

CENTRAL OKANAGAN UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER —

July 2024

What's On?

**SUMMER IS HERE
STAFF GOODBYES**

**REGISTRATION OPEN
FOR CAMP SPIRIT**

**LOVE
JOY
PEACE
SHARING**

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



Central Okanagan United Church

JULY 2024

WELCOME

SUNDAY WORSHIP


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

CONTACT ADMIN

Delaine / E-Letter & Newsletter Submissions
delainec@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com

Saibun / Room Rentals, Bookings & Buildings
saibunh@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 July 7th 5:15pm
- July 14th 10am Farewell Sunday for Ivy and Tanya
- Cheryl Returns from Leave
- Delaine is away: July 29th - Aug 1st and Aug 19th - 30th.



Join Us For a Fond Farewell Sunday!


Please join everyone in the church hall immediately after the de-covenanting service for Ivy July 14th to bid both Ivy & Tanya, our leaders, co-workers, and friends for so many years, our very fond farewells.



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 Delaine delainec@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com

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CONGRATS

SENIOR YOUTH

2024!





Volunteers Needed

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS WANTED
FOR MONDAYS

&

OCCASIONAL HOLIDAY COVER

AND - DO YOU WANT TO BE ON OUR
SUNDAY READER LIST?

LET US KNOW!

Contact Delaine if you are interested in becoming an
Office Volunteer or a Sunday Reader! Thank You!

Volunteers for Sunday morning tech desk also always welcome

More information : delainec@centralokanaganunitedchurch.com



Pacific Mountain Regional Council
of the United Church of Canada
Annual General Meeting
May 30 – June 2, 2024
St. Andrews-Wesley United Church
Vancouver, BC

Reports

There were so many reports presented at the AGM that we cannot report on all of them, and committees and ministries rotate their presentations, so they get to present every second or third year at the AGM. What appears below are only the highlights from this year's presentations.

Pro-Vision Fund - COUC's Beryl Itani introduced the fund which currently sits at \$3.5 million. Only the interest earned goes in the funding account and in 2023 just under \$300,000 of funding was awarded to various regional churches and ministries. COUC's SongShine program was one of the groups that received funding, and they were well represented in the video presentation prepared and shown by Pro-Vision.

Stewardship - The Stewardship report was positive with new courses and training programs resulting in significant increases in contributions, with one Church reporting a 17% increase in contributions and a 44% increase in fundraising after completing the course. Contributions to the Mission and Service fund were \$17 million nationally with grants used to help organizations in Canada and around the world.

Archives - This was a quick but interesting report about how they have been supporting the Chinese Canadian Museum on the 100th anniversary of the Chinese Exclusion Act, and Japanese Canadian researchers, as well as Indigenous-related research especially around residential schools – providing pictures and stories of the children in the schools.

Finance - The Finance Advisory Council shared a Zoom presentation of their financial results prior to the AGM. The financial position of the Region remains strong with over \$70 million in total assets, but much of the \$50 million in investments is designated for, or held on behalf of, specific ministries or communities of faith.

Regional Executive Report – A summary of the self-assessment reports submitted by the Communities of Faith in the region over the last three years was presented. Some of the commonly identified strengths in the report were: resiliency and adaptability, worship, outreach and service, community bonds, and financials sustainability. Some of the commonly identified challenges were: aging populations, shortage of volunteers, financial stability, governance and organizational structure, intergenerational opportunities, navigating ChurchHub, technology, finding and affording ministers, and capital upgrades.

Proposals

Business included the introduction, discussion and voting on 5 Proposals. All the discussions were respectful and thought-provoking in the spirit of our members.

