



Broad View
— UNITED —



Affirm/Partner

www.broadviewunited.com

Newsletter February 2026

Table of Contents

MINISTER'S MESSAGE	3
BROAD VIEW UPDATES	4 - 8
February Worship Schedule	4
Sabbatical Time for Mark Green	5
Staffing Updates	6
Introducing Karen Dickey	6
BVU Strategic Plan	7
Tax Receipts	7
Lost and Found	7
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	8
BVU Affirming Ministry	8
SPIRITUAL CARE TEAM	9
OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES	10 - 11
GVAT Update	10
The Evolving Church Team	11
Coldest Night of the Year	11
PROGRAM UPDATES	12 - 17
Young Adults Sunday Lunch	12
BVU Junior and Senior Youth Groups	12
Youth Sunday Gathering	12
BVU United Church Women	13
Tai Chi Chih	13
Lectio	13
Healing Pathways	13
BVU Meditation and Contemplative Practices Group	14
Flatlander's Walk	14
Broad View Knitters	14
Guys' "Water into Wine" Pub Night	14
Circle Chat	15
Family Dinner Night	15
Movie Night	15
Affirm Monthly Conversation	15
Qi Gong (NEW)	16
SAFER Trans Family Dinner	16
Lenten Silent Mini Retreat	17
Decolonizing Bible Study	17
INTERCULTURAL	18 - 19
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY	20
THRIFT STORE UPDATES	21
EXPLORING JUSTICE	22 - 24
NEW INITIATIVES	25 - 27

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

“Even though I walk through the Darkest Valley (Psalm 23)” - Ha Na Park

None of us expected — or wished — that the first days of this new year would begin in such a spectacular and sorrowful way, filled with pain, state violence, cries for democracy and freedom, and the news and witnessing of sacrifice.

As I briefly mentioned in my January sermon, this is also why that social media post saying, “Thank you for the ‘first week free’ trial of 2026. I’d like to unsubscribe now, please,” doesn’t just make us laugh and move on. At the same time, what we have rediscovered and felt — what many of us cried out from deep within — is that we are not mere observers in a world we can consume like Netflix, choosing this and canceling that. We are, in fact, participants in a world where God calls us, speaks even now, and is actively moving.

Now that January has already passed and we enter the second month of the new year, I begin by asking myself: **How is BVU a participant in the world?** I commend you to read through this February newsletter and sense the strong participation and movement of our lay leaders and our whole community. If I may highlight just two of **BVU’s new initiatives**: they are the **BVU Reconciliation Rain Garden** (see page 26) and the **Apartheid-Free Community Movement** (see page 25), which our leaders are wholeheartedly organizing to build a world of love, compassion, justice, and peace.

On the first Sunday, we joyfully celebrate the baptism of our youngest members, Maisie and Tamsyn — welcome, both of you, with love! Baptism, along with the image of the dove descending from heaven, marks the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry through the love of the Spirit. On the same Sunday, our Co-Lead Minister Mark, with full sincerity and dedication, concludes an incredible journey through the Broad View United amalgamation process and steps into a Sabbatical leave, one rooted in restoration, renewal, and a deep commitment to learning and purpose. While he is away, we welcome Karen Dickey, who will join us for worship and reflection once a month over the next five months. She is known for her beloved and grounding presence.

This month, we will journey with Psalm 23, shared by Margaret Harper and Karen Dickey, until Lent begins. This beloved piece of scripture brings deep comfort and guidance to those walking between life and death:

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley / I fear no evil / for you are with me / your rod and your staff - they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)

As we move into this second month of 2026 - even if we find ourselves facing yet another darkest valley, or even more beyond it - we believe God’s justice and love will be our comfort, our counsel, and our rod and staff.



Ha Na Park
Co-Lead Minister



WORSHIP THEME INTRODUCTION: THE JOURNEY

As February begins, we prepare to bless our Co-Lead Minister Mark as he steps into his long-awaited sabbatical (Feb 7 – June 28). On Sunday, Feb 1st, he'll offer his final sermon at Bridge, and during ConXion, we'll celebrate the baptisms of our youngest members, Maisie and Tamsyn.

While Mark is away, we're grateful to welcome guest preacher Karen Dickey to journey with us — her bio is on page 6. On the second and third Sundays, Margaret Harper and Karen Dickey will guide us through reflections on the beloved Psalm 23.

We also enter the Season of Lent at the end of the month — a new journey of its own. Though February isn't shaped by a single scripture or theme, it brings together the start of many paths. In that sense, February's theme might simply be: *the journey*.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

DATE & TIME	THEME	PREACHER	OTHER
Sunday, Feb 1st 9:30 am & 11 am	Mark 6:30-47	Mark Green	Baptism (ConXion)
Sunday, Feb 8th 9:30 am & 11 am	Psalm 23	Margaret Harper	Restoration & Renewal
Sunday, Feb 15th 9:30 am & 11 am	Psalm 23	Karen Dickey	Mercy amidst Madness
Sunday, Feb 22nd 9:30 am & 11 am	The Story of Job	Ha Na Park	The First Sunday of Lent with Communion

SABBATICAL TIME FOR MARK

Sabbatical leave in the United Church is available to clergy every 5 years of continuous service in a pastoral charge or ministry position. Its purpose is to offer an extended time for rest, renewal, reflection and learning; a sort of reset time. I was last on Sabbatical in the spring of 2019. While I was eligible in 2024, it was a time of great change due to our move into the newly renovated site and the first year of amalgamation with First Met folks. It was clear that my being away wouldn't be wise for the congregation or myself. Now the time has come for me to take a break so that I can continue in ministry here at BVU feeling grounded, renewed and refocused. Ha Na has been in the position of co-lead long enough that she is firmly embedded in the culture of BVU and Dalia has come on board to take on many of the day-to-day tasks related to operations that make it possible for me to step away.



