

SEPTEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER



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Broad View
— UNITED —

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

DEEP LISTENING AND RADICAL HOSPITALITY

As Summer comes to an end and we move into the Fall, we find ourselves reconnecting with familiar patterns of being and relating to one another. The more casual rhythms of the Summer fade away and routines emerge to carry us into the next season. Summer has been a busy time at BVU preparing for emerging programs, staff changes, and a new theme for the coming year.

In June, at our staff retreat, we reflected on the past year and the turmoil and unsettled feelings many are experiencing in our world at the moment. Folks have shared their worries, their hopes, their despair, and their dreams about the state of our world. On top of that, emerging as a worldwide crisis, as identified by W.H.O, is the decline in mental health due to isolation for many in our world. Increasingly, across both the youngest and oldest demographics, is a need for connection and community to combat feelings of despair and loneliness. And so, we decided that one of the ways we could address that is through our theme this year: *"Deep Listening and Radical Hospitality."*

Our faith tradition and stories in scripture are filled with examples and directives on ways we might connect past the perfunctory *"how are you", "I'm fine, thank you"* interactions. And yet, for many, opportunities for deeper relationships and conversations can be difficult to find. The church as a collective of people seeking meaning, purpose, and service is a great resource that is often either unknown, suspicious, or a rejected resource for many. How do we begin to bridge that gap? To become the kind of community where folks can come to be nourished, accepted, listened to, and challenged to be the wholistic people God intends for us all.

Jesus once said, *"I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly."* When he said that, he wasn't talking about monetary abundance but rather a life that was satisfying and meaningful. This doesn't mean life won't have hardship and struggle but rather that we won't feel like we are alone in our journey. Learning to listen deeply to the stories of others, feel like our own stories are heard, making connections to the sacred story as a reflection of our own and knowing that we have companions along the way is all part of what gives abundant life to each of us. And, our way into this, is to practice the radical hospitality that Jesus lived and preached. To open our hearts, minds, and doors to



Rev. Mark Green
Co-Lead Minister

welcome in those who may have different perspectives, life experiences, and ways of being from our own; to find new connecting points and expand our world views. But this will take practice... and perseverance... and patience.

May God be with us this year as we make this exciting and engaging journey. We look forward to exploring with you all.

BVU UPDATES

WORSHIP SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

Starting September 7th, BVU will return to our regular schedule of having 2 services. The Bridge Service at 9:30 AM and the ConXion Service at 11 AM. While both services feature a progressive theology and the same sermon, the format and style of the two services are different. The Bridge Service seeks to blend both traditional and contemporary United Church music and formats. The ConXion Service seeks to connect contemporary culture with religion and spirituality in its music and structure.

Date	Scripture	Sermon Title	Preacher	Other
Sept. 7 th	Exodus 3:1-15	Listening Deeply to the Voice of the Holy	Mark Green	Blessing of Backpacks
Sept. 14 th	Exodus 3:1-15	Standing on Holy Ground	Mark Green	
Sept. 21 st	Exodus 3:1-15	Even Mighty Spines Quiver <i>(Inspired by Wilder S. Simpson's book of the same title, Even Mighty Spines Quiver)</i>	Ha Na Park	
Sept. 28 th	Exodus 3:1-17	Even Quivering Disciples are Mighty	Ha Na Park	Orange Shirt Day
Tue, Sept. 30 th at 10 AM		National Day for Reconciliation Vigil	Ha Na Park	

BVU UPDATES

2025/2026 PROGRAM GUIDE

Watch for our new program guide with courses and activities for all ages and interests. Some programs require registration and some are drop-in. All courses are open to anyone seeking opportunities to grow, connect, learn, and be nurtured in faith. Some courses have limits to the numbers that can participate and occasionally there are costs. However, bursaries are available and cost should never be a barrier to participation. We hope you will check out the new program guide when it becomes available starting September 5th.

STAFFING UPDATES

There are a number of staff changes that happened this Summer and some that are emerging in the Fall and 2026.

- We welcome **Craig Doran** to our caretaker team. You will see him around if you are in the building during the latter part of the week.
- **Lucy O'Brien** discerned over the Summer that BVU wasn't a good fit for them. We wish them all the best in their schooling this Fall.
- **Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon** will be officially retiring from Ministry after 45 years and sliding into her new life as retired. Her final service will be on Sunday, Nov. 23rd. More details on the celebration of her ministry will be forthcoming next month.
- **Rev. Margaret Harper** will also be retiring in the Summer of 2026. While this is a bit further into the future, it is part of the context we will be living into over this next year. We will also provide more details about a date for the celebration of her ministry as well.
- A new **Operations Director** is in the process of being hired and we are hoping this person will start in September.

The Cobs Bread is HERE!

Thanks to the Shelbourne Community Kitchen, we now have delicious and freshly made Cobs bread! Every Friday morning, a dedicated volunteer collects the bread donations. This bread is for EVERYONE, so please help yourself.

A special thank you to our men's group! If you'd like to help out with delivery, please contact Paul Malnarich.



BVU UPDATES

PLACES TO HELP AND GET INVOLVED AT BVU

Are you looking to get involved in serving in some capacity at BVU? There are always new opportunities to serve and volunteer and we have some new needs emerging. Check out the list below and see if volunteering at BVU would add something new and interesting to your life. Let the office know if any of the opportunities below call to you.

Hospitality

There are a number of monthly dinners that we serve to different groups here at BVU, (Trans Dinner, Family Night Dinner, Dinner Church, Young Adults Lunch, Intercultural Social), and having regular helpers make a big difference to the program organizers. If you might be interested in a once a month support role, let us know.

