

CENTRAL OKANAGAN UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER —

June 2024

What's On?

**JUNE IS
PRIDE MONTH!
CHURCH PICNIC
GRAD SUNDAY**

**LOVE
JOY
PEACE
SHARING**

Send in your photos
and news for the
upcoming editions of
our Newsletter.



Central Okanagan United Church

JUNE 2024

A large, pink, 3D-style "WELCOME" sign is centered on a rustic wooden plank background. The sign is surrounded by clusters of purple, white, and pink flowers.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship together on Sundays at
10am - 721 Bernard Ave, Kelowna
Zoom and Facebook Live options
available.

CONTACT ADMIN

Tanya / Bernard Office / E-Letter Submission
250 762-3311 tanyap@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com

Saibun / Fitzpatrick Office
250-765-5141 saibunh@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com

Delaine / Newsletter Submissions
delainec@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com



(250)762- 3311

MAIL TO: PO BOX 24042, KELOWNA BC, V1Y 9H2

CENTRALOKANAGANUNITEDCHURCH.COM

Church News

What's Happening this month.

JUNE AT A GLANCE

- Jazz Vespers June 2nd 5:15pm
- June 9th Pride Sunday
- June 16th Grad Sunday
- June 23rd Church Picnic
- June 30th Congregational Meeting



Covid19, Flu Season & Illness:

Please stay home if you feel unwell, or have been exposed recently. There are masks available in church if you need one. Please wash your hands frequently and use sanitizer when eating or drinking and practice social distance.

Let's work to keep each other safe!



SUBMISSIONS

Please have your news, articles and photos in by the 21st of the month to delainec@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com to be included in the next month's Newsletter.

Please submit weekly E-Letter news to Tanya tanyap@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com

 (250)762- 3311

 MAIL TO: PO BOX 24042, KELOWNA BC, V1Y 9H2

 CENTRALOKANAGANUNITEDCHURCH.COM



Giving and PAR



Do you remember when everyone received a box of little envelopes at the beginning of each year and then everyone put one of those envelopes into the collection plate every Sunday, and virtually all the contributions to the church were made this way? Boy, have things changed! We don't even use collection plates anymore.

First there was the development of the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program, which started back in 1976 and many contributors signed up for PAR because of the convenience and the guarantee of regular monthly contributions. Then platforms like CanadaHelps appeared in 2000, and e-transfers started after 2003. Some folks preferred to make gifts of shares instead of cash, to help their tax situation; and now we even have QR codes in the church pews!

While the many options for giving certainly existed prior to Covid 19, it was the pandemic and related lockdown that really changed how contributions were made to churches as many individuals recognized that the expenses of the church continued during the pandemic and they wanted to support the church even if they couldn't attend worship services in person.

Today, Central Okanagan United Church receives about 49% of its contributions through monthly PAR. Another 39% come through cash/cheques/e-transfers that arrive weekly, monthly or just occasionally; and 12% comes through the other giving platforms – mostly in the form of shares.

No matter how it arrives, COUC greatly appreciates your contributions and makes good use of them through its four ministries and varied programming with about 29% going toward Worship & Music Ministry, 23% to Community Ministry, 14% to Pastoral Care Ministry and 13% to Intergenerational Ministry. The remaining 21% represents the administration costs of the Bernard office including administrative staffing, office supplies and equipment leases, professional fees, licences and fees, interest and bank charges, facility costs, etc.

Regardless of how you give, COUC thanks you for your continued support and your contributions to COUC ministries and their programming.

PAR Month - Thank you!

I know that many of you are going to miss those hilarious PAR skits at the beginning of each service but it is now June and not May and, as Porky Pig says, "that's all folks!" We want to thank our great actors throughout the month as they really were quite wonderful: Jayne Brooks, Linda Hutchinson, Mike Chiasson, Terry Welsh, Joa Lazarus and Judy Valks. Your sense of humour and creativity really helped deliver the PAR message.

