



Broad View
— UNITED —

April 2021

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To Be an Easter People - Mark Green

*Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth;
lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust;
lead me from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.*

World Peace Prayer



As we enter the Season of Easter, we do so with the deeper and mature understanding that new life understands death. The risen Jesus still bore the mark of the nails. I love the world peace prayer because it understands that the movement to love, hope, life and trust require the knowledge of death, hate, despair and fear. This awareness came also to the followers of Jesus after his death. They came to understand the depth of his life and his death and all its implications in new ways. Resurrection takes on a new meaning when we see it through the life, witness and ministry that his followers took up after their Easter experience. We too can be an Easter People as we embody the vision, hope and wisdom of the teachings of Jesus.

All of this wisdom seem apropos this year as we move into what I hope will be the final wave of the pandemic. It is my hope that we can embody the words of the peace prayer and the experience of Easter together as we move through this spring.

On the horizon is hope that the summer will bring some relief from the death and despair we have been living with over the last year. People tell me that as they have received the vaccine they have been overwhelmed with a variety of feelings: relief, joy, gratitude, and hope. What has been missing in our lives for the past year seems like it might soon be **possible again as herd immunity begins to take hold. Grandparents' long to hug their grandchildren.** Friends longing to share a meal together. Families long to connect with other families and distant relatives. We seek community and connection. And while zoom has enabled a semblance of this connection, most people I speak with say they long for the face to face, the energy that the in-person interactions provide. I too long for that.

But I hope also that we will look longer and deeper at what the costs were for our society and the people hit the hardest by the pandemic and the places where inequity have marginalized some in our society disproportionately. These are the places of death that cry out for an Easter response. May we have the wisdom and the grace to recreate and resurrect a more just society that cares for those marginalized and gives them a voice. May we as Christians claim as our responsibility the mandate of the Gospel – to bring good news to the poor, release to the captives, to liberate the oppressed and proclaim **the year of God's favour (Lk 4: 18)**

I hope we can be an Easter people this year – for our own sake and for the sake of others. And I have great confidence that we can. May this World Peace Prayer guide our way.



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. On March 26th and 27th I delivered kits with activities for Holy Week, Easter and Spring. The new Kids' Zone virtual page has links on these themes as well.



Due to the updated Covid 19 Protocols (as of March 29th), the Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Easter Weekend has been **CANCELLED**. Let's stay the course and look forward to the time when we can gather safely in person. To play in our latest Virtual Kid's Zone visit broadviewunited.org/bvu-kids-zone-online/

SENIOR YOUTH GROUP @ THE ARBUTUS SITE

Usually students in Grades 9 – 12 gather at the Arbutus Site every second Sunday evening from 7 – 9pm. 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 after Easter. It looks like Friday evenings are the preferred time. I will contact you with more information. Please contact me if you want to be added to the email/text contact list.



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 gatherings will be Sunday, April 18th and 25th. 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)

After Lunar New Year in February, Iranian New Year in March, guess what other New Year we are celebrating in April?

Thai New Year is on April 13. The Songkran Festival, is known as the Water Festival, where Thai people splash water on themselves among visiting the temple, presenting food and performing many rituals to bring good luck.

The Intercultural Community at Broad View United welcomes all of you to join any one or all our activities. You will learn about different cultures through exchange of knowledge and information from participants of diverse backgrounds.

IWaB (Intercultural Workshop at Broad View United) – Apr 11 at 2pm to 3:30pm

In the next Workshop on April 11, we will go into Part 2 of “Power and Culture” to explore power in communities.

We are inviting someone from Nepal to give us a little introduction of culture and the power structure in its community. Please join us and mark your calendar for the final 3 Workshops of the Season.

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) – Apr 6 & 20 (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

We continue to provide 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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Holy Week & Easter

All the events below will available to you throughout the Easter weekend through the “Virtual Church” which will be on the main page of our website. In addition you will get an email on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday with direct links to the services offered for that day.

Below is a description of what we are offering.



Maundy Thursday: Join Betty Anne and Cheryl in a glass of wine and informal discussion of the traditions and stories related to Jesus' last night of freedom.