In my proposal for sabbatical to the board, I began to list some of the things that I've been involved in leadership-wise since 2019; in the process it became very clear to me why I'm feeling weary and ready for this time away. I've navigated 2 amalgamations, a new governance and staffing model (policy and HR manual), a large building renovation project, COVID, development of 2 social enterprises, 5-year strategic plan development, reVisioning process and 15 staff changes.

And so beginning Feb 7th I will be away from the office until the end of June. My time away will include both study time, sabbatical time and 4 weeks of my holiday time. Some of that time will involve reading, rest, retreat, leadership coaching / learning and travel. And some of that time will involve opportunities to discern what will be needed from my leadership when I return. Mostly it will be a time to rest and reset.

I look forward to returning feeling refocused and renewed. I am grateful to the many volunteers who have stepped up to fill in to support the programs I would typically have responsibility for. My gratitude also to the staff here who will be picking up some of the pieces of my work. Some of the work I do will lie fallow during this time and that's important as well. Thank you all for this gift of time. I appreciate all your good wishes and go knowing that I have your blessing for this time of renewal.



BROAD VIEW UPDATES

STAFFING UPDATES

As we wait for **Oscar's** work permit situation to get resolved, we have put in place some temporary coverage. **Liane and Janiena** have taken on some of Oscar's duties, and we have hired a temporary/part-time Admin Clerk to help us, as we distribute some of the admin functions, her name is **Kim Miles**, please help us in welcoming her when you see her. **Joan Mason** will be assisting in the creation of the Newsletter.

We are looking for additional volunteer support to cover the reception and hospitality, please contact Dalia if you are interested.

We would like to thank **Liane, Janiena, Linda and Joan**, for their flexibility and willingness to extend their support, and to all of you for your patience during this period!

Mark begins his sabbatical and holiday time Feb 7th returning June 29th.

Karen Dickey has agreed to preach one Sunday a month during his sabbatical.

INTRODUCING KAREN DICKEY

I am grateful for the invitation to join you as a guest preacher once a month while Mark is on sabbatical. I retired almost three years ago and look forward to the opportunity to engage again in the creative and soulful work of preparing and offering reflections. What an incredible moment to be open and alive to the Spirit at this time in our world. Already I have appreciated the connections with Ha Na, Margaret and Min-Goo, such fine colleagues to be working with. It will be a delight to say hello again to folks I came to know during my tenure with St Aidan's, and to meet so many others now part of the Broad View congregation.



With gratitude,
Karen Dickey



Bits & Bytes

Broad View UNITED — F R I D A Y E - M A I L



If you're having trouble receiving the **Bits and Bytes Friday email**, please contact **office@broadviewunited.com** for assistance.



BROAD VIEW UPDATES

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE BVU STRATEGIC PLAN (2026 - 2029) PRESENTATION AND CONGREGATIONAL INPUT

DATE IN MARCH - TBA

Many of us appreciated the last congregational visioning process led by Allison Rennie in spring 2024, along with the report that followed — encouraging the Board, staff, and wider community to name and reflect on the impact BVU hopes to have through its ministry: What is the high-level change we are called to?

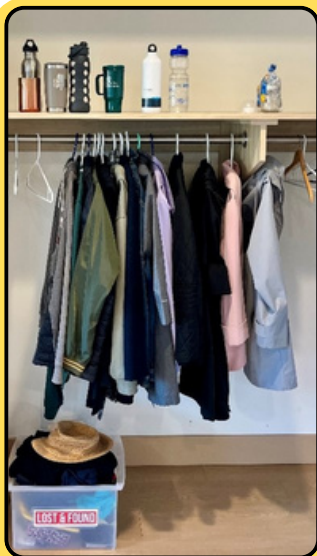
Since then, through many conversations and decisions, BVU has begun journeying with a high-level Operations Director to help strengthen our community and strategic direction.

Now, the Board feels it is the right time to share a draft of the renewed Strategic Plan for 2026–2029 and invite congregational feedback and input. We are currently considering both Zoom and in-person Congregational Events in March.

Please stay tuned for updates on dates, resources, and draft materials — all to support thoughtful engagement and build hope together.

TAX RECEIPTS

2025 Tax Receipts will be issued at the end of February, if you have not received it by March 15th, please contact the office at office@broadviewunited.com.



LOST AND FOUND

Are you missing a water bottle or a jacket?

Please take a moment to check the Lost & Found located by the Seminar Room and see if something is familiar with you! There is a collection of clothing, travel mugs, and other accessories ready to be reunited with their owners. All items are now dated, and anything unclaimed after three months will be donated to the Thrift Store.



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Join us on **Wednesday**, February 18 at 6 pm for a joyful and reflective Rainbow Pancake Supper, followed by a short Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm. Admission is free, but registration is required [HERE](#).

This year's theme, "Rainbow: Many colours, many cultures, many stories — one place to belong," invites the BVU community to explore meaning, connection, and belonging through food and reflection. The Pancake Supper will feature seven station-based rainbow tables, each offering a different gluten-free, vegan pancake. At each table, you'll be invited into a theme and reflection question—creating space to pause, taste, and reflect at your own pace.