Tech Crew

Occasionally, we have a need for someone to run one mic or a PowerPoint from the back of the church for a smaller and less complicated gathering than regular worship. On those occasions, we are looking to train a few folks who might be able to be on call for an occasional use..

Weekly Friday e-mail *Bits & Bytes*

After signing up, please confirm your subscription by clicking the link in the email sent to your registered address.



FOLLOW US



Playgroup Drop-In

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings we host, in partnership with SNP (Saanich Neighbourhood Place), a drop-in playgroup for children under 5. Helpers are needed to support parents and staff to set-up, clean up, interface with parents and children, and help create a welcoming space.

Garden Care

While we have a company that cuts the grass and trims the bushes, the gardens around the church need love and attention throughout the Spring, Summer, or Fall. Join some of our other volunteers to weed and care for the garden a few hours a week.

Labyrinth Construction

We have a new project emerging for the creation of the labyrinth in the center of the courtyard. If you can operate a box cutter and be on your knees for a bit, we can use your help for this one-time project.

BVU UPDATES

Extreme Weather Emergency Shelter Crew

This winter we will be open as an emergency shelter during extreme cold weather. While staffing will be provided by a contract with OUR PLACE to supervise those accessing our service, volunteers will be needed for some food preparation, serving and providing hospitality. We would likely need to access help about 2-8 times a year.

Thrift Store

Our Thrift Store is primarily run by a very delightful and dedicated crew of volunteers from both the church and the community. Shifts for sorting and tagging are available 6 days a week, and you'll be a part of an amazing group of volunteers.

UNITED COMMONS UPDATE (FORMER FIRST MET SITE)

A presentation by the Pacific Mountain Region for all interested United Church folks about the future of the former First Met site will be held on September 22 from 7 PM to 9 PM. The presentation will focus on future plans for the site and overview of the current usage and a vision for the future.

ORANGE SHIRTS REHOMING DRIVE



As kids head back to school, we begin to think of the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (September 30) and our Orange T-Shirts. Each year, new beautiful designs are made available for purchase, with a portion of the revenue supporting the original artist. You already have a couple these already at home. But with opportunities for new

ones, the older ones can now have an opportunity for a new life of their own. We are inviting you to consider sharing with folks who may not have the ability to purchase a new one, but who sincerely desire to be visually supportive of TRC Day. Led by Shelagh, BVU will be collecting clean, used orange tees and then from mid-September on, they will be available to be "rehomed!"

The Thrift Store and the Reconciliation Team will, of course, continue to see new ones with this year's designs and logos.

BVU UPDATES

REFUGEE TEAM UPDATE

In early August, a solid core group of volunteers from BVU met with members from *Victoria Shows Love* group and forged a partnership to co-sponsor a Syrian family of 4, currently living in a refugee camp in Lebanon, to find a new home in Victoria, safe from violence and persecution they have endured in their lives. Two parents and 2 children, ages 4 and 6, will hopefully arrive in Victoria sometime this Fall. Once we have a firm date for their arrival and an apartment lined up, we will reach out to the congregation with a list of needed items. If you or someone you know is downsizing or dealing with estate items, please keep this project in mind.

BACKPACK BLESSING AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

On Sunday, September 7, we will be blessing backpacks and saddle bags and anything else folks use to return to school and work. We will also be gathering some basic school supplies to be shared with those who need the support of such during this time of the year. These items can be brought on Sunday, the 7th, and we will bless them as well. A box in the Narthex will collect those items.

LEGACY LUNCH INVITATION

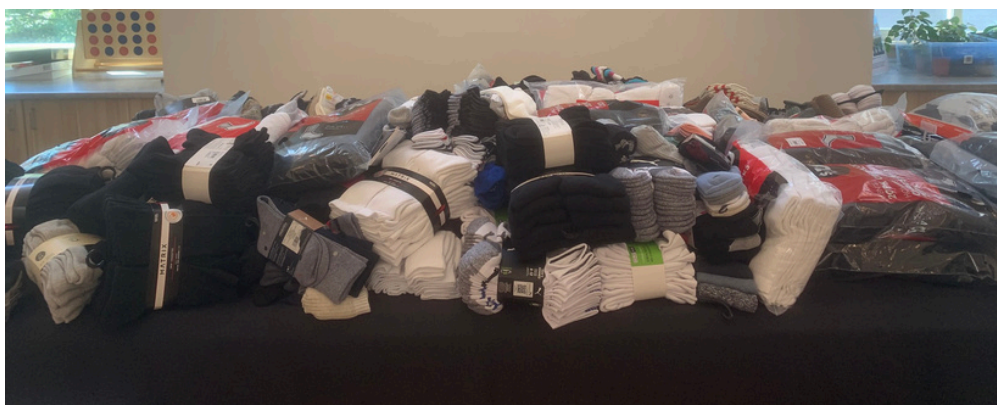
Would you like to become a member of the BVU Legacy Circle? Our BVU Legacy Circle is made up of folks who have included BVU in their estate planning. There are lots of different ways you can do this and it enables you to give to sustain a faith community that has been important to you. If you would like to hear more about how this all works, we would like to invite you to our Legacy Lunch at the beginning of November. Let Paul Malnarich, our treasurer, or Mark Green know that you are interested, and we will add you to the list of invitees.