Good Friday: This service will be streamed Live at 7pm on Friday April 2nd. Join us for a jazz oriented service reflecting on the Vision, Struggle and Hope embodied in the story of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. A recording of this service will be available following the live version on our “Virtual Church”



Easter Sunday: Two services (The Bridge and The ConXion) will be available Easter morning for you to watch alone or with family in your bubble. Each will feature music and celebration to make the meaning of Easter come alive.



Flowering Cross: At the Arbutus Site, a wooden cross encased in wire will be in the meditation garden at the front of the church. You are invited throughout the Easter weekend to drop by and put a flower from your garden into the cross to transform it into an Easter Cross. You are welcome to take a picture of yourself and/or your family and send it to us and we will make a photo montage to send around after Easter



Virtual Church: Similar to Christmas Eve, there will be a interactive Virtual church on our website where you can pick and choose the various elements of the Holy week offerings including children's stories, extra musical offerings and services uploaded. Click [HERE](#) to go to the virtual church



Faith@Home Kits: To help with the interactions with the Easter activities have been distributed to our BUV Families. If you did not receive on and would like to be added to our family list, please email pat@broadviewunited.com

What's Happening

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - April 25th at 11 am via Zoom

The congregational meeting of Broad View United has been called for Sunday April 25th at 11 am. The annual report will be distributed about 2 weeks in advance and will include accomplishments related to the strategic plan in 2020, financial statements, budgets and nominations for the coming 2021 year. You are invited to mark the date on your calendars and to attend this celebration of our life together as a congregation.



MOVIE NIGHT DISCUSSION - APRIL 23 AT 8PM

This month's movie is "Penguin Bloom": the story of a young mother and her family who must learn to live life again after a tragic accident. Themes of resurrection and new life, hope and resilience draw us into this film in an uplifting way. Available on Netflix and other streaming services. Please watch the movie in advance and join us for a lively conversation. Register for the zoom link [HERE](#)



COVID RESPONSE FOR APRIL AT BVU

At the congregational meeting held March 14th a poll was taken in which 75% of respondents said that they would not be returning to worship until either the majority of folks were vaccinated or the fall. Based on all of this, the Board of BVU approved the following motion: The Board of Broad View United, reflecting the wishes of the congregation, has decided to only reintroduce in person services when the majority of the congregation and the ministerial staff have been vaccinated and have had time to develop an immune response.



**COVID-19
RESPONSE**

In addition, with the new health directives from Dr Henry in effect until April 19th, all programs, groups and meetings will remain online through zoom to honour the intent of the directives. Staff will primarily work from home but come in occasionally to work alone and isolated in their offices. Office Admin staff will continue to be onsite but we ask you to also keep them safe by respecting their space and limiting interaction to phone and email wherever possible

Under the rules for retail, the Thrift store will remain open on Wednesdays from 10am - 6pm with all the distancing, contact tracing and barriers in place to ensure safety for both the volunteers and clientele. Adaptations for other behind the scenes work of sorting etc will be communicated to the volunteers through the thrift store managers.

For people who are able to make an extra Easter financial gift or who want to drop off regular offering by cheques, please continue to use the mail box outside at CHX or slip your envelope under the door at the **Arbutus Site. If you feel safer giving it to a person please go in during office hours and we ask you to 'say hello' to the administrators from a safe distance.** As always we are tremendously grateful for your continuing donations during this unusual time.

AN EXCITING MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD!

It is with tremendous joy that we would like to announce, that the congregation of Broad View United, has voted 92.2% in favour of approving the building redesign proposal at the congregational meeting held on March 14, 2021! We, the board, echo the gratitude of the congregation in thanking Marilyn Poutanen, Mike Emme, Doug Koch, Sarah Schoeck, Faye Schmidt and Mark Anthony for their dedication, creativity and vision they have demonstrated throughout the process. We look forward to this vision coming to fruition and launching us into the next 30 years as a vibrant congregation. Thank you to all who visioned, questioned, and created this exciting plan for our space. Let the renovation process begin!



Andrew Delong, Board Chair on behalf of the Board of Directors for Broad View United

STEWARDSHIP

We are ¼ of the way through the year. Thank you so much for your support. It is only through your voluntary contributions that we are able to deliver services and carry out the important spiritual work within the church and beyond.