Following the supper, we welcome you to participate in the traditional ritual of anointing with oil and ash. You're also welcome to attend the service only, if you prefer.

BVU AFFIRMING MINISTRY



BVU Affirming Ministry will have "You Are Safe With Me" lapel pins available before both services, each Sunday in February. Wearing a pin shows congregants and visitors who are members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community that they are able to practice their faith with us in a safe environment. If you'd like to have a lapel pin to wear, they will be available in the Narthex near the coffee bar. We have 100 available at this time.

TASTE OF HOME CANTONESE COMFORT FOOD

DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

TIME: 5:00 PM

LED BY: ANASTASIA CROOK

COME JOIN US AS WE LEARN TO MAKE AUTHENTIC CANTONESE DISHES WITH
CHEF ANASTASIA CROOK!

MENU:

- DRY-FRIED GREEN BEANS WITH SAUCE (干煸四季豆) OR STIR-FRIED GAI LAN
- STEAMED RICE
- HONG KONG-STYLE LEMON TEA
- POACHED WHOLE CHICKEN WITH GINGER-SCALLION SAUCE



ABOUT THE CHEF

Anastasia is a University of Victoria student who grew up in Hong Kong. She loves trying new cuisines and sharing Chinese flavours with friends from around the world. She's especially excited to see more diverse food options becoming available in grocery stores and hopes people will feel encouraged to be more adventurous in the foods they try.

Register here for Taste of Home: <https://www.jotform.com/form/252587691212057>



SPIRITUAL CARE TEAM

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Daykin

Died January 7, 2026

Celebration of Life, February 14 at 12 pm BVU



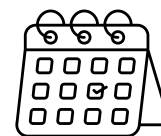
We give thanks for the magnitude of gifts Mary gave and received over the course of her life. Our love and prayers remain with her family and closest friends.

DROP-IN GRIEF GROUP Thursday, Feb 12, 1:30 - 3 pm in the Chapel

No registration is needed, though if you are interested, feel free to be in touch with Margaret Harper (Minister of Pastoral Care and Small Groups.) All are welcome, whether your are newly bereaved, or your grief has re-surfaced from the past.



SPIRITUAL CARE TEAM MEETING Tuesday, Feb 10 at 1:30 pm Chapel



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. Requests can also be passed along to Margaret Harper.

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.

Connect Card



Name: _____
Cell Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____
Email: _____
Kids Names & Ages: _____



Bits & Bytes

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OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

GVAT UPDATE

Recently, Greater Victoria Acting Together, has been active on several fronts. Together with St Andrew's Anglican Church and others in Sidney, we successfully pressed the town council to arrange for an Extreme Weather Emergency Shelter for unhoused community members. We also encouraged the CRD's Parks Committee to make available a portion of Bear Hill Park for local farmers to grow food crops for local markets through their Foodlands Access Service program. GVAT has also sponsored an informal series of public discussions titled "Democracy through Dialogue".

Upcoming GVAT events

(all Broad View members welcome):

- Feb 5, 7:00 pm Delegates Assembly (online): join other GVAT members to review recent actions and decide priorities.
- Democracy through Dialogue Feb 9, 7:00 pm (Broad View Commons): "Africa – the next great frontier?" Scholars from the local African diaspora will explore governance trends and challenges for the region and invite discussion and feedback.
- March 9, 7:00 pm (Broad View Commons) – How to respond to growing intolerance of the unhoused in Greater Victoria
- April / May / June sessions on threats to democracy and how we can address these (TBA)
- Feb 25 (online) and Feb 28 (in person at Broad View): two-part training in Foundations of Community Organizing. Learn how to build power by working together for the common good.



For more information or to register for any of these GVAT activities, please contact Stephen Tyler, your GVAT rep: stephen@adaptiverm.ca.

[BVU is an active member of Greater Victoria Acting Together, a coalition of community organizations including faith groups, unions, student groups, environmental groups and front-line service organizations in our community. GVAT works to identify priority local issues, bring these to the attention of local government, and press for action.]



OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

THE EVOLVING CHURCH TEAM

The Evolving Church Team meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the Seminar Room at BVU. Our new meeting time is now **1:00 – 3:00 pm**, and our next meeting is **Wednesday Feb 4th**. If you are interested in being part of a vibrant team focused on supporting and working with such community programs as the *Seniors Group from Our Place*, the *North Park Hamper Program*, or *Moms Stop the Harm*, please come and find out more. For more information, talk to any of the team members: Penny Bond, Judy Booth, Marilyn Banfield, Jean Margison, Mark Green or Emily MacDonald.

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

The Broad View United team will be walking in the Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser on Feb. 28th to support Our Place Society. To donate to our walkers or to join the team, go to: cnoy.org and connect with our team: **Broad View United**.

Broad View United – Walking Together
on the

**coldest
*night**
OF THE YEAR

Saturday, February 28

For more information, contact Brian or Adele at 250-883-0033 or

SING OUT,

 **ESQUIMALT**
UNITED CHURCH

 **Broad View**
— UNITED —

STAND UP!

ENTRY TICKET
\$25

A Benefit Concert for a Queer Refugee

Klezmer Music by



Plus! Stand-up Comedy (Adult Language and Content)



Tickets available by scanning
QR code or at the door



27 FEB 2026



7 PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM



Broad View United
3703 St. Aidan's St.