LABYRINTH UPDATE AND INVITATION TO ASSIST

You may have noticed near the entrance to the Narthex a large courtyard with a circular cement pad on it. In the original redesign of the building, an outdoor painted labyrinth was slated to go in that place. We are now at the point where the stencil for this project has been ordered and we are working to secure a painting company. We are excited to be able to finally install the labyrinth due to a generous memorial gift. However, there will likely be a need for a few volunteers to help cut out the stencil. If you think this is something you could help with, please let the office know.

BVU UPDATES

SOCK DRIVE FOR OUR PLACE



As part of our ongoing relationship with Our Place, Broad View United joined the Oak Bay Sock Challenge this Summer, and the response from our community was inspiring.



Our initial goal was to collect 1,000 pairs of socks to be distributed throughout the year. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we surpassed that goal and collected 1,368 pairs of socks, 37 pairs of underwear, and even one pair of gloves. Seven large bags were delivered to Our Place, filled with warmth and care for those who need it most.

Thank you to everyone who contributed, shared the challenge, or helped in any way. Your kindness will be appreciated and well-used throughout the Fall and into the Winter.

We offer special thanks to Oscar, Janiena, and Linda for their behind-the-scenes efforts, from heavy lifting to graphics to sock-counting. It was, indeed, a holy haul!

This joyful act of giving reminds us of the power of small things done with great love. May our compassion continue to be a source of warmth in our community and beyond.

Shelbourne Community Kitchen has just launched our second annual **Back to School Stock Up Campaign** which will help provide healthy food and nutritious snacks for the 700+ kids in grades K-12, who access our programs and services. Our goal is to raise \$12,000! The campaign runs until September 5th. We are asking our community partners to help us spread the word. Donations are gratefully accepted online through Canada Helps: [Donate Now](#)



BVU UPDATES

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY: GIFTS FOR THE ABORIGINAL COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS SOCIETY

On Thanksgiving Sunday (October 12), BVU has a tradition of collecting Fall/Winter items that are needed by the communities served and empowered by the organizations with whom we are building relationships. During the offering time, these items are shared as an expression of our care.

This year, for Thanksgiving Sunday, we will be sharing our gifts with the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society (ACEHS) (<https://acehsociety.com/>). Since November of last year, ACEHS has regularly used BVU's space to provide land-based teaching workshops such as salmon canning, fruit jamming, and medicine tea making. We hold an intention to deepen our relationship with this important community.

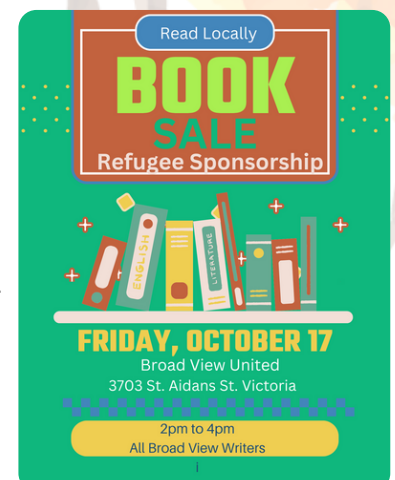
Nikki, the Land-Based Healing Manager of ACEHS, shared that the following items are especially useful as fall approaches. Some are everyday necessities, while others are more special items. All of them, however, will be warmly welcomed and put to good use:

- Socks
- Underwear
- Jackets
- Toques / Hats
- Sweaters
- Blankets
- Sleeping Bags
- Tents
- Wagons (for carrying belongings)
- Waterproof Shoes

REFUGEE FUNDRAISER BOOK SALE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

On Friday, October 17 at 2 PM, Broad View United is having a book sale fundraiser for refugee support. Please mark it in your calendars. These will be **NEW** books only.

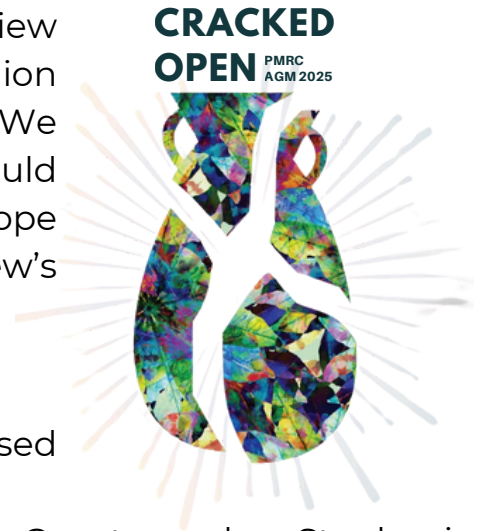
If you are a published writer and have extra copies of your books that you would like to donate to this cause, please contact Edeana Malcolm (dnmlclm3@gmail.com).



REFLECTIONS

BROAD VIEW UNITED AT THE 2025 PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGION AGM – REFLECTIONS

At the end of May, several members of Broad View United attended the 2025 Pacific Mountain Region Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Nanaimo. We recently met to reflect on what we learned and would like to share some key takeaways with you. We hope these ideas will help guide the update to Broad View's Strategic Plan this fall.



AGM Theme: “Cracked Open”

The theme of this year's AGM was Cracked Open, based on Matthew 26:7, where a woman anoints Jesus by cracking open an alabaster jar filled with nard oil. Guest speaker Stephanie Speller brought this theme to life, sharing her research on the “Nones and Dones”—young people who have either never engaged with church or have left it—and challenged us to reflect on the future of the church in 2035.

Here are the questions and ideas that stood out for us as we imagine BVU's future:

Community and Belonging

- Where do we feel a true sense of community—at church, in sports, with friends/family?
- How and where do we experience the sacred—in nature, sharing a meal, or elsewhere?