And yes, the scripts were written and prepared by the United Church of Canada and its Mission & Service Fund and we definitely want to thank them for the suggestions but, as you may have guessed, there was just a little bit of improvisation going on.

Jayne

Chair of Finance



Our Congregation's PAR Program

How to Participate

1. Prayerfully decide what you will give each year, and divide that amount by 12.
2. Fill out the authorization form, and attach a cheque marked "VOID."
3. Give this to our designated PAR contact person, or leave at the church office.
4. The amount will be transferred from your account to our congregation's account on the 20th of each month. You can modify or cancel your donation, change how it is designated, or change your information at any time.

Why Participate?

If you have automatic withdrawals from your bank account to pay your bills, taxes, or mortgage, then you already understand the PAR principle.

Besides being convenient, using PAR for your offering ensures regular monthly givings to help our church's ministry even when you are away. You will be providing our congregation a dependable flow of contributions, which increases our overall financial stability.

Your regular giving supports the ministry of Central Okanagan United Church (COUC) and the many programs that are offered, from worship services in church on Sunday to worship in Senior Care Homes throughout the week; from Sunday School and other children and youth programs to SongShine, book studies, and Walk and Talk for the young at heart; from the morning grocery and meal program for members of our local community to programs of education and support for Reconciliation, Inclusion, and Justice for all.

Your giving also supports the Mission and Service fund of the United Church of Canada and its work at home and abroad through its many vibrant and vital ministries for the healing of the world. COUC currently gives \$33,000 annually to UCC Mission and Service.



Please contact Marg Brooks: contributions@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com

Stewardship

The Stewardship Team asks you to financially support the Central Okanagan United Church through one of the methods outlined below.

With God's help and the generosity of your contributions of financial resources, time, talent and energy we will fulfill our church's mission.

Need more information? Contact the office or Marg Brooks.



Scan QR Code
to Donate

or Read on for
How to Give

Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR)



Specify the amount of monthly donation to be deducted from your chequing account. Contact the office to join PAR or make changes to your current PAR contributions.

**Please contact Marg Brooks:
contributions@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com**

Cheques & E-Transfers

Please make out cheques to Central Okanagan United Church, and place in one of the offering offertory boxes in the sanctuary, drop off at 721 Bernard, or mail to:

Central Okanagan
United Church
PO Box 24042
Kelowna, BC
V1Y 9H2



E-transfer your donation to
finance@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com

Donation of Shares

Contact Marg Brooks for information.



Bequests or Memorial Gifts

Include Central Okanagan United Church in your will or make a gift in memory of an individual.

Thank you for your generous and continued support!



Community Ministry



Tuesday mornings continue to be busy with meals being served to approximately 90 individuals and 70 to 80 families regularly asking for a bag of groceries.

Our volunteers (shoppers, cooks, servers, sandwich makers, bakers, grocery baggers, greeters) are kept very busy each week trying to meet these requirements.

As summer weather and sunshine arrive, we are getting requests for sunscreen and bottled water so please keep that in mind if you are out shopping for us. Ad if you have any new or lightly used summer hats or caps you don't know what to do with, we could probably use them.

We appreciate the support from so many of you who contribute money or groceries for the food pantry or goodies for our meals; and thank you for answering our recent appeal for personal hygiene items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, etc. A need always exists for these items. We are also always in need of reusable bags for packing groceries and for small clean plastic bags like bread bags so we can divide bread and other produce we receive.

We are so blessed to have such faithful volunteers. Both Susanne and I are away for much of June but our volunteers will carry on without us and I'm sure we will not be missed at all.

The availability of volunteers varies from week to week, and over the summer we often struggle while people are away on vacation or have company. If you would like to be involved in any way, please let me know and I'm sure we will have a place for you. Thank you for supporting this much needed ministry for members of our local community!

The Tuesday morning group of volunteers reflect COUC so well representing all amalgamating congregations and members of the wider community. This program is truly a treasure and a great example of bold discipleship with our many wonderful volunteers making it possible.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, volunteers!