1. **Truth Telling and Reconciliation:** In light of recent learning with regard to Residential Schools, the United Church of Canada is asked to make an additional apology that builds on its two previous apologies; and, in consultation with the National Indigenous Church, develop a process and resources for Communities of Faith to follow in their reconciliation efforts.
2. **Emerging Communities of Faith.** This proposal dealt with changing the wording of the Manual to include a definition, terms, roles, responsibilities and voting rights for these new Communities of Faith. This is for clarification only and requires action by General Council.
3. **Facing Every Emotional Limit (FEEL):** This proposal prompted much discussion but with some wording changes was passed. It spoke of the increasing mental health issues, especially among our youth, and urged the Regional Councils and General Council of the United Church to live up to the church's mandate to defend the weakest and consider ways to respond to the Mental Health crisis.
4. **Unsettling Goods Campaign:** This proposal was a follow-up from last year about boycotting of companies producing goods that receive benefits from the occupation of Palestine. The original proposal was waived to gather more info and a revised proposal - **#5 - Non-Violent Economic Advocacy** was later presented and passed.



During the weekend, several comments were made on the **Strategic Plan** of the United Church of Canada (UCC), with priorities as shown above.

The Growth area is focusing on renewal, creation, and invitation; and many new Communities of Faith are emerging especially within the new immigrant populations.

Global Partnerships focus on Justice but can involve several parts of the Strategic Plan. UCC has Mission and Service global partners in three global regions: Africa and the Middle East (25 partners in 8 countries), Asia (24 partners in 8 countries), and Latin America and the Caribbean (19 partners in 7 countries). The church is also in formal relationship with seven global ecumenical partner organizations with global mandates and membership.



Keynote Speaker

The keynote speaker at the Conference was **Patty Krawec** an Anishinaabe from Lac Seul First Nation, who was caught-up in the 60's scoop and was raised by evangelical, Ukrainian family in Thunder Bay.

This quote from her website sums up her presentations: "This remarkable sojourn through Native and settler history, myth, identity, and spirituality helps us retrace our steps and pick up what was lost along the way: chances to honor rather than violate treaties, to see the land as a relative rather than a resource, and to unravel the history we have been taught."

Patty's presentations were all enjoyable and thought provoking. Here are some paraphrases of Patty's remarks that we found challenged our thinking and assumptions:

- Some harms can't be undone.
- Tell partners, here are the resources, use them, rather than saying, 'Fill out this grant form'.
- We can care for people who have been harmed or we can change what harms people.
- Collaboration comes with a cost.
- If I had known that what I knew was wrong, I could have rethought and changed what I knew.
- There is no point in asking for consent, if you are not willing to listen or to give it.
- When we stop listening to other peoples' stories, we silence them.



Worship at the 2024 Pacific Mountain Regional Council AGM was interspersed throughout the weekend culminating with the special **Celebration of Ministry** worship service on Sunday morning with 850 people present at St. Andrew's - Wesley United Church. This special service was a celebration of 15 new ministers with 11 Ordained, 3 Commissioned and 1 Admitted.

Some of those ordained and commissioned have moved over from the Designated Lay Minister (DLM) classification due to a 2023 change in United Church of Canada categories.

Music, as always, was wonderful with organ, jazz band, Bruce Harding with two Sitar/drummers and a make-up choir (including Jayne and Susan) led by Sam Dabrusin from Shaughnessy Heights UC. Retirees were recognized by video clips interspersed throughout the weekend and honoured in person on Saturday afternoon. As well as being celebrated as a 2024 retiree, our own Ivy was thanked for her work on the Executive of Regional Council!



The next AGM of the Pacific Mountain Region will be May 29 to June 1, 2025, in Nanaimo, BC.

Respectfully submitted by your Regional Representatives:

Jayne Brooks, Susan Sullivan and Pat Totton

»»»» **CONFERENCE
MOMENTS**



RIGHT REV. DR. CARMEN

Elected as Moderator at the 44th General Council in July 2022, The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne is a writer and speaker, and has served the church locally, nationally, and with the World Council of Churches. A resident of Vancouver, when not on UCC work, Carmen attended the Sunday worship service and Celebration of Ministry at the Pacific Mountain Regional Council AGM.



