



Broad View
— UNITED —

March 2021

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LENT



WELCOME TO MARCH – TO THE MONTH THAT IS FULL-ON LENT.

We are exploring the theme of Decolonization and identifying our privilege in our worship. I'm reminded about a teaching from Richard Wagamese in his book, Embers. He said in one of his dialogues:

“Me (Richard): You always repeat things three times.

Old Woman: Just the important things.

Me: Why? I hear you the first time.

Old Woman: No. You listen the first time. You hear the second time. And you feel the third time.

Me: I don't get it.

*Old Woman: When you listen, you become aware. **That's for your head.** When you hear, you awaken. **That's for your heart.** When you feel, it becomes a part of you. **That's for your spirit.** Three times. **It's so you learn to listen with your whole being. That's how you learn.”** (pg. 113)*

In our explorations of decolonization and privilege we are going to hear people speak to us about their experience of being colonized and how they experience white privilege and its impact on their lives. Our goal in this is not to make ourselves feel guilty, or needing to justify ourselves, or to move us to anger. It is so we can learn to listen with our whole being. That is how we will learn.

As our spirits open to the stories of others we will be changed, transformed. This is the blessing and the work of Lent. We start at the place of knowing we all have work to do and have fallen short of being the people we want to be and creating the world we want to create. Being progressive Christians means we do not agree that human beings are created as sinful and that we spend our days trying to control our depravity. No, indeed, we believe that human beings are created as good, as blessed and we spend our days trying to contribute our light, our uniqueness to the world. When our goodness is wounded we seek healing and the restoration of safety. And as we believe for ourselves so we believe for all other human beings. So it is that we seek to uproot all attitudes, actions, policies and laws and unconscious cultural norms that wound another, that judge those who are unlike us or leave others feeling unsafe. This is the opening of our eyes, minds, hearts and spirits we seek this Lenten tide.

Another big event in these March days is the presentation of the proposed design for renovating our Cedar Hill Cross site to be our permanent home. What a step towards amalgamation this will be. When we came together we said we wanted to establish a new home for all of us to grow into together. We believe the scope of this proposal accomplishes this. We asked for a design that would let in both natural light and view of the world outside. We wanted flexibility so that spaces could become what it needed to be in different circumstances. We wanted space for community to gather in a variety of ways. We want music to fill the space at times. At other times we want to walk in meditative silence. And we want a space that will be equipped for the next 20 years. For the most important thing we want is a vital faith community welcoming community into a beautiful, functional and safe space for many, many years to come. It is to that vision of a hopeful future that we gave assent at amalgamation.

Enjoy the newsletter. Take an active part in launching BVU into a new home that we will build together. A new home for our community this is:

- blessed by the generous spirit of those who have gone before
- engaged by the challenges the world is facing
- **confident that the Spirit's energy will propel us into the future**

Cheryl Black



KIDS' ZONE

Since we cannot gather together in person, I have been delivering **Faith@Home kits to each family and posting a virtual Kids' Zone** with songs, crafts, prayers and stories based on the theme for each month. Around the middle of February, I delivered kits with material **for Valentine's Day, Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten journey.** During the first week of March I will be adding on to that kit and deliver materials and ideas for creating a Worship/Prayer center. The included Embracing Love magazine from PMR First Third Ministry also has many ideas for continuing your Lenten journey as a family. As well I will **include some activities for St. Patrick's Day and the bible story of Jesus Anointed at Bethany from the gospel**



SENIOR YOUTH GROUPS @ THE ARBUTUS SITE

Usually students in Grades 9 – 12 gather at the Arbutus Site every second Sunday evening from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Due to Covid protocols we were unable to gather in person so we did a bi-weekly Zoom call together with time to check in, discuss and play on-line games. I am hoping to start our Zoom meetings again and will contact you about a day and time that would work best.