Jayne

Anyone wishing to get involved please contact Jayne Brooks

250-762-9606 or email k.jaynebrooks@gmail.com

Jayne



May Memories



Hello Summer

Events and happenings at COUC



June Worship

PRIDE MONTH



SUNDAY 2ND

8AM SHARING CIRCLE -ROOM 14
10AM WORSHIP & COMMUNION
1:00PM HAWTHORN CARE HOME
5:15PM JAZZ VESPERS

SUNDAY 9TH

PRIDE SUNDAY

8AM SHARING CIRCLE -ROOM 14
10AM WORSHIP & PRIDE
CELEBRATION.
WEAR YOUR COLOURS!

SUNDAY 16TH

GRADUATION SUNDAY

8AM SHARING CIRCLE -ROOM 14
10AM WORSHIP -
CELEBRATE THE GRADS!

SUNDAY 23RD

PICNIC IN THE PARK

8AM SHARING CIRCLE -ROOM 14
10AM WORSHIP AND
PICNIC IN THE PARK!



SUNDAY 30TH

8AM SHARING CIRCLE -ROOM 14
10AM WORSHIP
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

FAREWELL TO IVY & TANYA COMING
NEXT MONTH!

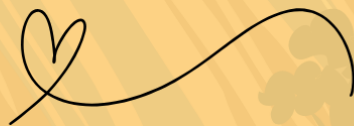
JULY 14TH- SAVE THE DATE!

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION THE 94 CALLS TO ACTION

You are invited to join a Reading Circle of The 94 Calls to Action published by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. For 6 years (2009 - 2015) the Commission travelled across Canada listening to the experiences of Residential School Survivors, as well as their families and communities. Their voices were documented, reflected on, and presented in The 94 Calls to Action, as a way forward for all of Canada.

Come join us for an opportunity to read or just listen, with time for brief comment and questions. Copies of the Calls will be available at the Reading Circle or you can print your own copy at www2.gov.bc.ca

TO REGISTER please contact the COUC office at
250-762-3311 or
sign up at our table in the hall Sunday, June 2.



Threshold Sunday!

CELEBRATE WITH OUR GRADS AND YOUNG
CONGREGANTS

JUNE 16TH



CLASS OF 2024

This year we will celebrate the transition of young congregants into Grade 4 where they will receive a bible, encouraging them to become youth lectors. We will also host some of the high school graduates from our congregation to send them on their way with a blessing.

CENTRAL OKANAGAN UNITED CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



June 30th, 2024

Following Worship



721 Bernard Ave &
Available on Zoom



*“Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed
Clear the chaos and the clutter.*

Clear our eyes that we can see all the things that really matter

Be at peace and simply be.”

~ Shirley Erena Murray



Walking the Labyrinth

It can help us calm our thoughts; focus on what's important; offer clarity of thinking; provide a method of reflecting on our life journey; guide us into next steps; and draw us closer to an intimate relationship with The Holy.

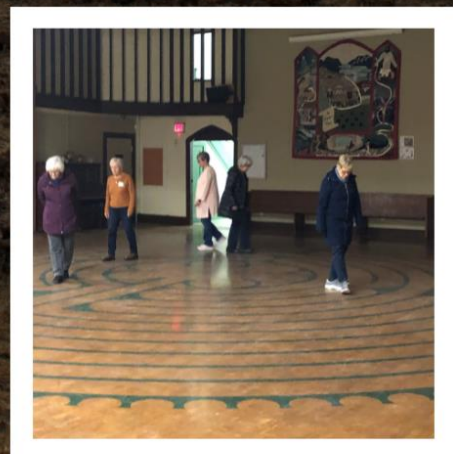
Some move slowly, some rush, some dance and others simply follow the path using our eyes. How ever we choose to journey through the path, we are sure to be gifted with a holy experience.



*Wednesday Mornings, our labyrinth will be
open for quiet contemplation on a weekly
basis. Come and find the quiet center.*

7:30-8:30am

All Welcome!