We hope we can continue to count on your generous support this Easter. Because of you, we are able to make the impact we do.

BVU is being watched by other viable urban churches across Canada who wish to explore amalgamating with a partner church so they can be stronger together.

- BVU is continuing to reach out to children and families to deliver monthly faith@home kits that give families the tools to explore spirituality together.
- Small groups of people are meeting to walk together, to explore a theme together, and always to support and encourage one another as spiritual friends
- Easter Cards have been sent to those particularly in need of contact in this COVID time so they know they are remembered by their spiritual home. **The cards were home made using photo's taken by a congregation member.**
- The weekly worship in two styles, the monthly newsletter, the Townhall, and the weekly email, now named: BVU Bits & Bytes, are all ways we empower people to stay informed, connected and engaged in outreach work.

If you are able to support your spiritual home – or give a special Easter gift -

- ⇒ Click [HERE](#) to contribute online
- ⇒ Mail or Drop off a cheque at either site.
- ⇒ Make an e-transfer to office@broadviewuniuted.com

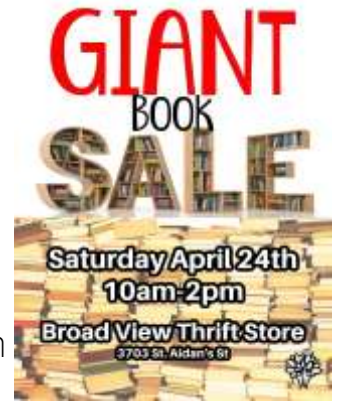
Thank you so much for supporting BVU

Sincerely,
Cheryl and Mark



THRIFT STORE NEWS

I think it's safe to say that we're all having a lot of fun in the thrift store and enjoying the time we have together. **In addition to the fun that we're having, we are also fortunate to be able to help those in immediate need, which makes these fun roles all the more rewarding.** For example, when we learned of a house fire in Gordon Head recently, we reached out to Saanich Emergency Services to see if we could aid those displaced families. One of those families, a young couple who is just starting their life together, accepted our offer of help. We met the young couple when the store was closed and provided them with an opportunity to replace some lost items at no charge. They were so grateful and it felt fantastic to be able to connect them with the items that they needed.



We receive a lot of feedback in the store that our items are top quality, our volunteers are incredibly friendly and that we have a welcoming atmosphere. We are so proud of the work we have done over the past two months. Thank you so much to our volunteers for making this happen!

Finally, we'd like to share with you that we will be hosting a BOOK SALE on Saturday, April 24th from 10-2 in the Lower Hall. The Thrift Store will also be open during those hours so please help us spread the word! This will be a great opportunity for us to advertise our great used book selection with the community. We hope to see you there!

PS: Our new donation bin arrived a few weeks ago and is outside the store for you to drop your gently used (and bagged) clothing and household items into at your own convenience. No more having to wait until Wednesday when we are open to donate your items!



BETTY ANNE IS RETIRING!!! LET'S SEND HER OFF IN (COVID) STYLE.

What's happening:

- **We are collecting a "purse" for Betty Anne.** Please drop your CASH contributions (no cheques, please!) off at either church office between 10 - 2, Mon - Fri. (Cedar Hill site has a secure mailbox, if the office is closed). If you cannot come to the church but would like to contribute, please call Meghan at 250-477-2715 and arrangements can be made.
- On May 18th, 2-4:30, there will be a drop-in, come-and-go, outdoor tea party for Betty Anne. Bring your mask, and spend some time with Betty Anne!
- On the evening of May 18th, at 7pm, we will have a zoom Town Hall style meeting to wish Betty Anne a happy retirement. Share your memories and stories! Written tributes and video messages are also welcome -- more information on how to submit these will be coming soon.



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Outreach

GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME

A Social Justice Action for BVU - Light a Candle for Guaranteed Livable Income
- April 8th, 12:30pm

**GUARANTEED
LIVABLE INCOME**

On Thursday, April 8th at 12:30pm, on the eve of both the Liberal and NDP. National Conventions, the United Church of Canada is inviting Canadians to light a candle in support of Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI). Plan to light a candle, take a photo (of the candle or the candle and you). Send your photo to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (pm@pm.bc.ca), Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland (Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca) and cc to take-action@united-church.ca. One more thing! send your candle picture to Maureen and she will put it on the BVU Facebook page. **And, don't forget to put it on your own FB page and include the hashtags #UCCanlivableincome #basicincome.** United we light the flame for GLI.