YOUNG ADULTS @ THE ARBUTUS SITE

(aged 19 -30ish) Typically we meet every second Sunday around 12:15 for a lunch gathering. Due to Covid protocols, participants were bringing their own lunch but drinks and dessert were provided. Until we can gather in person again, we are continuing to meet on Zoom every second Sunday at 7:30pm. Our next Zoom gathering will be Sunday, February 28th. Please contact me if you have not been getting the notices and want to be added to the email/text lists.



Intercultural Ministry



IPaB (Intercultural Program at Broad View United)

The Intercultural Community at Broad View United welcomes all of you to join any one or all our activities.

If you consider yourself a global citizen, you will enjoy meeting people similar to you and/or people of different cultures and backgrounds from our program.

IWaB (Intercultural Workshop at Broad View United) – Mar 7 at 2pm to 3:30pm

The workshops aim to deepen participants' understanding of the diversity in our community through small group exchange of information and sharing on specific topic each month.

IWaB exploration includes topics in the following areas:

- Learning the different cultures in our community
- Power in our community and in our relationships
- Religious, Festivals and Cultures
- Conflicts and relationships
- Cultural events and enjoyment in our community

To increase our understanding of different cultures, we invited someone in our community to introduce her home culture of XinJiang and share her family story of three different cultures. On Mar 7, we will have **someone from Iran to share his story in relations to our themed topic, "Power and Culture"**.

Please note the new dates between April and June. The season will end on June 6. Look forward to seeing you at the workshop. April 11 at 2pm, May 9 at 2pm, June 6 at 2pm,

Please [register](#) to get the Zoom link.

ICaB-BM (Intercultural Conversations at Broad View United - Business Mentoring) – Mar 9 & 23 (Bi-weekly Tuesday) at 7:30pm on Zoom

We continue to invite those who have 10+ years of working experience in Canada to share useful tips and professional insights to the new workforces of Canada. It is a fabulous opportunity for our participants to learn **about the different professions and their in's and out's from every conversation.**

Please [register](#) to get the Zoom link and the details of the speaker and topic for each of the Conversations. Click [here to review summaries of our conversations.](#)

ICaB-BE (Intercultural Conversations at Broad View United - Basic English) - Every Thursday @ 2:30-4pm on Zoom

It is wonderful that we have a safe place for everyone to ask questions and exchange knowledge and information while practicing English. We welcome both English speakers and learners for these Conversations. Please [register](#) to get the Zoom link.



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What's Happening

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday morning Bible Study Zoom will be starting a series of 24 half hour video lectures on the New Testament starting Tuesday, March 2. The video lectures are from the church library and are given by a professor who has won numerous teaching awards. The lectures will be followed by a short Zoom discussion/social time lasting less than a 1/2 hour. Anyone interested should email Blake Ford at blakebc@shaw.ca in order to receive further information and a Zoom invitation to the next lecture.



MOVIE NIGHT MARCH 26TH AT 8PM

This month's movie is *Falls Around Her*, a 2018 Canadian film that won awards at both the Toronto International Film Festival and the Red Nation International film festival. Tantoo Cardinal shines as a world-famous Anishinaabe musician who returns to the reserve to rest and recharge -- only to discover that fame (and the outside world) are not easily left behind, in writer-director Darlene Naponse's riveting portrait of resilience set among a northern First Nation.

This month's film can be found on both YouTube and Google play and although the cost is 9.99, it is well worth the investment in this great Canadian film. Watch in advance of the 8pm time on March 26th and then join us for a discussion about the movie.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - MARCH 14TH 2021 AT 11 AM

A congregational meeting has been called for the purpose of considering a proposal for **renovating the Cedar Hill Cross site (formally St Aidan's)**. The proposal is available on line [HERE](#) or you can request a paper copy be mail to you by contacting the church office.

A zoom link for the congregational meeting will be sent in a separate email to all members and adherents of Broad View United closer to the date.