PROGRAM UPDATES

YOUNG ADULTS SUNDAY LUNCH Feb 1 and Feb 15

*Every 1st and 3rd Sunday after 11 AM ConXion Worship,
we hang out over lunch in the Commons.*

If you'd like a good, warm Sunday lunch and friendship — sharing about life, faith, or your spiritual journey — we're here to support one another and offer a warm welcome.

Are you new? Haven't been here before? Lunch starts at 12:15 pm, and you can join us anytime from then on! We'll do our very best to help you feel welcome, included, and safe.

BVU JUNIOR AND SENIOR YOUTH GROUPS

The Jr. Youth Group (Grades 6–8) meets on the 2nd and 4th Fridays from 6:30 – 8 pm, and the Sr. Youth Group (Grades 9–12) meets on the 1st and 3rd Fridays from 7 – 9 pm.

We send a **BVU Youth Weekly email**. Sign up [HERE](#) to stay tuned for reminders of dates for each group and updates on upcoming fun and meaningful activities.

YOUTH SUNDAY GATHERING 11 am - 12 pm

Did you know that we also meet on Sunday mornings during the ConXion service (11:00 am)? All youth (Junior and Senior) are invited to join Molly and other youth to talk together and participate in the topic or activity of the day. We will also have snacks, so come hang out!

Broad View United is an inclusive, 2SLGBTQIA+ affirming, intercultural community of faith. We encourage youth to grow in faith, resilience, and courage as they explore what it means to live with justice, hope, and compassion.



PROGRAM UPDATES

BVU UNITED CHURCH WOMEN Tuesday, Feb 3 at 11 am

BVU United Church Women will meet in the Narthex. All are welcome. Please bring a bag lunch, coffee and tea will be provided.



We are asking some of our members who belonged to UCW at their previous church, to give us their insight to what it is to be a UCW member. Please come and join us for some interesting discussion!

TAI CHI CHIH

Tuesdays at 9:30 am in the Commons. All are welcome. No fee. No special outfit. For more information, contact Eileen Campbell at eileen.c.campbell@outlook.com.



LECTIO

Lectio continues on-line on Zoom Thursday mornings at 8:30 am. If you are interested in participating contact Eileen Campbell at eileen.c.campbell@outlook.com or Betty Doherty at bdoherty1@telus.net.



HEALING PATHWAYS

Healing Pathways will offer treatments in the Chapel on Mondays during February (see schedule below for times):

- Monday, February 2nd: 7:00 pm
- Monday, February 9th: 1:00 pm
- Monday, February 23rd: 1:00 pm



Practice session for Healers on Saturday, February 28th: 9:00 – 11:00am in the Chapel.



Bits & Bytes

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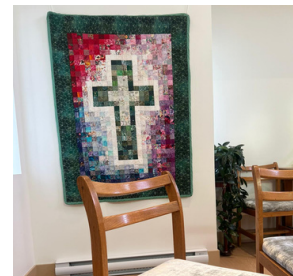


PROGRAM UPDATES

BVU MEDITATION AND CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES GROUP

Dates: First and Third Wednesdays of each month 10:00-11:00 am in the Chapel. Upcoming sessions are February 4 & 18.

No experience needed! For more information, please contact Henri Lock (henrilock@gmail.com) or Rick Mickelson (rick.mickelson@telus.net).



FLATLANDER'S WALK Saturday, Feb 7 at 1 pm

The Flatlanders Walk will begin on the lower level of the causeway near the Victoria Tourist Centre and Milestones Restaurant. Please meet at the bottom of the stairs. We will proceed on the lower level, exiting to Bellville Street right around to Fisherman's Wharf where we will have coffee either at the Wharf or at Serious Coffee nearby. Please respond to jamedland@telus.net or text Jacquie at 250-812-0145 if you are coming. Cheers and hope to see you there.



BROAD VIEW KNITTERS Tuesday, Feb 10 from 1 to 3 pm

We will meet in the Cedar room. As usual, knitting needles, yarn and advice are available. Please contact Liane Clark if you have any questions.

This month's picture shows the 19 toques, some with mittens, knitted by the Broad View Knitters and donated to the participants in the Extreme Weather Emergency Response Shelter. While the shelter now has sufficient toques, please continue to make them as we have just received an appeal from Canada Comforts for toques for kids ages 5 to 18.



GUYS' "WATER INTO WINE" PUB NIGHT

Tuesday, Feb 10 at 7 pm. The Monkey Tree, 4025 Borden St. (near McKenzie and Quadra)

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.



PROGRAM UPDATES

CIRCLE CHAT Wednesday, Feb 11 at 1:30 pm in the Narthex

Circle CHAT is a drop-in group for Women Elders.

Come for coffee, conversation and spiritual nourishment!



FAMILY DINNER NIGHT Friday, Feb 13 at 5:30 pm

Gather with other families with children at BVU Commons for dinner, activities, songs, and stories. Dinner always includes a variety of dietary and kid-friendly options. RSVP to Micia at micia@broadviewunited.com is appreciated but not required - there's always enough. Looking forward to seeing you there!



MOVIE NIGHT Saturday, Feb 28 at 7 pm

Our movie of the month will be Lion. It is a film based on the book "A Long Way Home." It is about a young Indian boy who was jumping trains with his brother and ended up lost in Calcutta. He eventually is adopted by an Australian family. Free. Snacks and beverages provided. Discussion follows.



