



Broad View
— UNITED —

May 2021

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CYYA

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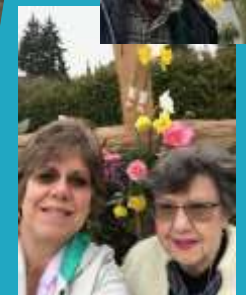
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...we've been busy!



WE ARE LIVING A GLOBAL STORY.

We are part of something that is a once in a generation or once a century mega story that is shared by all the people's of the world. We will need only say: where were you during Covid 19? Many if not all of us will remember where we went for our 'jab' and we will tell others the stories of how we felt when finally we are vaccinated. We are alive and living a global story.

We can speak with others about the sacrifices that were and are being required of us. We can speak of our losses and perhaps some silver linings that we never expected.

The worship theme for May is, "the journey is home" and to me it speaks of the need to see our living as our home – the place where we can be fully alive and aware. Our home is not a building but it is the experience of living each day.

The moon and sun are eternal travelers. Even the years wander on. A lifetime adrift in a boat or in old age leading a tired horse into the years, every day is a journey, and the journey itself is home. - Basho

In these wonderful lines from *Narrow Road to the Interior*, Matsuo Basho, the celebrated 17th century Japanese poet and haiku master, has reminded us that home is not the destination of our journey; it is the journey itself. With a philosophy rooted in Taoism and Zen, Basho understood that life can only be lived when one is fully awake, fully aware, and fully invested in the mystery and glory of the present moment.

This journey of Covid has changed us and in a peculiar way it has become familiar to us – it is where we live right now. The ache to see loved ones is familiar and both more bearable and somehow less bearable for how long it has gone on. We have learned new skills and pivoting is now a pivotal part of our living. This sense of being part of a shared, although in many ways vastly different, global experience has opened our eyes and we follow more closely what is happening around the world.

The journey of amalgamating our churches during a pandemic is a story we will tell down through the decades. We have built a new home by building a story of how we have persevered in meeting each other through zoom, through small groups, through walking, through our thrifting and so many other ways. This journey we are on is nothing like what we thought it would be and still we will celebrate our first anniversary as Broad View United this month.

Betty Anne is retiring and we will celebrate her and send her off to Port Coquitlam with our blessings and best wishes. She has been at home with us. She has journeyed with many in heartache and upheaval. We have laughed with her and cried with her. Our journey together has had a homey, comfortable feel. She will be a cherished part of our journey and yet both she and we will continue on alive, awake, creating our lives and being at home with our journey.

We commend this May Newsletter to you. It has much information and news. Because laughter is an essential part of our journey **we've included some May jokes for your enjoyment.**

Q: What did the spring say when it was in trouble?

A: May Day!!

Q: Which cute mouse loves the spring?

A: Maysy

Q: Which crime fighter likes May the most?

A: Robin

Q: What season is it when you are on a trampoline in May?

A: Spring-time.

Q: What May flowers grow on faces?

A: Tulips (Two-lips).

We extend to you our very best wishes, our hopes that we will all soon be vaccinated, and as always please call us for any reason,

Warmly,
Cheryl and Mark



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. The new Faith@Home kits will be around the theme of Pentecost and the birthday of the church. It will be delivered at **the end of the first week of May. The new Kids' Zone virtual page** will have links on these themes as well.



SENIOR YOUTH GROUP @ THE ARBUTUS SITE

Usually students in Grades 9 – 12 gather at the Arbutus Site every second Sunday evening from 7:00 – 9:00. 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 going to be organizing a Zoom meeting so we can catch up with each other on Friday, April 30th so mark your calendar! 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 12:15pm 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 Sundays, May 9th and 23rd. Please contact me if you have not been getting the notices and want to be added to the email/text lists.



PARENTS & TOTS PLAYGROUP

Due to Covid restrictions we have not been able to host our weekly playgroups at either of our sites. Since the last Covid restrictions are in place until May 24th it is unlikely we will gather until the Fall. Stay tuned for updates, we are very excited to be able to get back together to play and visit!



Intercultural Ministry

IPaB (Intercultural Program at Broad View United)

The Intercultural Community at Broad View United (BVU) welcomes all of you to join any one or all of our activities. Whether you are new to the BVU community or an old friend at BVU, a resident of different countries or simply a citizen of somewhere on our planet, we welcome you! You will learn about different cultures through exchange of knowledge and information from participants of diverse backgrounds.