**DEBORAH RICHARDS
& TREENA DUNCAN**

Outgoing Pacific Mountain Regional Council President, Deborah Richards (left), being thanked by Executive Director, Treena Duncan.



REV. SIMON LESIEUR

Incoming Pacific Mountain Regional Council President.



Tuesday Morning Outreach July Update

Women's Inter-Church Council - World Day of Prayer Grant

The Tuesday morning program organizers applied for and received a \$5,000 grant to help support the cost of the weekly program and to offer courses to help empower those who attend each week, especially women. We will be doing some planning over the summer and talking to our guests about what courses they would like to attend; and then offering the courses in the fall. Courses like basic budgeting, shopping for nutritious food on a budget, and cooking nutritious meals on a budget may be of interest to many. Additional courses like FoodSafe Level 1 and Basic First Aid will be of interest to those looking for entry-level jobs in the hospitality industry. All courses will be open to members of the congregation and the larger community as well so stay tuned for further details. And if you have any interest and expertise or would like to help organize or run any of these courses, please let us know.

Bags please

We are always in need of bags of various descriptions. Reusable shopping bags are always welcome for those getting groceries. Most individuals bring their reusable bag with them but some forget and some individuals are new. And as we split baked goods and produce into smaller-sized offerings, we are always looking for smaller bags such as bread bags or produce bags from the grocery store. If you have any of these bags available, please drop them at the church office and we will gladly put them to use.

Case Lot Sales

We are always on the lookout for spot sales and good deals on grocery items, but our small group of shoppers cannot be everywhere. If you spot a great deal on items like canned tuna, chicken, ham, soup, fruit, vegetables, pasta sauce, pasta, toilet paper or other items we stock, please pick them up and get them to us. A few people are bringing in random donations like these and they are a great help to our budget and to those in need of our support.

Come Visit Us

From time to time when I am talking to people they say they really do not understand exactly what we do on Tuesday mornings. Please feel free to come and visit us at any time. We are there from 9 AM to 12 PM at least so stop by for a coffee or a bite to eat. The volunteers would be more than willing to talk to you and tell you what their job is, and I know some of our guests would love to have someone sit down and visit with them. Tuesday mornings are a large part of COUC's Community Ministry and how we serve those around us. We would love to have you stop by.

Thank you, Volunteers!

Lastly, as Susanne and I have both been away for most of June, we want to thank our wonderful volunteers who kept the Tuesday morning program running like clock work. You are an amazing group and we feel so blessed to have you on our team. Thank you!!!

If there are any students that would like to volunteer their time over summer break on Tuesday mornings, we would love to have you!

Anyone wishing to get involved please contact Jayne Brooks

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

Jayne



The long, lazy days of summer are here and we all take a breath and relax just a bit more for a couple of months. Perhaps your meetings or other activities have ended for the summer so your schedule is less cluttered and allows for more leisure time and activities. Perhaps you have some travel planned to visit friends or family or exciting places, or maybe family and friends are coming to visit you. Maybe your summer will be spent with your children, grand-children or great grand-children. No matter what you are doing this summer, the long hot days of July and August will no doubt make you smile and feel more alive as you enjoy the warm weather, sunshine, fresh air, beauty of nature, and the great produce that our valley produces.

Vicki Nelson, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Person for the Pacific Mountain Region (and other regions) had some interesting thoughts on sharing life's lessons of generosity with children this summer, and the article felt very appropriate for our summer newsletter. Link is below:

[Spice Up Summer With Kindness And Generosity](#)

Over the summer, as you have no doubt noted in this newsletter, many of the programs and activities of COUC will continue. Certainly our weekly worship services, pastoral care visits, Tuesday morning grocery and meal program, and other programs will be running throughout July and August. The work of the church may be a bit more relaxed in the summer but it continues all the same.