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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER - A VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

For a second year, we will be moving through Holy Week and Easter in a virtual way. There will be a few additional services that we offer for you during that week to enhance your experience of moving toward Easter and again Meghan has created a Virtual Church with a number of elements embedded in it for your engagement including some additional special music offerings. The following special services will be posted online during Holy Week:

- ⇒ Maunday Thursday - April 1st
- ⇒ Good Friday Jazz Vesper - April 2nd, 7pm live stream
- ⇒ Easter Sunday - April 4th - 2 services in the Bridge and ConeXion styles



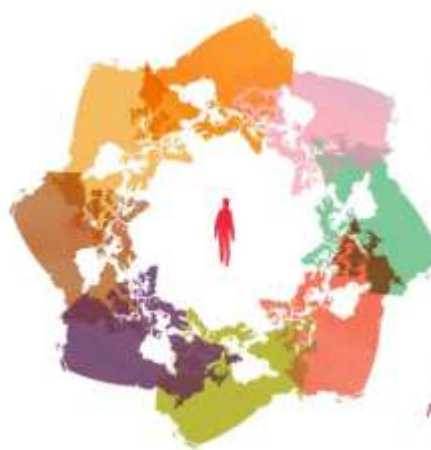
BEING HERE – A PLAY ABOUT REFUGEES MARCH 16-21ST

We are excited to be able to provide for the congregation an opportunity to watch the newest production by the Belfry theatre here in Victoria online! In the past we sold tickets for a live performance and then followed it up with debrief session in person. This year we will be able to offer you a chance to view the film online during a window of time each day (11 am – 8 pm start) and you will be sent a link to watch. The performances were done live here in Victoria and then will show March 16 – 21st. Cost is \$15 per household and you must register and pay in advance through our website on a secure link [HERE](#). If you do not have the ability to register online, you can contact the church office at 250 477 2715 and your details can be inputted over the phone. You must register by March 12th.

We will then offer a debrief session via online zoom on March 23rd at 7pm. You will be sent a link to this on that day as well. Below is a synopsis of the performance:

This play is a celebration of brave spirits and human hearts – turning true life into a powerful theatrical experience. Refugees from around the world and their Canadian sponsors share their experiences in their own words. Their remarkable escapes—and their reasons for escaping.

***Their sponsors' experiences**—the flush of good intentions—and coming face-to-face with the complexity of human nature. Triumphs, disappointments and the delicate balance between ideals and reality—these are real life stories—in the words and voices of real people*



Being Here

THE REFUGEE PROJECT

Created by Joel Bernbaum

From Interviews conducted by Joel Bernbaum



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BUILDING REDESIGN PROPOSAL AND THE TOWN HALL MEETING MARCH 9TH

It is with excitement that the Building Redesign Working group provides you with this second package of materials related to the initial proposal that the congregation received in November. Response to those presentations was positive and so you will not see huge changes to the initial designs. There were a number of suggestions made, questions asked and concerns raised in a few areas and the committee has sought to integrate some changes in as a result of the feedback and address some of the other ongoing issues that we are still working to resolve in this second package.



While most of the floor plans will look familiar, there are some changes to the lower hall area now known as the hub and in the chancel area to incorporate some of the new changes. Other changes suggested by the congregation will be worked into the next level of drawings (called elevations) that the architect will work on once the project and the budget has been approved by the congregation.

A virtual video that walks you through the new sanctuary is also a part of the package and we hope it will communicate the energy and feel of the new design especially for those who find floor plans hard to imagine in 3 D. The remainder of the package outlines the budget, the history of the project, the issues still being worked out and what is being considered and a reminder of the values and principles that we are working from in the design. There will still be a number of decision that will need to be made regarding some of the outstanding issues and further input is welcomed from the congregation as we proceed.