Walk and Talk

Walk and Talk is a program designed to maintain physical function, strength, balance, coordination and endurance in older adults. The program consists of walking for half an hour. Walking increases your strength and endurance, and is done at your own pace, with or without mobility aids. Then, a half hour of falls prevention exercises that were developed by the University of Otago. And finally, a half hour of socializing. The program is led by COUC volunteers. Join us Thursday mornings at 9:30 in room 14.



Hosted By: Rev. Ivy Thomas.

Meeting Details:

Wednesday, June 12th for our last Wonderlust until September. There will be coffee and cookies to help celebrate another great year of conversations and fellowship. Our question to ponder for June is:

How do we identify ourselves ethnically/racially? How black, white, Irish, German, etc., are we? What about us "mongrels" what are we? How do we identify and why?

RSVP TO TANYA : Tanyap@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com

If you have a question or thought you wish to explore,
please include that in your registration
or bring it with you to the gathering
At the end of each gathering we will randomly choose one of the
submitted questions for our next discussion.



CAMP SPIRIT

SUMMER 2024

AUG 6-9, 2024

**Central Okanagan United Church
@ Camp Dunlop**

CAMP DETAILS

Camp Fee: \$140

Inclusive of Lunch and Snacks, Camp Spirit T-shirt,
Program and Supply costs

*We offer financial assistance! Request a bursary during the
online-registration process for an immediate fee discount.*

REGISTRATION INFO

campspirit.ca

campspirit@united-church.ca

800-934-0434 ext. 6403

CAMP SPIRIT

SUMMER 2024

CAMP LOCATION - Camp Dunlop

5325 Lakeshore Rd,
Kelowna, BC V1W 4S5

Central Okanagan United Church

P.O. Box 24042
Kelowna, BC V1Y 9H2



We are proudly part of The United Church of Canada. Camp Spirit is in 21 communities this summer! Rooted and Growing in Love, we celebrate and welcome the fullness of God's diversity. We are grateful for donations to the Camp Spirit Bursary Fund that empowers equal access to our camp regardless of household finances.



**Strengthening Voices. Inspiring Possibility.
WHERE VOICES COME TO LIFE**

Welcome to *SongShine*, vocal music and creative drama-based classes designed for those who have communication issues due to Parkinson's, stroke, other neurological challenges, or aging. Our goal is to help you communicate more easily and clearly. *SongShine* harnesses the power of brain, breath, and emotion to reclaim voices. It creates community, camaraderie, and confidence

...AND IT'S FUN!

Meet: Mondays at 1pm, at Bernard Church, in Room 14

Hosted by Choir Director Sylvia Clerke

**SCRABBLE GROUP -
TUESDAYS AT BERNARD.**

J₁ O₁ I₁ N₂ I₁ N₂

S₄ C₁ R₁ A₂ B₁ B₂ L₃ E₃

ALL PLAYER LEVELS WELCOME!

T₂ U₃ E₁ S₂ D₂ A₂ Y₃ S₂

1 : 3 0 P M



CENTRAL OKANAGAN UNITED CHURCH IS PROUDLY A CHRISTIAN PLACE OF BELONGING FOR EVERY PERSON, WHERE DIVERSE FAMILY STRUCTURE, GENDERS, CULTURES, FAITHS AND SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS ARE CELEBRATED AND TREASURED!

Interested in volunteering with our Sunday School Program one Sunday this spring or summer?

Get in touch with Keith!

Thank You!





**Keep up to date, watch worship videos and more.
Find us online! Like and Follow us on Facebook &
Subscribe to our YouTube Channel!**

Website

<https://centralokanaganunitedchurch.com>

Facebook Page SUNDAY LIVESTREAM SHOWN HERE

<https://www.facebook.com/Centralokanaganunitedchurchkelownabc>

Facebook Group (Our Private Church Group)

(A Private Group for members & friends of COUC to share church news or discussion)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/319967703235745>

United Church of Canada Private Group –

Join in for all UCC chat & news!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UnitedChurchCda/permalink/10167795547890401/>

YouTube Channel (Worship videos posted weekly):

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJRqGV1Zra36gbm1jSlks1w>





Thank you

FOR READING!