Embracing the Church Cracked Open and Reimagining Church

- Consider the Buddhist idea of object permanence: imagine that the things we love are already gone.
- What if we imagined the church was already gone? How does this help us to reinvent?
- What traditions or structures need to be redefined?
- Can we view the church as a community of people, not just a building?

Multi-Faith and Spiritual Exploration

- What could exploring faith look like in a multi-faith setting?
- How can we learn and grow from other spiritual traditions?

REFLECTIONS

Welcoming the “Nones and Dones”

- Are we creating space for people who don't fit traditional church models?
- Church can be a place of spiritual and social connection—especially important in a time of widespread loneliness.
- Let's offer spaces that are open, inclusive, and non-judgmental.
- BVU has many programs. Check out our Program List!

What's Next?

- As we look ahead to updating BVU's Strategic Plan, these reflections will help shape our direction.

If you have questions or want to learn more about what was shared at the AGM, please contact Barry Cameron (bjcameron82@gmail.com) or Morgan Phillips (morganabigailphillips@gmail.com).

Reflection Notes from BVU Lay Reps & Staff

– AGM Debrief (Pacific Mountain Regional Council)

Barry asked:

- What we've really enjoyed
- Favourite part
- What we've learned

Barry shared:

- Big takeaway: “Go meet God waiting outside” (Stephanie Speller)
 - Example: “Rock climbing is my church”
 - Where do you experience the sacred?
- Small group reflections on real trail and contemplative walking
- Wild Church
- Intergenerational connections
- Outside the walls: nature, environmental care, picking up trash
- Lay leadership

Linda shared:

- Surprised by a lot of “churchy stuff”
- Asked about:
 - Becoming an Anti-Apartheid Church
 - What divestment means for church financial investments



(from left to right): Mark Green, Min-Goo Kang, Morgan Phillips, Barry Cameron, Linda Wilke, and Ha Na Park during the PMR Council AGM

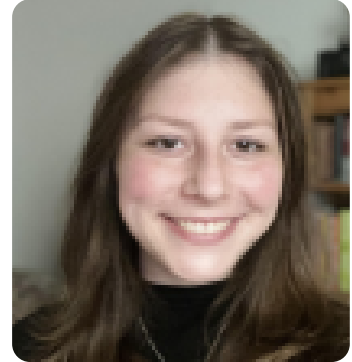
Ha Na shared:

- Focus on decolonizing

REFLECTIONS

Morgan shared:

- Program: “Spiritual smorgasbord”
- Redefining church
- Bringing church outside the physical building
- Toward 2035:
 - Church as “objective permanence” is already gone
 - How that shifts our perspective going forward
- Living from a perspective of abundance, not from lack
- “Silence is not solidarity”
- Church must be a voice of activism and support—for minorities and for everyone
- Making space for all, not singling people out
- Are we othering people?
- Paid attention to the study – all the questions
- As a young person, had lots of conversations at the table
- Social comparison: at the bar, smoking, talking
- Young people often don’t realize what’s missing – device vs. real community
- Think they are connected, but not



About “Spiritual smorgasbord”:

- Past Vancouver-area program
- Monthly gathering where people of different spiritual backgrounds shared non-judgmentally
- Semi-structured social invitation to visit each other
- People appreciated having a valuable space

Ideas for BVU:

- Openness to create spiritual space – not requiring specific religion/spirituality
- Redefining church:
 - BVU has programs and rentals
 - Church is not just Sunday
 - Opportunities to worship/gather on different days for those with unconventional schedules
- Wild Church:
 - Outdoor group (not worship)
 - BVU-based group going outside and having spiritual conversations

SPIRITUAL CARE

IN MEMORIAM

Victor Wong	Died May 31, 2025	Celebration of Life July 26, 2025
Rev. Larry Scott	Died August 9, 2025	Celebration of Life August 25, 2025
Caryl Oja	Died August 13, 2025	



We give thanks for the magnitude of gifts Victor, Caryl, and Larry gave and received over the course of their lives. Our love and prayers remain with their families and closest friends.

FALL 2025 LOSS AND GRIEF GROUP

If you have experienced a death, loss, (either recently or in the past) and are interested in gathering in a safe space with others to process the many feelings and phases of grief, please reach out to Margaret (margaret@broadviewunited.com). The group will begin towards the end of September.

CIRCLE CHAT

Resumes Wednesday, September 10 at 1:30 PM. See Program Guide for more details, or contact Val Bauld (Valbauld5@gmail.com) for more details.

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP

Resumes Sunday, September 28 at 12:15 PM. See Program Guide for more details, or contact Margaret Harper (margaret@broadviewunited.com) for more details.

CONNECT CARDS

Are you recently new to the BVU Community? We'd love to be able to welcome you. Please fill out a Connect Card which are found in the area beside the coat rack as you come in the Sanctuary Doors, or speak to any of the greeters on a Sunday morning.

SPIRITUAL CARE

CELEBRATIONS

Gail and David Murdoch	60th Wedding Anniversary	September 18, 2025
Barbara Johnstone	95th Birthday	September 26, 2025
Jacquie Henderson	90th Birthday	September 28, 2025

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA 100TH ANNIVERSARY CAKE AND CARDS



The Spiritual Care Team and friends arranged to visit and send cards to many of our elders over the Summer months. Sweet words and a sweet treat helped us remember our spiritual roots and celebrate precious memories through the decades.

We look forward to taking Communion to some of our care and retirement homes in the months leading up to Christmas.