You can send these to reno@broadviewunited.com

There will be an opportunity to ask further questions and seek clarification at this months Town Hall meeting scheduled for March 9th at 7pm. A zoom link will go out to all the congregation on that day for you to participate. The whole working group will be on hand to answer questions after a brief presentation. The vote on the project will take place at the Congregational meeting on March 14th. You can find the second package for the Building Redesign Proposal [HERE](#)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - APR 25

April 25th at 11am (via Zoom) will be our Annual General Meeting. An annual report, year end financial statement for 2020 and a budget outline will be distributed 2 weeks in advance of this meeting. Any questions about this meeting can be sent to the Board Chair, Andrew DeLong at adelong@shaw.ca



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Connection

Community

Learn

Care

Spiritual



UPDATE AND LENTEN STUDY GROUPS

In the midst of the ongoing pandemic, many small groups are taking the opportunity to participate in one of the three Lenten opportunities that BVU has made available.

Some groups are meeting weekly utilizing the Lenten Virtues Study, and many are also taking part in the Indigenous Lenten Study under the leadership of Tony Snow based on the Seven Sacred Teachings. Other individuals in the BVU community are accessing the Queer Virtue Series. The joy of choice means that when we come together, we have rich fodder for contemplation, sharing and action. We are blessed indeed!

As well, 14 folks have signed up for the Sunday evening Zoom Virtues Series led by Betty Doherty and Margaret Harper.

It is our hope to add more small groups as the year progresses, as COVID restrictions are lifted and greater numbers of BVU have received their vaccines.

Finally, a huge thank you to all who have stepped forward as facilitators, and to all who are embarking on this new venture. We are learning much together, in the midst of building relationships, spiritual support and nurture. If you would like to speak to someone NOW about SMALL GROUPS, please be in touch with any of the contacts listed below.

Please let us know how we CAN HELP YOU CONNECT!

Your Core Team

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FACEBOOK LENTEN PRACTICE

Looking for a Lenten practice? It is never too late to join in on the Lenten Photo-a-
a- **Day exercise on BVU's Facebook page. Each day, a different word is posted.**

(Look for the purple box as pictured here) You respond, by posting in "Comments" a photo that, to you, suggests the word. It can be a photo you take today, or from your photos of the past, or an image you found on the Internet.

Some people even share a poem or quotation. Choosing an image can be **reflective and seeing other's posts is illuminating.**

Lenten Photo Word
CALL

Post a pic, that suggest the
word to you, in Comments



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CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM & PASTORAL CARE

The following POEM written by Donna Ashworth has been circulating in many social media circles:

You're not imagining it, nobody seems to want to talk right now.

Messages are brief, and replies are late.

Talk of catch up on zoom are perpetually put on hold.

Group chats are no longer pinging all night long.

It's not you.

It's everyone.

We are spent.

We have nothing left to say.

We are tired of saying 'I miss you' and 'I can't wait for this to end'.

So we mostly say nothing, put our heads down and get through each day.

You're not imagining it.

This is a state of being like no other we have ever known because we are all going through it together but so very far apart.

Hang in there my friend.

When the mood strikes, send out messages and don't feel you have to apologize for being quiet.

This is hard.

No one is judging.

We recognize that these continue to be hard times for all of us. We are now one year in...one year of missing each other so much it hurts to our core. If you are going through a rough patch, and/or would simply like to speak with someone one-on-one, here are a couple of options: Betty Anne, Margaret and members of the Congregational Care Team are available for a phone conversation. As well, there may be individuals who would prefer to meet either Betty Anne or Margaret in person at one of the church sites for a physically distanced short visit, with all COVID protocols in place. We are here to walk with you in these times, so please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Please know you are beloved and we continue to hold you in our hearts with compassion.

Also, a reminder that if you would like to be remembered and upheld by Broad View United's confidential prayer chain, please be in touch. Shalom.

Betty Anne Dempsey bettyanne@broadviewunited.com

250-208-4394

Margaret Harper margaret@broadviewunited.com

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Outreach

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR UPDATE

A huge thank you to all the walkers and supporters of BVU's team, Walk the Talk.

We fundraised \$7,653.67, which will go to Our Place, funding their important work. Second highest fundraising team in the city! If you would like to see photos of the walk, check out Broad View United on Facebook.