IWaB (Intercultural Workshop at Broad View United) –

May 9 at 2pm to 3:30pm

In the next Workshop on May 9, we will explore on “Privilege and Entitlement” through different cultural perspectives. This is second last one before we wrap up for the season.

May 9 at 2pm

June 6 at 2pm

To get Zoom link, [please register](#).

ICaB-BM (Intercultural Conversations at Broad View United - Business Mentoring) – May 4 & 18 (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.**

This Conversations will end on Jun 29, the last Tuesday of June. We thank all those who are willing to spare and share their time with us.

[Please contact me or 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 practising 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

GIANT BOOK SALE - THRIFT STORE

Just a friendly reminder that the thrift store had decided to postpone their book sale that was scheduled for Saturday, April 24th. Our hope is to reschedule it for later in the spring on Saturday, June 12th. Stay tuned for confirmation of the date but mark June 12th on your calendar in pencil.



BETTY ANNE'S RETIREMENT

IMPORTANT: The planned outdoor tea party is cancelled. The climbing curve, scary variants, & Provincial restrictions convince us that our gathering is not a good idea.

1. **We are collecting a 'purse' for Betty Anne. Drop off your CASH** contributions (no cheques, please) at either office between 10-2 (closed 12-1). If you cannot come to the church, but would like to contribute, please call Maureen - 250-388-9896-or Andrea - 250-413-7155 and arrangements for pickup can be made.



2. Sign one of our cards, which are at Cedar Hill X and Arbutus offices. If you cannot come in, send an email with your message for Betty Anne (BAretirement@broadviewunited.com). We will cut-and-paste it (literally) into the card.

3. On the evening of May 18 at 7pm, we will have a zoom Town Hall meeting to wish Betty Anne a happy retirement. Share your memories, stories and love. If you feel shy about speaking up on Zoom, send written tributes to BAretirement@broadviewunited.com and we will read them.

If you've always wanted to be on film, videotape yourself and your words and send them to Meghan (meghan@broadviewunited.com). She will incorporate them into video to play at the Town Hall meeting. **Deadline is May 11th and maximum length is 90 seconds. Want to make a video, but don't know how? Call Laurel or Meghan in the office, make arrangements to come in and they will help. We are sending Betty Anne off in Covid style**

THRIFTY FOODS SMILE CARD PROGRAM

Thrifty Foods Smile Card Program has always been a lovely fundraiser for the church. It was easy for folks to simply load up their card and do their regular grocery shopping and know that a % was coming back to their church.

Thrifty's has recently let us know they are changing how the program works, and unfortunately the changes do not make the program very feasible for BVU. We are now required to purchase already loaded cards and re-sell them to the congregation, which is a high initial cost that BVU isn't willing to invest. That being said, we still have an opportunity to make the old program work for us. St. Aidan's Smile Card program finished in April so please discontinue those cards. But Cadboro Bay UC Smile Card Program goes until the end of June. If you currently have with a Cadboro Bay United Church Smile Card please use it until the end of June. If you had a St. Aidan's Smile Card please pick up a new one at either church office and use it until the end of the June. Let's finish off this wonderful fundraiser with a bang!



CAN I TALK TO YOU ABOUT PAR?

For those of you who I haven't met my name is Meghan. I've been with the Arbutus church for over 12 years now as the administrator and bookkeeper. I love this community and the folks in it. I am thrilled to be part of BVU and to see it evolve. I look forward to getting to know everyone in this dynamic new congregation. I love what this community stands for and the work it does. So... can I chat with you a little about PAR (pre-authorized remittance)?



Why use PAR?

You might be asking yourself why the church is always suggesting folks move their offerings over to PAR. You might be thinking "I give regularly with my envelopes so why would I make the switch?". I think the pandemic has been the best example I can give folks on why PAR is the preferred method of giving for not only the church but for congregants as well!

PAR allows you to stick to your budget while still supporting the church's mission and ministry. You can decide how much you'd like to give in a year and simply divide that by 12 and have it automatically taken out of your bank account or off your credit card each month (which if you collect points on your credit card is a nice bonus)

PAR also allows you to have the flexibility to adjust your offerings at any time simply by contacting me and letting me know your wishes, you are never locked in to any decision with PAR!

The current COVID-19 pandemic has created a lot of changes for everyone in the world and the church is no different, we have had to pivot at every turn during this past year. The consistent support we receive through PAR has been a relief and folks on PAR have mentioned how grateful they are to have chosen PAR as their method of giving when they are unable to leave their homes to drop off a donation. Consistency helps the church budget, it helps us know that we have the financial support to be able to move forward with our mission and ministry. It helps us to make decisions regarding how we can support others and how we can be the church in the wider community.