AFFIRM MONTHLY CONVERSATION

Thursday, Feb 26 at 5 pm (with pizza)

2SLGBTQIA+ BVU members and beyond are warmly invited to gather for a monthly conversation (and planning, when needed) on the **fourth Thursday of each month at 5 pm, with pizza**. This gathering does not require a commitment to regular attendance—just a desire for conversation, ideas, feedback, sharing, reflection, and movement. We send a monthly reminder email with a few notes from the previous meeting. Please sign up [HERE](#) if you are interested. Come as you are.



PROGRAM UPDATES

QI GONG New!

Join Broad View United member, Elaine Matthes, a licensed Qi Gong instructor, for an intense series on the basics of Qi Gong.

Qi Gong (Chinese Energy Healing) is a holistic practice combining gentle movement, deep breathing, and meditation to cultivate qi (life energy). Practicing Qi Gong can offer stronger muscles, better flexibility, improved digestion, lower blood pressure, and reduced fatigue.



We will meet twice a week for one hour each. During this time you will learn the key moves for healing and rejuvenation, including 8 Silk Brocades, an ancient form of medical Qi Gong.

Classes will meet **every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Narthex** of Broad View United **starting February 24 running through May 28th**. You are encouraged to come both mornings but you can also drop in to either class when you are able.

Each class will be \$10 per session or you can purchase a series of 10 classes for \$80.00. To register, please contact Elaine at matthesea@gmail.com or feel free to drop in to any of the classes. Your first class is always free!



LENTEN SILENT MINI RETREAT

Saturday, February 21, 2026

9:30 am – 1:30 pm

Broad View United, 3703 St. Aidan's St.

Join us for a quiet morning of contemplation in the Season of Lent
Chants, lectio divina, labyrinth meditation, mandala colouring, art station, guided meditation, journaling,
and nature bathing around the building and in Horner Park.
Contemplative Practices to awaken our hearts and minds to Divine Presence during the Season of Lent!

We will have refreshments and finish the morning with a simple soup lunch.
Free! We welcome a contribution at the door of up to \$25 to help with program costs.

Please register at contemplativepathbc.com
or email contemplativepathbc@gmail.com

Hosted by the **Contemplative Path of South Vancouver Island** and  **Broad View UNITED**



 **REGISTER NOW**

Decolonizing Bible Study

ENGAGE IN SCRIPTURE THROUGH A DECOLONIZING LENSE USING

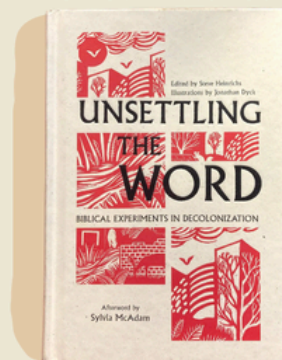
BIBLE PASSAGES FROM UNSETTLING THE WORD:

BIBLICAL EXPERIMENTS IN DECOLONIZATION

1st and 3rd Sunday evenings
on Zoom, starting Feb 1

7 PM – 8:15 PM

LATE REGISTRATIONS ARE WELCOME
THROUGH FEBRUARY



Scan QR Code to register
or go to
www.broadviewunited.com



INTERCULTURAL COMMUNITY UPDATES

Our Intercultural community continues to gather every Saturday during **Saturday Social (5:30–8:30 pm)**, and it has been wonderful to see the space growing and evolving. Some of our regular participants are currently traveling to visit family in their home countries, and we've also welcomed new faces who are bringing fresh energy into our community.



Listening Month Reflections



During January, our listening month, we spent time hearing from many of you. Overall, we heard how much people appreciate having a welcoming space with no strings attached. Many shared that they feel a sense of freedom here — freedom to be themselves, to try new things, and to connect openly with others. This has been really encouraging to hear.



What's Continuing

We will continue offering the programs that have been especially well attended:

- **Language Café**
- **Taste of Home**

New Schedule Going Forward

- **1st and 3rd Saturdays:**
Open gatherings (games, karaoke, workshops, etc.)
- **2nd and 4th Saturdays:**
Themed gatherings



Upcoming Dates - *Please Mark Your Calendar*

Language Café

- February 14
- March 14
- April 11

Taste of Home

- February 28
- March 28
- April 25
- May 23

Culture Market

- May 9



Lunar New Year Night Market

In collaboration with UVic student clubs (Vietnamese, Taiwanese, and Pacific & Asian Studies), we are hosting a **Lunar New Year Night Market** on:

Saturday, February 7 | 5:30–8:30 pm | The Commons

🎟️ **Tickets are \$5**, which includes food and games. You're welcome to bring cash for additional food.

We have **30 tickets available**, so please get yours early! Contact Min-Goo at min-goo@broadviewunited.com.



Mahjong and Haircuts at Saturday Social

We now have a brand-new mahjong set, generously brought from China by Linda Zou — thank you, Linda!

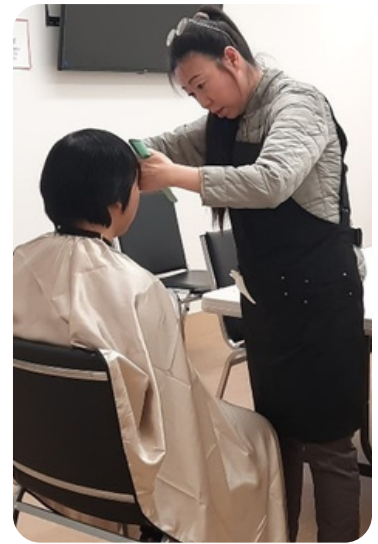
Many of you have asked about this, so we're excited to make mahjong available regularly during Saturday Social.