PRAYER CONNECTION

Did you know that Broad View United has a dedicated group of individuals who are committed to praying on behalf of you, someone you love, or any situation that is heavy on your heart? All requests are held in utmost confidence.

Confidential requests can be sent to Jean Margison (jean@jampot.ca), via prayer@broadviewunited.com, or from the Broad View United website (www.broadviewunited.com).

Requests can also be passed along to staff members Shelagh MacKinnon and Margaret Harper.

International Overdose Awareness Day

August 31 at 7PM

Broad View United
3703 St. Aidan's ST.

with Guest Speaker: Lisa Lapointe
Live music, poetry, words of remembrance
Pictures and mementos welcome

Scan QR to watch online:



This vigil is held in loving memory to all those we loved and lost to overdose and is inclusive and welcoming to all



About our Guest Speaker: Lisa Lapointe

Lisa Lapointe served as BC's Chief Coroner from 2011 to 2024, retiring after 30 years in the BC Public Service through the investigation of over 14,000 deaths annually, including inquests and review recommendations to prevent future tragedies.

Under her leadership, the Coroner's Service received the Premier's Award for Evidence-based Design in 2018 for its critical work on drug toxicity deaths during the public health emergency.

credit: Moms Stop the Harm

A logo with the word "SAFER" in white capital letters on a purple rectangular background, which is set against a larger purple banner with a rainbow flag pattern.

SAANICH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLACE

SEPTEMBER 2025
TRANS
FAMILY DINNER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 TH
STARTING @ 5:30 P.M.
BROAD VIEW UNITED
3703 ST AIDANS ST.

SCAN OR CLICK THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP!

OK

The logo for Saanich Neighbourhood Place, featuring a stylized house icon with three human figures inside, in orange, green, and purple.

SAANICH
neighbourhood place

The logo for Broad View United, featuring a stylized tree with human figures as branches, in green and blue.

Broad View
UNITED

A stylized unicorn head logo with a rainbow mane and sunglasses.

PROGRAM UPDATES

BUU UCW **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2**



BUU UCW invites you to our first Fall meeting on Sept. 2nd at 11 AM in the Narthex. At the first meeting, we will begin by holding a brief Business Meeting and then welcoming our special guest speaker, Melanie Smart, from Victoria's **Margaret Lawrence House**. MLH provides housing, support, counselling, advocacy,

and a safe place for women in need leaving abusive relationships. Come and hear how our UCW can support this worthy shelter society. We will also take time to remember Caryl Oja, a long-time member of the UCW, who passed away in August here in Victoria. Please bring a bag lunch to the meeting, coffee/tea will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there!

FLATLANDER'S WALK **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

The walk for this month will be a revisit to Ogden Point. Starting at Fisherman's Wharf - a leisurely and shady walk to the entrance of Ogden Point on Dallas Road. We then walk to the roof shelter of the former Victoria Railroad Station, to the tourist welcome gift shop and then to the Breakwater.

We can either walk the Breakwater and then stop at the Breakwater Bistro for a beverage and/or snack or we turn back to return to Fisherman's Wharf and have a beverage at the nearby Imagine Café. This is definitely a Flatlander's kind of walk!

Meeting Details

Meet: outside Finest at Sea, on Erie Street just before the turn to Dallas Road

Time: 1 PM

Apparel: weather appropriate

Contact: Vicky Attwell

Mobile: 778-350-1029

"Feed your faith, experience joy, rest your soul, and find community"



November 8 - 11, 2025
at Camp Fircom

Young Adult Retreat – You're Invited!

Ages 18–30ish, this one's for you! Join United Church folks and friends from BC, Southern Alberta, the Yukon and beyond for a soul-refreshing weekend on Gambier, the largest island in Howe Sound. Expect meaningful conversation, great food, late-night board games, music, and cozy campfires. Come as you are, for rest, fun, and community. Don't miss this year's Young Adult Retreat!

Register now: <https://www.firstthirdministry.ca/reunite.html>

PROGRAM UPDATES

BROAD VIEW KNITTERS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9



Thank you to all the Broad View Knitters who prepared the knitted goods as gifts for various events on September 30th, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

Our next knitting and crocheting get-together will be an open house on September 9 from 1 pm to 3 pm in the Cedar room. A selection of goodies, knitting needles, yarn and advice are available.

GUYS' "WATER INTO WINE" PUB NIGHT TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Join with men of all ages who simply want a chance to connect with other men in the congregation for a time for conversation, sharing of life stories and an exchange of ideas. Order a beverage of your choice (and a bite to eat if you wish), pull up a chair and enjoy a time of fellowship and camaraderie.

Meeting Details

Where The Monkey
Tree, 4025 Borden St.
(near McKenzie and
Quadra)

Time: 7 PM

BVU COMMUNITY CHOIR AND CHANCEL CHOIR

BVU Community Choir will resume its rehearsals starting Thursday, September 11 at 7 PM. The Community Choir serves as a spiritual practice for those who love to sing. With about 100 folks gathering each week under the leadership of Brian Tate, the time together is both uplifting and rejuvenating. All are welcome to try it out.

BVU Chancel Choir meets prior to the Community Choir at 6:30 PM on Thursdays to work on a 4-part anthem to share with the congregation on the last Sunday of the month at the Bridge Service. This year, they will be practicing in the Chapel and working with a new model of singing in the round. All are welcome and Kelly Orr and Cheryl Dennett will be sharing the leadership for this choir.



PROGRAM UPDATES

CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICE GROUP MEETING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

A meeting of those potentially interested in forming a contemplative practice group will happen after church on Sunday, September 14 at 12:30 PM in the Chapel. The purpose of this meeting is to see if there is enough interest at BVU for a contemplative practice group and what form that might take. Come join this circle of sharing and discernment with Henri Lock and Rick Mickelson.