Some ways for you to support the work of the church throughout the summer include:

- Attending worship services in person or on Zoom
- Checking in on other congregational members and friends to ensure they are doing okay
- Dropping off donations for the food pantry or the meal program
- Spreading the word about upcoming events at COUC
- Supporting Camp Spirit for our young people
- And of course, continuing to make your financial contributions to the church so we can support the ongoing programs of COUC

Enjoy your summer!!!



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!

A scenic sunset over a lake with rocks in the foreground. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The foreground shows dark, smooth rocks on a sandy beach. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

Hello Summer

Events and happenings at COUC



Monthly

JAZZ VESPERS

I have a high view of instrumental music as a potential spiritual gift for the listener and the musician alike.... A jazz quartet can utter things in the presence of God that mere words fail to say. A saxophone can lament on behalf of those who feel helpless. A piano may offer intercessions for those who are in need. A string bass can affirm the firm foundation of faith. Drums and cymbals may call pilgrims to break into joy.

- [The Jazz Gospel – Center for Action and Contemplation \(cac.org\)](http://cac.org)

July 7th
5:15pm

MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY:
SPENCER DEAN (PIANO)
WILL FRIESEN (DRUMS)
ALEXANDER ARGATOFF (BASS)
JOE AUDY (TRUMPET)

First Sunday of the Month:
Central Okanagan United Church
721 Bernard Ave
Kelowna BC

July Worship

SUNDAY 7TH

8AM SHARING CIRCLE -ROOM 14
10AM WORSHIP & COMMUNION
FAREWELL DARIAN!
5:15PM JAZZ VESPERS

SUNDAY 14TH

FAREWELL IVY & TANYA!

8AM SHARING CIRCLE -ROOM 14
10AM WORSHIP & FAREWELL
DE-COVENANTING SERVICE

SUNDAY 21ST

8AM SHARING CIRCLE -ROOM 14
10AM WORSHIP

SUNDAY 28TH

8AM SHARING CIRCLE -ROOM 14
10AM WORSHIP

FAREWELL TO IVY & TANYA

JULY 14TH- SAVE THE DATE!



DELAINE WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE:
JULY 29 - AUG 1
&
AUG 19-30



Save THE Date



A SPECIAL CONCERT EVENING
WITH WORLD RENOWNED PIANIST

Michelle Jia Yun Xu

ADMISSION BY DONATION

FRI | AUG | 2024
09

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30
FOR 7PM START

CENTRAL OKANAGAN UNITED CHURCH

721 BERNARD AVE, KELOWNA BC






SAVE
the
DATE

OCTOBER 19TH 2024

WOMEN'S RETREAT

**THE WOMEN'S RETREAT WILL BE HELD
AGAIN AT THE SORRENTO CENTRE ON
THE WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 19.**



**IT IS ONE WEEK EARLIER THIS YEAR SO
PUT IT IN YOUR CALENDAR'S NOW.
WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION IN
THE COMING MONTHS.**

*“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.

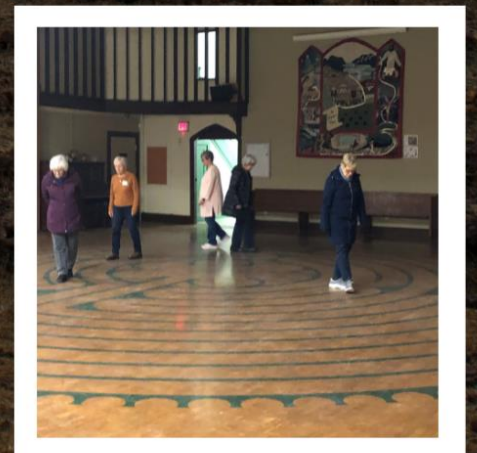
Some move slowly, some rush, some dance and others simply follow the path using our eyes. How ever we choose to journey through the path, we are sure to be gifted with a holy experience.



*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!





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 Summer or Fall?

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!

A special thank you to Ivy and Tanya for the many, many years of dedicated heart-first service you have given to our congregation and our people. We will all feel the weight of your leaving and the light of the joys you have ahead of you!
You are so loved!