On the eve of the national Liberal and NDP Conventions, Thurs. Apr. 8th, the United Church is inviting Canadians to light a candle at noon in support of creation of a federal Guaranteed Livable Income (GLI) program. Two small outdoor vigils are planned – **one downtown at the local MP's office and another at the BVU Arbutus campus.** Due to the COVID-19 pandemic rules, vigil attendance at both is very limited. So rather than attending in person, you are invited to photograph a candle of support privately.

A GLI is a payment to individuals or families by government that covers basic necessities and is not conditional on meeting employment criteria in order to qualify.*

*More info at: [Create a Guaranteed Livable Income Program | The United Church of Canada](#)

SUPPORT PALESITIAN FARMERS

We continue to have the opportunity to support farmers in Palestine through the sale of olive oil and other products! As you might imagine, COVID -19 has made it difficult for groups supporting local people overseas to distribute their products when churches are not open and other events are cancelled.

The absolutely amazing medjoul dates (900 grams) and the beautiful olive oil (750ml) each cost \$20. And for a **cost of \$5, you can purchase a package of za'atar or a bar of olive oil soap. Za'atar varies regionally and is used both as a cooking spice and for table use. Now a staple in our home, this za'atar is a mixture of wild thyme and sumac mixed with roasted sesame seeds and salt.**

Dates are typically eaten at the evening meal when fast is broken during Ramadan (begins April 13). Consider a box for Muslim friends who follow this practice! They can be frozen treats as well.

The two organizations we support are:

<https://zatoun.com/>

<https://palestinejusttrade.ca/>

If you are interested in purchasing these products, please call
(250) 477-4930.

Barbara Hansen





Affirming

Justice@BVU



Our Place
Thrift Store
Shelbourne
Community Kitchen



The Justice Team at Broad View United provides coordination and support to a wide range of actions by which members of the congregation live their faith and commitment to diversity, inclusion and reconciliation in our community. The Team welcomes input and supports the energy and enthusiasm of congregation members who are engaged in faith-based community service. The congregation is an active member of Greater Victoria Acting Together and through that organization we can help ensure local and provincial governments are attentive to social justice concerns. The congregation reaches out into our community through support to a number of local service providers in addition to our partners Shelbourne Community Kitchen and Our Place Society. We draw inspiration and resources from our church policies on [environmental stewardship](#), and from ecumenical organizations like [KAIROS](#). We look forward to sharing more about Justice@BVU, and gaining your feedback, at the AGM.



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CLIMATE CHANGE

Are you interested in learning about climate change? A series of video lectures on climate change will be offered via Zoom on Friday mornings at 10:30am beginning Friday April 9 at 10:30am. Each lecture lasts 30 minutes and will be followed by a short discussion, ending at 11:30am or before. The lectures have been praised by Bill Gates in his recent book on climate change. If interested email Blake Ford at blakebc@shaw.ca to receive an emailed invitation to the Zoom.



GARDEN SALE FOR SHELBOURNE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Thank you to everyone who has been donating plants for the Spring Plant Sale!!! We will be having an informal Covid-Style Garden Sale at the end of my driveway at 3597 Thistle St. like we did in 2020 when **our Annual St Aidan's Garden Sale was cancelled. Last spring we made over \$3500 for the Shelbourne Community Kitchen in the two months between May 1st and July 1st and we did it together from this little plant stand!**

What is needed to set up the Garden Stand is:

- ◆ perennials from your gardens
- ◆ seedlings that you have started
- ◆ plastic pots, ceramic pots, useable tools and fun garden art.

So go wild like you did in 2020 and let's donate even more \$\$\$ to the Shelbourne Community Kitchen in 2021! The stand will open May 1st so please have some garden donations to me by then and then just keep the stuff coming until the end of June and together we will support the good work of the Shelbourne Community Kitchen. Call the number below to arrange for pick-up of your donations. Covid protocols will be adhered to.

Thanks, Vivian Skinner
3597 Thistle St.
250 595-0543
vivianskinner@shaw.ca



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