BOOKWORMS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17



The Broad View **BookWorms** will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 1:30 PM in the Chapel. The book study is 'Creativity' - *When the divine and human meet*, by Matthew Fox. At present, the book club is at capacity, but we will be happy to have the name of anyone interested on our wait list. Contact: Janis Evans (rjevans1@telus.net)

You are Invited to SNP's Annual General Meeting 2025!



Event Details

- **Date:** Tuesday, Sept. 16
- **Time:**
 - Light Dinner: 5:15PM - 6PM (limited qty)
 - Meeting: 6PM - 6:30PM
- **Location:** SNP CFC Building (3120 Tillicum Rd., Victoria BC)

Saanich Neighbourhood Place warmly invites you to our Annual General Meeting — a special evening to celebrate our achievements, share our vision for the future, and connect with you.

Together, we'll reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year and offer an exciting preview of the projects and initiatives we have planned to enrich our community. Most importantly, we want to hear from you — your ideas, questions, and feedback help shape the future of SNP and ensure our programs truly meet the needs of our community.

Tickets:

- **Free Admission** - all are welcome to attend the meeting ([Registration required at Eventbrite](#))
- **Dinner spots are limited** on a first-come, first-served basis

PROGRAM UPDATES

WALKING IN A GOOD WAY WITH EARTH



Schedule

Thursdays (Sept. 25th, Oct. 30th, and Nov. 27th) from 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM. On Sept. 25th, meeting location is outside at BVU Garden). Location to be announced for all the other dates.

There was a time when we understood that humans were just one strand in the web of life. But over the centuries, something happened. Humans began to see themselves as separate from nature and not only that, as a distinct, superior species with “dominion” over all. This has led us down a path that has been destructive on many levels.

The good news is that there is a new/ancient way of looking at our relationships with Earth which more and more people are embracing: it's the idea confirmed by science that humans are just one part of a genealogy connecting all living things. Knowing that every living thing is related to every other living thing, how can we begin to re-capture those feelings of love for our Earth and for all the beings that are sustained by her?

What to bring: a small cushion or campstool to sit on if you are not comfortable standing or sitting on the ground and appropriate clothing for the weather.

Here are the purposes of our walking meditation. If any of these resonate with you, please join us.

- 1) To create a sense of oneness with the web of life, a recognition that we are but one thread in the web, as Chief Dan George taught.
- 2) To re-connect to ancient spiritual practices that deepen and broaden our appreciation of what is sacred, as well as strengthen our relationships with Earth and each other.
- 3) To recognize that because so much of what we love about Earth is at risk, we need to find ways to nurture our connection to her.
- 4) To better appreciate that Earth needs us, as much as we need Earth. “All flourishing is mutual.” Robin Wall-Kimmerer
- 5) To explore how we can walk the talk in our everyday lives- how do we offer radical hospitality to our Earth, and grow our gratitude and appreciation for the radical hospitality she is always offering us?
- 6) To explore Two-eyed seeing- through Indigenous eyes and Western or Settler eyes. How are the two ways of seeing different and can we bring them together?
- 7) To help us become “naturalized” to place. Robin Wall-Kimmerer writes: “Being naturalized to place means to live as if this is the land that feeds you, as if these are the streams from which you drink, that build your body and fill your spirit. To become naturalized is to know that your ancestors lie in this ground. Here you will give your gifts and meet your responsibilities. To become naturalized is to live as if your children's future matters, to take care of the land as if our lives and the lives of all our relatives depend on it. Because they do.”

No Registration Needed: For more information, please reach out to Susan Draper (graceful@shaw.ca)

EXPLORING JUSTICE

CARING FOR CREATION



When Caring for Creation meets, we regularly do “check-ins.” We share humour and challenges, what we’re reading and doing to make a difference, and how we strive to continue to understand this changing world. This light-hearted fellowship is a valued part of our time together. And always, we ask ourselves how we can best serve our church community and the greater community in these rapidly changing times. The recent fires on Vancouver Island have brought home to most of us that global warming is not tomorrow’s problem but today’s. We have to find new ways to do everything.

With that in mind, here are a couple of new initiatives we’d like to highlight at this time.

Did you know that BVU has a Green Policy?

BVU Green Policy A Policy for Greening Broad View United Ministries

Background: In order for Broad View United to become a community that practices environmental stewardship consistently and well, staff members, committees and users of our facility need to operate or function in ways that demonstrate an awareness of sustainability and a desire to live in right relationship with God’s earth.

Policy Statements: BVU is committed to “touching the Earth gently” by reducing its impact on the environment and promoting an understanding of sustainability in its broadest context.

The Touching the Earth Gently Policy commits our ministry to deliberate and consistent attention to caring for Earth in all areas of our church’s life and to striving to make our faith community a model in the journey towards a sustainable future.

Action Plan: Each committee, and groups within our church, will be asked to begin a conversation around what this policy might mean for them and their ministry at BVU. The changes in practice that may need to happen should be explored with the understanding that this is a process that will take time to learn and to implement.

The good news is we have already begun to work in this way in some areas of our church’s life.

A level of awareness exists within our community about the importance of such a policy. Resources are available to guide and support us in this journey.