I'm already on PAR

Wonderful! Thank you for your consistent support! There is only 1 downside to PAR I have found, it's almost TOO easy! We set our donation amount and forget it, almost like a crockpot cooking our dinner each night. Problem is... we don't often re-visit the amount we are giving. We don't often prayerfully think about the amount of support we are giving the church through PAR because it becomes one of those "out of sight out of mind" transactions in our life. So, I'm wondering, when was the last time you looked at your offerings and thought perhaps I could give a little more each month?

It's very easy to change how much you give through PAR, just call the church office and let me know! No need to make a trip into the office, or fill out forms, a simple phone call or email and it's done!

Ok Meghan, you convinced me!

YAY! Here is the hardest part of the whole process. [Click here](#) to fill out the form (I even made it fillable online!), email it with a scanned void cheque or bring it into the church office or mail it to me (don't forget to attach a void cheque). I'm always happy to answer questions, make changes, and help out with your transactions in any way I can.

As always, thank you for your continued support and look forward to meeting everyone I don't already know and seeing those again who I do!

AGM UPDATE

Sunday April 25th saw about 120 people from our community gather online for our first Annual General Meeting. The mood was positive and folks were appreciative of the work of so many people who have helped Broad View reach a number of its goals this past year. The AGM **report can still be accessed online if you've not had a chance to read it yet.** Financial statements and budgets were presented and our treasurer both thanked folks for their generosity and encouraged folks to remember that their financial support continues to be critical to the ability of Broad View to exercise and live into its ministry and vision.



MOVIE NIGHT FRIDAY MAY 28TH AT 8PM

Join us online as we look at the movie JoJo Rabbit: A World War II satire that follows a lonely German boy named Jojo whose world view is turned upside down when he discovers his single mother (Scarlett Johansson) is hiding a young Jewish girl in their attic. Aided only by his idiotic imaginary friend, Adolf Hitler, Jojo must confront his blind nationalism. Available on Amazon Prime, You Tube or your other favourite streaming services. Join us for discussion at 8pm with your favourite beverage



COVID AND THE SUMMER

As we approach summer and are in the midst of the third wave, we know that we will need to continue to be patient as we await directions from Dr Henry that it is appropriate for us to contemplate a return to worship in person. We are hoping in the summer that some opportunities for small gatherings outdoors will be possible where our community can gather for some **connecting time. We will keep you updated both in upcoming newsletter as well as in the Friday email "Bits and Bytes". We are also hoping that there will be some opportunities for a families with children to have an outdoor beach gathering toward the end of the summer as well. Stay tuned!**



PENTECOST AND ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY MAY 30TH, 2021

Join us for a special celebration of both the anniversary of the Christian church and of Broad View United. We **will do a combined service of celebration for that day as we mark how far we've come and looking forward to where we are headed.** We look forward to a Spirit filled morning!!

BROADVIEW MAGAZINE

Broadview magazine is an independent publication that is affiliated with the United Church of Canada. The magazine consistently wins awards for its writing and in-depth coverage of a variety of issues related to faith, spirituality and justice. As we merge into a new congregation, the subscription arrangements we have had in the past have now ended and we begin a new relationship with the magazine. If you have received the magazine in the past you will need to sign up anew for a subscription. **If you've never received it before,** we encourage you to give it a try for a year. Past issue can be **borrowed from either site if you'd like to check it out in advance.** To obtain a subscription to the magazine at a discounted rate of \$26 through BVU, go [HERE](#) to our website where you can fill out an online form. You can pay by credit card, e transfer or pay pall. If subscribing online is a challenge for you, you can phone Meghan at 250-477-2715 for alternatives. Financial assistance is available.

The logo for Broadview magazine, featuring the word 'Broadview' in a white, serif font on a red rectangular background.

Outreach

GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME – A BIG THANKS!

Thank you to all who lit a candle for GLI and sent a photo to the Prime Minister. Our feedback from the cross-country coordinators tell us this was successful.

And, thanks to the two groups who organized vigils. MP Laurel Collins phoned one group with her support. The press attended and covered the event in a local paper. Good Justice work, everyone. Strong witness.