Linda is also kindly continuing to offer haircuts (for anyone, regardless of gender identity) — one person each Saturday. If you'd like a haircut, please:

- Let me (Min-Goo) know in advance
- Arrive with your hair already washed



Please note: There will be no **Saturday Social on February 7**. Instead, our Intercultural Community Members are warmly invited to attend the Lunar New Year Night Market



We're grateful for the energy, care, and presence you each bring to this community. We look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks.

SEE YOU
* Soon! *



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY INFO AND SIGN-UP SESSIONS

Four drop in sessions to choose from!



When: Sunday, February 8

10:30-11:00 am & 12:15-12:45 pm

Sunday February 22

10:30-11:00 am & 12:15-12:45 pm

Location: Cedar Room off the Commons

What's the BUZZ about Small Groups?

Psssst! Mark your calendars to attend a drop-in session where you can learn about BVU'S Small Group Ministry. Grab a cup of coffee, and come meet some of BVU'S small group leaders and members.

1. What are small groups?
2. How do I join a group?
3. What goes on in a small group?
4. Can I join with a friend or family member?
5. Is there a secret handshake? (wink, wink) 😊



Here are some testimonials about our small group program!

I appreciate the support our group gives to each other in good times and bad.

I like getting to know people in the congregation so I feel more connected to the community when I come to church Sunday morning.

I appreciate the depth of sharing in our group. It is a place where I can be authentic and know I will be accepted and heard without judgement.

One attractive aspect of small groups is that each decides its own destiny! If you want a focus you select one. If you don't, you don't. It is where deep friendships are formed, meaningful conversations occur, respectfulness is honoured and pastoral care happens naturally.



Curious? Come find out more about us!

Also, see the Small Group Descriptor in the 2025-2026 Program Guide

Feel free to reach out to any of the following if you have questions, or want further conversation: **Margaret:** margaret@broadviewunited.com; **Betty:** bdoherty1@telus.net; **Val:** valbauld5@gmail.com; **Adele:** aheise@live.ca.



THRIFT STORE UPDATES

This month we are having a Best Dressed dog contest. Owners must consent to their dog being photographed to enter. You can bring your dog in their Sunday best or you can submit photos to broadviewts@gmail.com. The winner will be contacted at the beginning of March and their dog's photo will be posted in the March newsletter. There is also a small prize for the Best Dressed Dog.

February welcomes 50% off sales on pink tag items, hardware, and ladies tops!

Enjoy a romantic walk through the thrift store. Find something flattering for Valentine's day. Pick up some crafting supplies for a Valentine's day get together. Or find some unique items you've been searching for.

Last year the thrift store contributed \$152,000 to Broadview United for programs offered by the church. See this year's financial report for details on our 2025 fiscal year. We also support many social justice organizations. Come in to purchase Peace By Chocolate and help contribute to a great cause.

The thrift store general meeting is set for Friday February 27th at 1 pm in the Narthex. All thrift store volunteers are welcome.

Sarah McConnell - Store Manager



RETAIL HOURS

- **Wednesdays** 10 am - 5 pm
- **Thursdays** 4 pm - 8 pm
- **Fridays** 10 am - 6 pm
- **Saturdays** 10 am - 5 pm

DONATION HOURS

- **Monday to Friday** 9 am - 3 pm
- **Saturday** 10 am - 3 pm



JUSTICE FAIR Sunday, Feb 8

Come to the Commons following both services on February 8! Meet people committed to making our world better for all. It's an opportunity to learn, to be inspired and to join actions that interest you. It's an opportunity to connect with others!

One can purchase Gayle's handmade cards in support of the MooseHide Campaign, register to participate in community events, buy products such as olive oil and dates to support farmers in Palestine, sign letters to politicians, purchase 'Peace by Chocolate' for your Valentine and buy other tasty items in support of other groups. Take time to be curious. Ask questions.



Cash, E-transfers and cheques are accepted. To participate, please contact either Barbara bmhansen@telus.net or Robin robin.breckon@gmail.com by Wednesday, February 4.

COOKIES AS AN ACT OF SOLIDARITY

January 31 was the 108th consecutive Saturday BVU demonstrated our solidarity with Palestinians by sharing cookies with those who come to the weekly rallies. Rally participants come to add their voices against the oppression and genocide inflicted on Palestinians by the state of Isreal. People of all ages – including children - continue to be killed and displaced.

Our solidarity through the cookies have contributed to building trust and relationships. We provide a listening ear when individuals feel overwhelmed and experience loss in other aspects of their lives. Some bring cookies and fruit to share as well, yet the anchor is BVU's consistent



presence. Thank you for your ongoing contributions. Please join us at 1:00 pm at the Legislature every Saturday for the 'Free Palestine' rally and march. For more information contact Robin: robin.breckon@gmail.com or Barbara: bmhansen@telus.net.



QUILTS FOR SURVIVORS PROJECT

At BVU we are making quilts and gifting them to Survivors of the Residential School System. The BVU Quilters have quilted, smudged and mailed out their 233rd quilt since the group was formed in 2023.



