could be due to grief, illness, loneliness, anxiety, any number of causes. The ministry is not only for church members but for anybody you know who would appreciate receiving a shawl. Please contact Valetta (250-941-6117) for further information.

First meeting of the CxU Library Book Club this Wed at 1[30]

First theme to be discussed will be Indigenous/First Nations People



This Wednesday at 1:30 will be the first meeting of the CxU Library Book Club. The books we chat about will be connected to Indigenous /First Nations people.

We meet in **Rm 107** on the lower level — come in through the lower entrance in the back parking lot, Room 107 is to the right of the entrance. Feel free to bring a favourite beverage in a travel mug and /or whatever else may help you feel comfortable.

We'll leave time in the discussion time to decide which theme will be selected for the next month.

You need not register to be a part of this group.

If you have questions, please send to Elainestewartnwt@gmail.com. See you Wednesday!

Comox United and the Unitarian Fellowship

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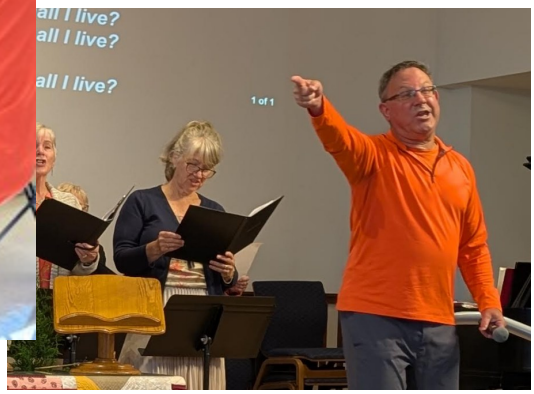
We have a covenant with the Comox Valley Unitarians, and a Joint Liaison Committee works to help both congregations live into that relationship. We have an opportunity next month to share time with each other at a screening and discussion of the recent film *Incadescence* on Friday, October 16 at 1:30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



Paul Colthorpe joined us as Director of Music Ministries in 1991. Last Sunday, the congregation showed their appreciation with a standing ovation, honouring his 35 years of service to this congregation. And afterwards, there was cake!





Last Sunday, we also thanked Marni Fisher for being a pillar of our church community, serving for many years as the Chair of the Worship Committee, as a pianist during services when Gloria Herauf is away, and as a creator of beautiful banners and quilts.



The CxU Walkers enjoyed a sunny Sunday afternoon walking along Courtenay's Riverside Trail.



Coming Events at a glance

This Week...

Sat	11 a.m.	Celebration of Life: Alex Robertson
Sun	10 a.m.	World Communion Sunday
Mon	1[30] p.m.	Knitters
Tues	10 a.m.	Coffee & Conversation (Comox Golf Club)
Wed	10 a.m.	Queer Bible Study
		CxU Library Reading Circle
Thurs	10 a.m.	"Yucky Bits" Bible Study
	5 p.m.	Dinner/Lecture: Mark Tewksbury
Fri	10 a.m.	Centering Prayer
Sun	10 a.m.	Thanksgiving Sunday

Coming Soon...

Oct 12	Thanksgiving
Oct 13	Office closed
	Coffee & Conversation
Oct 14	Queer Bible Study
Oct 15	"Yucky Bits" Bible Study
	Choir
Oct 16	*Incandescence* screening
	Rainbow Gathering: Screening of *Parade*
Oct 17	Men's Breakfast
Oct 18	Worship
	Glacier View service

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
Laurel Walton, Church Admin (temp): 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.)