LUNAFEST - MAR 27TH

The Zonta Club of Victoria announces it will once again be hosting the 'All Women Film Festival – LUNAFEST' on March 27th, 2021. This year, LUNAFEST features an all-documentary lineup of seven short films by women filmmakers, sharing new perspectives and lighting a fire in the industry. Together, LUNA and Chicken & Egg Pictures are creating a strong community for women in the film industry.

All proceeds from LUNAFEST will benefit the Zonta Club of Victoria as well as Chicken & Egg Pictures, a non-profit organization that supports women nonfiction filmmakers whose artful and innovative storytelling catalyzes social change. Due to COVID19 the Zonta Club of Victoria is taking our 'LUNAFEST – film festival' to an online format. The good news is we hope to reach even more people from the comfort of their home at a time that is convenient for them.

Save the date of Mar 27th and please visit our website for full event details: <https://zontavictoria.org/events>



GARDEN SALE FUNDRAISER FOR SHELBOURNE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Each year the CHX site holds a plant and garden sale with proceeds going to Shelbourne Community Kitchen, in 2020 after the sale was planned and ready, Covid hit and we had to change gears. We ended up putting a little plant stand at the bottom of Vivian Skinner's driveway to sell some plants and raise some money. The result was amazing and in total we raised over \$3500!

Spring is just around the corner so let's do it again this year! Let's have an informal Plant Stand at the end of Vivian's driveway at 3597 Thistle St like we did in 2020. The little stand will stay in place from May - July and folks can drive by or walk up and take a plant in exchange for a donation! If you have any plants, pots, or garden items that you'd be willing to donate please contact Vivian (vivianskinner@shaw.ca/ 250-595-0543)



140 VIVO KNIVES - SHELBOURNE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Thank you to everyone who was so generous in collecting Thrifty's stamps over the last four months. Together with our friends at the Lutheran Church of the Cross and St. Luke's Anglican Church, we earned 140 knives for the Shelbourne Community Kitchen! The 140 knives will be shared with the Kitchen's participants as part of the Shelbourne Community Kitchens "Feel The Love Campaign" that kicked off in early February. Thank you for supporting the ongoing work of the Shelbourne Community Kitchen



March's Education and Action: Focus on Transition Housing for Women in Need

We know that rents are very high and vacancy rates very low in our city. This can be a huge barrier for women trying to escape abusive relationships or addiction as they need safe and secure housing to make this transition. [Anawim House](#), in North Park, has long provided transition housing and counselling services to single men and for many years, they have wanted to provide similar services for women in a separate facility.



Anawim House, like BVU, is a member of GVAT and supports **GVAT's collective efforts to improve housing options and affordability** in Victoria. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, they have received a suitable property that can be redeveloped to provide 7 transitional housing units for single women. After an 11 month review process with the City and having reached an agreement outlining operating principles that most of the neighbours accept, a proposed re-zoning to allow this development will be considered by Victoria City Council Committee of the Whole on March 11. Broad View members who know Anawim House, as well as all who support transition housing for women in need, are urged to write brief emails of support to mayorandcouncil@victoria.ca prior to March 10, referring to Anawim House application for re-zoning on Edgeware Road.

Points you might include in your letter of support:

- * mention you are a member of Broad View United, a faith community actively working to end poverty and homelessness in the CRD
- * stress the Importance of providing affordable community housing for women in transition
- * supportive housing reduces other community costs (police, health care)
- * enables women to regain self-confidence, independence, and contribute to the greater community
- * Anawim House has a long and successful track record in North Park community

Thanks for taking action. #WalkingTheTalk #CurrentOfHope #JusticePath

BROAD VIEW THRIFT STORE

Our thrift store has now been open 1 month, and customer and volunteer reviews are very positive! Folks love how clean the store is and how organized everything is. None of this would be possible without our volunteers though. There are many ways you can volunteer your time to help:

1. You can be a greeter... welcoming folks to the store, asking them to sign in and inviting them to use some hand sanitizer.
2. You could be a floater... someone who walks around the store, helping folks out, tidying up, making sure items that have been tried on go back into quarantine.
3. There is the option to volunteer to receive donations, help folks get their donations into the store and put them into our quarantine area.