Join us - All are welcome – no experience necessary! We all learn together as we have fun creating... Drop-in workshops have resumed:

- Mondays - 9 am to 12 pm (drop in to pick up fabric; sew and share ideas)
- Fridays - 11 am to 2 pm (drop in to pick up fabric; sew and share ideas)



For information, contact Vivian Skinner at vivianskinner@shaw.ca



DOCUMENTARY

REPORTED BY RAMITA NAVAİ

FILMED & DIRECTED BY KARIM SHAH

Gaza: Doctors Under Attack is a forensic investigation into the impact of Israeli military operations on Gaza's healthcare system. This urgent documentary examines **evidence of widespread destruction across the territory's medical infrastructure**. Hundreds of healthcare workers are known to have been killed, injured or detained, and all 36 hospitals damaged or destroyed. The film offers a harrowing account of courage, loss and endurance, illuminating the role of frontline workers in one of the world's most precarious humanitarian contexts.

Run Time: 65 minutes, followed by discussion

BY DONATION

CO-PRESENTED BY BROAD VIEW UNITED
& VICTORIA HEALTH WORKERS AGAINST GENOCIDE



**SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 22**

Doors @ 6:30pm
Screening @ 7pm



Broad View
— UNITED —

3703 St. Aidan's St.
info@broadviewunited.com

RECIPROCITY TRUSTS -

DECOLONIZE YOUR BACKYARD

If you want to acknowledge that the lands you live on are unceded; Reciprocity Trusts allows you to participate in giving back and take a small tangible step toward decolonization. If this idea interests you, find out more at this reciprocitytrusts.ca or look for more information at the Justice Fair this month.



Broad View
— UNITED —

Bits & Bytes

F R I D A Y E - M A I L



If you're having trouble receiving the **Bits and Bytes Friday email**, please contact 250-590-3677 or office@broadviewunited.com for assistance.



BICYCLES NEEDED FOR REFUGEE FAMILY

We have joined with "Victoria Shows Love" in a joint sponsorship of a Syrian family of 4 who had been living in a refugee camp in Lebanon for over 4 years. A sub-group of our refugee team led by Liane Clark is now looking for donations of bicycles for the family. Please do not bring any bicycles to the church!



If you have a men's large bicycle, women's small bicycle, or children's bicycles for ages 5 and 7 to donate, please send an email to office@broadviewunited.com, with the subject line "bicycle". The body of the email should have a description of the bicycle including make, model, approximate age and condition. Please attach a picture of the bicycle to the email before sending. Our team will review the submissions later in February and contact you should your bicycle be selected. We will then make arrangements with you to get your bicycle to the family. Any questions about this request, please send an email to office@broadviewunited.com.



Celebrating Palestinian Women's Resistance

COME DO TATREEZ (EMBROIDERY) WITH US!

Sunday, Feb. 8 from 2-4:30pm

Broad View United

3703 St. Aidan's St., Victoria

Register: 250-590-3677 or info@broadviewunited.com



Bring your latest tatreez project to work on
and let's embroider and visit together!

SUPPLIES PROVIDED FOR
BEGINNERS
TEA & GOODIES
ADMISSION BY DONATION



NEW INITIATIVE: APARTHEID-FREE COMMUNITY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH AND ISRAELI APARTHEID: WHAT CAN WE LEARN?



February is Black History month, a time to hear and lift up the stories of Black Canadians who have contributed a great deal of vibrancy, knowledge and justice to our collective experience. It is also a time to learn from and acknowledge the stories of racism and struggle that people of African ancestry live with in our country.

The Indian Act, of 1876, created a framework for racial classification and segregation that was deemed 'so effective' that South Africa studied Canada's policies when developing their apartheid system that lasted from 1948 - 1994.

WE'RE LEARNING ABOUT APARTHEID FREE COMMUNITIES
THIS YEAR- JOIN US!



On Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, the 44th General Council of the United Church affirmed the application of justice principles to the conflict in Israel and Palestine; in doing so, it enabled the national office and local congregations to adopt Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) strategies and joins in the consensus of the international human rights communities in recognizing and rejecting Israel's apartheid system.

Look for special events, films, interactive learning experiences, conversation circles, a book study, and much more- all designed to help our community understand what apartheid is and why we need to pledge to reject this system in Israel.

**APARTHEID
-FREE
COMMUNITIES**



Broad View
UNITED

In 1984, the General Council of the United Church of Canada (UCC), declared "that apartheid...is a sin, and that moral and theological justification of it is a travesty of the gospel, and...a heresy." This declaration served as a corner stone for decades of work including apologies by the UCC surrounding treatment of Indigenous people at church-led residential facilities, calls for the elimination of racial discrimination and, more recently, statements against the mistreatment of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories by the State of Israel.

In 2017, the late Honourable Murray Sinclair explained that, an "apartheid system still exists (in Canada) ... We do have a lot to learn from the South African experience."

In July 2024, the International Court of Justice declared that Israel's racial segregation and apartheid policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are in breach of international law.

There is a movement now spreading church by church and organization by organization across North America to encourage the signing of an Apartheid-Free pledge. The Pacific Mountain UCC Region has signed the pledge and encourage all churches in our region to join the initiative. www.apartheid-free.org.

What exactly does it mean to be an Apartheid-Free Community? A group at BVU will host a variety of events and provide opportunities to learn more. Sunday March 1st we will have guest speakers and a lunch following the service. March 15th we will be offering a new interactive learning resource called the Palestinian Land Exercise. We invite you to join us. Stay tuned!



NEW INITIATIVE: RECONCILIATION RAIN GARDEN

BVU's doing a new thing!