Possible general areas to look at:

- waste reduction
- purchasing
- energy and water saving
- transportation/travel
- educational programs/resources to guide and inform about issues
- intergenerational sharing of stories/ideas that promote conservation and earth-friendly solutions

EXPLORING JUSTICE

As September is the start of a new year of programming for our community, it's also a good time for us to take a deeper look at our church's Green Policy to see how we're doing. It can be found on BVU's website, but we've included it in this newsletter for you to check out, perhaps for the first time.

Caring for Creation members and people from the Thrift Store have looked at this policy and decided that there's still room for improvement in the way we are managing our waste and recycling at BVU. Now that BVU's renovation is complete and all systems are go, the time is right to consider the bigger picture and put some plans in place, not only to manage our waste more effectively but also to reduce it.

Over the Summer, we've been busy consulting with the Capital Regional District about community grants, looking at new waste and recycling bins, thinking about better signage for all users of our building, and a host of other ideas that we will be sharing with you in this special project, please contact **Brenda Henderson** (bjhenderson@shaw.ca) or drop your suggestions in the suggestion box that is located in the church office.

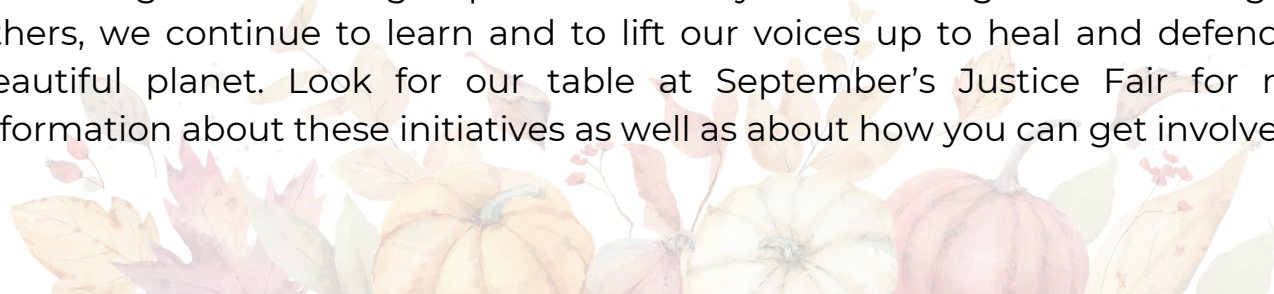
Another initiative we'd like to draw your attention to is the ***"Walking in a Good Way with Earth"*** outdoor spiritual practice which will be offered three times this Fall. Earth is our home but too many don't really appreciate what that means. Can we learn to see the life that is all around us with new eyes? Look for more details on the Program Updates in this newsletter.



EVENT NOTICE: Mark your calendars! On *Saturday, September 20*, join with tens of thousands across climate, migrant, and economic justice and anti-war movements to unite and demand the federal government to pick a side: injustice, violence and climate destruction - or a just and safe future for

all. *Meet at the Legislature at 2 PM.* For more info, go to <https://drawtheline.world/> Because everything is connected...

Our Caring for Creation group is small but by collaborating and consulting with others, we continue to learn and to lift our voices up to heal and defend our beautiful planet. Look for our table at September's Justice Fair for more information about these initiatives as well as about how you can get involved.



EXPLORING JUSTICE

JUSTICE FAIR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Each month, we welcome all to our Justice Fair. It is one way we highlight our call as a United Church community to spirit-led, bold discipleship. We feature different ways we actively refuse to remain silent in situations of injustice. It's an opportunity to share our learning and for others to learn and to ask questions. Join us in the Commons, following both worship services. Included will be different ways in which we are involved in Reconciliation (**orange shirts will be available!**), supporting Palestinians, Shelbourne Community Kitchen, Caring for Creation, and more.

If you would like to participate and share how you live out this call, it's an opportunity to invite others to join you. A table and other support can be provided. To help with planning, we ask that you confirm with us by September 10. For more information, contact Barbara (bmhansen@telus.net) or Robin (robin.breckon@gmail.com).

Orange Shirts are available for purchase at:

- Broad View Thrift Store (www.broadviewthriftstore.com)
- UVic Bookstore (<https://www.uvicbookstore.ca/>)
- Songhees Wellness Center (<https://www.exploresonghees.com/>)



Orange Shirt Day is held annually on September 30 in Canada to bring people together to honour and remember the sacrifices of residential school survivors and their families.

BROAD VIEW THRIFT STORE HOURS

RETAIL HOURS

- **Wednesdays** 10 am - 5 pm
- **Thursdays** 4 pm - 8 pm
- **Saturdays** 10 am - 5 pm

DONATION HOURS

- **Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays** 9 am - 3 pm
- **Wednesdays** 10 am - 5 pm
- **Thursdays** 9 am - 8 pm
- **Saturdays** 10 am - 5 pm



Contact Us
+250-590-1750



Website
www.broadviewthriftstore.com



3703 St Aidan's St., Victoria, BC
Entrance off of Palo Alto Street

EXPLORING JUSTICE

DYING FOR FOOD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Dr. Deirdre Nunan, a Canadian Orthopedic Surgeon who spoke at BVU in May, has returned from another posting in Gaza. Together with "Victoria Health Workers Against Genocide" we are offering another opportunity to learn more about the challenges she and her Palestinian colleagues face as they try to deliver essential healthcare amidst widespread forced starvation.



Doors open at 7 PM, program begins at 7:30 PM. Doors close at 9:30 PM. Donations accepted for surgeon-recommended charities. Medical workers encouraged to attend. Palestinian products will be available for purchase.

YOU ARE INVITED: GVAT ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17



Come and join other Greater Victoria Acting Together members Wednesday evening Sept 17 for a BBQ and discernment Assembly.