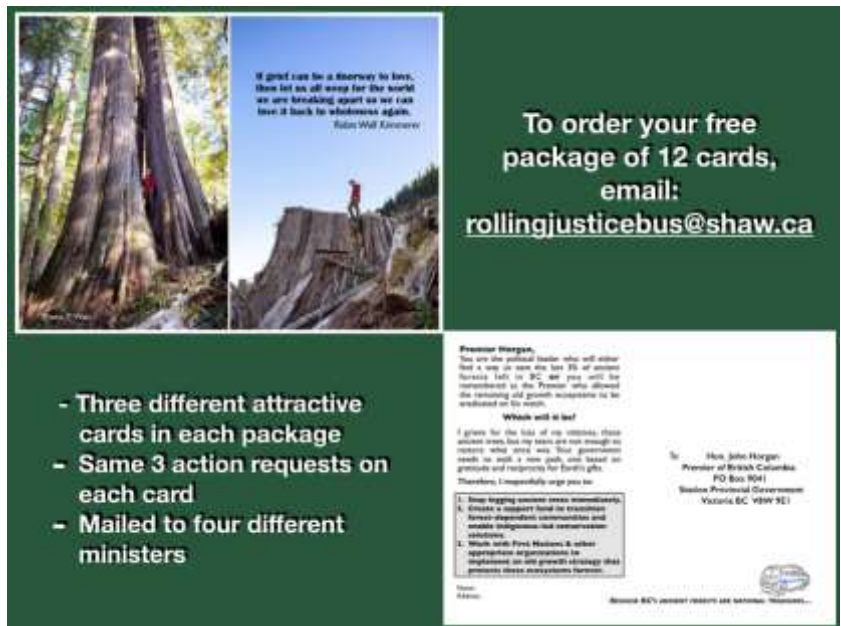
If you'd like to volunteer your time on Wednesdays between 10am and 6pm please email our managers Sam and Katy at thriftstore@broadviewunited.com

TUESDAYS FOR TREES – EVENT SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

SAVE BC'S ANCIENT FORESTS

On February 9, an on-line zoom event was held for BVU and other community members.

Approximately 35 people participated in the event which was sponsored by BVU's Environment and Climate Justice Small Group and BVU's Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT) team. The purpose of the event was to explore issues related to old growth logging in BC with a view to considering whether the church should take action and, if so, which actions. We invited Jane Welton from GVAT's Climate Action Research Team to speak about their Tuesdays for Trees campaign. We also invited Jens Wieting, the Senior Forest Campaigner from Sierra Club of B.C. to share a slide presentation that can be found here.



During the event, we learned that the provincial government commissioned an expert panel to prepare **recommendations on old growth logging, the "Old Growth Strategic Review"**. The panel submitted 14 recommendations in 2020, and the NDP campaigned last fall on a promise to implement all of them. A **temporary "logging deferral" was introduced in some areas, but very little of that area turns out to be threatened old growth, and even there, logging roads continue to be built.**

During the BVU zoom event and small group discussion, participants suggested a number of follow-up actions **that BVU could undertake in order to convey to the province our community's concerns about failure of stewardship and the legacy value of these rapidly-disappearing ecosystems.** In general, participants agreed that interventions from the congregation / church community as a whole would likely have the most impact, especially when combined with individual letters and actions. As a starting point, two easy and immediate actions that members of the congregation can take are:

Add your name to the Sierra Club and Wilderness Committee's petitions requesting that the provincial government fully fund and implement all recommendations from the Old Growth Strategic Review:

<https://sierraclub.bc.ca/tell-forest-minister-katrine-conroy-to-protect-old-growth-now/> and

<https://www.wildernesscommittee.org/SaveOldGrowth>

Send the postcards developed by Rolling Justice Bus (see image)

We will update the congregation as we move forward with recommendations for possible future actions.

Thanks to everyone who participated on February 9th!



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