RECONCILIATION RAIN GARDEN - Bringing a Vision of Right Relationship to Our Garden

Some of us have been dreaming for almost a year now of telling a story about right relationship using a part of our church's garden. It started with the idea of a rain garden but soon grew to embrace something more.

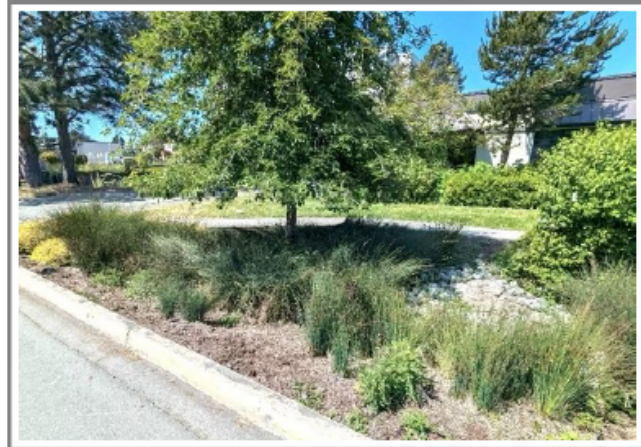
***Can we explore what it means to work with nature rather than try to control or fight it?
Are there ways to garden that support the return of the original ecology of this place?
How can we show respect for the relationships Indigenous peoples have had with this land for thousands and thousands of years?***

By trying to answer these and other questions we have now come up with a rough plan that would see us create a RECONCILIATION RAIN GARDEN on the southwestern grassy area of our land. This would happen in stages, over a few years, with **STAGE 1 being the creation of a rain garden**. Some of the rain that currently drains off our church's roof into Saanich's storm water system, would be re-directed to that area.

Rain gardens are growing more popular in the CRD as the climate changes and the rains grow more unpredictable. ([Link to map of 1000 rain gardens](#)) These gardens allow the rainwater to be filtered by vegetation and percolate into the soil recharging the groundwater aquifers. Ultimately that water is returned to the watershed and Bowker Creek, instead of flowing directly into the ocean. By planting the kinds of native plants that thrive in an ecosystem that is mostly dry, the care for this area will be minimal once the plants have established themselves.

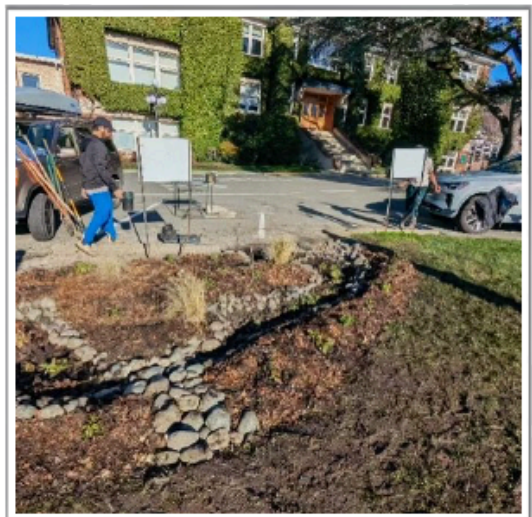
Just as important, we will have created a garden where all the other beings who evolved with these plants can thrive- the birds, bugs, and bacteria, to name just a few. **Giving back to nature is another part of the story we are hoping to tell with this garden. As Robin Wall Kimmerer observes, "all flourishing is mutual."**

Because the best time to plant is the fall, over the next few months, we will need to do some soil testing and other preparatory investigations to ensure success. Please do not be alarmed if you see people digging up some of the lawn or examining our roof's drainage system: it's all part of the process.



NEW INITIATIVE

And here's some more good news - we aren't going into this project alone. We're thrilled to be working collaboratively with the [Friends of Bowker Creek](#) an organization many are familiar with thanks to the work of Gerald Harris, a member of BVU, and the [Peninsula Streams Society](#), a registered charity whose mission is to build a legacy of healthy streams and shorelines. These groups will provide us with expertise, funding, equipment, and some volunteers. BVU will also need to step up and provide a few people who are interested in doing hands-on planting and gardening this fall. **Stay tuned for more about the different ways people can get involved in this project very soon.**



STAGE 2 will be the creation of the Indigenous plant garden that will surround the rain garden. While we are beginning now the important work of consultation with Indigenous knowledge keepers about the kinds of food, medicinal and ceremonial plants and shrubs that would be suitable, we don't expect to be ready to put our shovels in the ground until 2027.

We hope you'll see this **RECONCILIATION RAIN GARDEN** as another step in our journey on the reconciliation path. It honours the truth of our shared history- the cultural genocide of the Original People of this land and the devastation of the watersheds that are now in need of healing and regenerating. We believe it could become a place where we learn how to care for Earth and heal ourselves in the process of tending and enjoying it. ***This is our work to do as settlers. Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples goes hand in hand with reconciliation with our Earth. They are bound together. May this garden be a way for us to share that story with one another as well as with our neighbourhood.***

Over the next months, watch for information in our newsletter and bulletins about upcoming educational opportunities and events connected to this **NEW THING** that we are doing at BVU. If you have some suggestions, questions or concerns, please let us know.



SHROVE TUESDAY

Wednesday, February 18 · 6 pm



Join us for a joyful and reflective **Rainbow Pancake Supper** followed by a short **Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm**



Scan QR code to register or visit
www.broadviewunited.com



Broad View United
3703 St. Aidan's St.