Over the summer our research teams have been working to clarify some specific campaign themes for the Fall, where GVAT can make a difference to local and provincial policy choices. We are digging into the areas of interest identified by YOU in our listening sessions earlier in the year. One of these is related to Climate resilience and vulnerability – looking particularly at how to help vulnerable groups in the city cope with high temperatures and poor air quality. Another area is related to the cost of living and housing affordability, considering particularly the potential role of co-op housing options in improving affordability. Come join this session to hear what we have learned and to have a say in next steps!

Meeting Details

Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 3909 St. George's Lane (Cadboro Bay)

5:30 PM - BBQ Potluck

6:30 PM - 8 PM - General Meeting and Assembly or Tune in Live via Zoom:

check GVAT website for further details (www.gvat.ca)

THRIFT STORE UPDATES

HELLO COMMUNITY!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful Summer. It was a hot one! We would like to remind everyone that we welcome pets as we move into the Fall. There are still some hot days ahead of us, so feel free to include your pets in your trip to the Thrift Store.



September recognizes the day for National Truth and Reconciliation. We will be selling Orange shirts in the store in all sizes leading up to September 30th. Post-secondary students will receive a \$5 gift card with a valid student card during the month of September. We are welcoming volunteers back in September and saying goodbye to some others. Volunteers who were with us during their break from school were a joy to have over the summer. Now that they are gone we will be welcoming new volunteers in their place. Please see members in the thrift store information on volunteering. We have been working hard over the summer developing new plans for the future of the thrift store. Make sure to look over articles from the "Caring for Creation" group. We are working hard updating procedures with waste management in the church. The article on our green policy may be of particular interest. Let's work together to keep our island church green. Have you been to the thrift store lately? We moved a few things around over the summer. The store now has a bright new look. Somehow there is more space to move around each other and socialize too. Part of the culture in the thrift store is to provide a friendly and sociable space for customers. Volunteers can also enjoy the social experience. We will be having our welcoming back event, **The Fall Social, on the morning of Friday, September 26th at 10 AM until about 12 PM** with the general meeting incorporated. All thrift store volunteers are welcome. There will be a **Volunteer Fair on October 5th between services (10 AM - 1 PM)** to recruit congregants and give an open house to anyone curious. Keep an eye out in the next newsletter for new and exciting updates.

-Sarah McConnell, Store Manager

INTERCULTURAL

WELCOME TO THE INTERCULTURAL SPACE AT BVU!



A Place to belong, build friendships, and grow together. Explore our programs and be part of our diverse, welcoming community!



Thank you to Our Wonderful Volunteers!

Many volunteers from the intercultural community actively participated in Camp Spirit (August 18-22). In fact, the entire community engagement was hosted by intercultural members: pickleball, ping pong, rock painting, gardening, salsa dancing, and dumpling-making. Thanks to them, the camp was truly intercultural!

Let's Welcome Our New Intercultural Animator - Anh

We are excited to introduce Anh as our new Intercultural Animator! Anh has already participated in our intercultural programs and events, including Taste of Home and



Saturday Social. She brings fresh energy, creative ideas, and valuable insights as we continue building community. One of her first initiatives will be a new program called Language Café.

Here's Anh's greeting in her own words:

"My name is Anh (she/her). I am from Vietnam, studied Japanese culture and language, and lived in Malaysia before coming to Canada. I am currently pursuing a Master's in Pacific and Asian Studies at UVic.

Drawing on my experiences as a newcomer, immigrant, and international student in Canada, I aim to create events that bring people from different backgrounds closer, strengthen cultural connections and understanding, and encourage the sharing of knowledge. My greatest joy is supporting others in nurturing a part of their soul through BVU programs and fostering a sense of belonging, security, and self-identity within our community. Ultimately, I am eager to see everyone grow and flourish together at BVU."



FOLLOW US



INTERCULTURAL

Programs within Saturday Social

Each Saturday, we explore a different theme.

Language Café (NEW!) – 1st Saturday

A relaxed space to practice new languages, enjoy traditional snacks and drinks, and exchange cultural stories. Each table is hosted by someone fluent in the language and culture, creating a friendly and supportive atmosphere.

Cultural Market – 2nd Saturday

A free exchange of talents and treasures! Vendors bring items such as Swiss cookies, homegrown vegetables, kimchi, tortillas, books, or even offer services like computer help. Instead of money, participants “pay” by agreeing to activities suggested by the vendors.

Learning Party – 3rd Saturday

An evening of learning together! Topics have included tax clinics, yoga, qigong, and photo-documentaries. Guest speakers and community members share their skills and passions in an accessible, engaging way.

Taste of Home – 4th Saturday

A beloved program now part of Saturday Social! Community members teach dishes from their childhood memories while sharing the stories behind them. Everyone cooks together, then enjoys the meal as a celebration of culture and connection. *“Everyone has a story, and so does every dish.”*

Saturday Social Schedule Update



Saturdays



5:30PM (NEW!) – 8:30PM



Hub and Commons

Now **three hours long**, Saturday Social includes cooking, eating, games, conversation, and meaningful rituals. Embrace the intercultural spirit and make your Saturday nights truly special!

Sign up for the intercultural newsletter for weekly updates:

✱ <https://form.jotform.com/232766776949277>

Get Involved!



Volunteers are always welcome as conversation partners or kitchen helpers.

Weekly Friday e-mail
Bits & Bytes

After signing up, please confirm your subscription by clicking the link in the email sent to your registered address.





Songhees Nation with support from Songhees Events & Catering present:



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SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

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