**GUARANTEED
LIVABLE INCOME**

TENANT STARTER KITS

Our congregation has an exciting opportunity to partner with Our Place and CoolAid in their Tenant Starter Kit Project to help people moving from tents and shelters to permanent housing. We are hoping to provide at least two of these kits ([click here](#) to view list of needed items). There will be labelled tables in the Hall at the Arbutus site to put items on. Many of us have nearly brand, new items on the list or would be happy to **purchase them. If you are bringing items to the church and don't have a key, please phone the church (250 477-2715) to make sure someone can let you in to drop off your items. If you wish to donate money instead to help cover items that need to be bought, please write a cheque to Broad View United Church with tenant starter kit on the memo line and send it to Meghan in the office who will then issue a tax receipt for the 2021 tax year. Alternatively you can visit <https://broadviewunited.org/tenant-starter-kits/#> to make a financial donation online and view the list of needed items. So far we have been blessed to have collected almost enough items for 1 kit and we are 2/3 of the way to a 2nd kit. All the financial donations that have come in are much appreciated for being able to purchase the missing items. If you have questions or need help with pick up please call Eileen (250 477-4221) or Bonnie (250 477-1771). Bring a light into someone's life by giving them a fresh start. We will keep you up to date on our progress.**



CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS

This was a fundraiser that the church used to participate in, however back in 2018 the program closed. We still have folks bringing in their labels diligently and we wanted to let you all know that we can no longer redeem them. Thank you for your efforts.



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SUPPORT PALESTINIAN FARMERS

During this time of COVID-19 and the variants, we may be unable to meet in person yet we still have the opportunity to support farmers and women in Palestine through our purchase of products supplied by two organizations the UCC continues to work closely with.

I keep these products on hand for your purchase.

From <https://palestinejusttrade.ca/>

The absolutely amazing medjoul dates (900 grams) cost \$20. Dates are typically eaten at the evening meal when fast is broken during Ramadan (began April 13). Consider a box for Muslim friends who follow this practice! They can be frozen treats as well.

From <https://zatoun.com/>

The beautiful Olive Oil (750ml) costs \$20.

And for a cost of \$5, you can purchase a package of za'atar or a bar of olive oil soap. Za'atar is popular throughout the Middle East as both a cooking spice and for table use and the blend varies. This za'atar is a mixture of wild thyme and sumac mixed with roasted sesame seeds and salt. A package costs \$5.00. (It is used regularly in our home!)

Olive Oil Soap is great for sensitive skin! It's produced by a Fair Trade Women's Collective. One long-lasting bar costs \$5.00.

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

Barbara Hansen



GARDEN SALE FOR SHELBOURNE COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Stop by Thistle St. and get your garden ready for the summer season! For a second year the Annual Garden Fundraiser has been adapted into a no-contact, curbside plant sale.

Where? 3597 Thistle St.

When? Sunny days until July 1.

What? Plants, gardening tools, ceramic pots, bird feeders etc. everything being sold has been donated

Why? To raise funds for the Shelbourne Community Kitchen

We will be asking for donations of plants, tools and garden stuff from now until the end of June so we can keep the table full and interesting so drop by to donate plants and pick new ones up!



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BROAD VIEW TAKES ACTION THROUGH GREATER VICTORIA ACTING

TOGETHER!

As a member of Greater Victoria Acting

Together, Broad View United works with other faith communities in the region, unions, student groups and front-line service providers to build consensus and take action on social and ecological justice in our community. Together, we can be a force for good! GVAT is busy these days:



- The Mental Health and Addictions team is working with the Canadian Mental Health Association, police department, health authorities and service providers to develop a pilot project in Victoria for Alternative Crisis Response that would see a reduced role for police in responding to most psychiatric crisis calls. This is now widely regarded as best practice, with programs in Vancouver, Edmonton, Eugene OR and many other cities.
- The MHA team has also coordinated a campaign with Metro Vancouver Alliance to press the provincial government to ensure adequate funding for school boards dealing with pandemic uncertainties and financial constraints.
- The Climate team is pressing the province to halt old growth logging. It has now been a full year since the province received its own report recommending a series of measures to protect high value old growth forests and support economic transition for affected workers. But nothing meaningful has changed.
- The Climate team is also lobbying CRD Directors about their new regional transportation strategy, to ensure that it includes policies to minimize spending on highways and support for active transportation and public transportation, including lower bus fares.
- The Housing team and Climate team are collaborating on recommendations to municipalities to reduce or eliminate minimum parking requirements for new multifamily housing to lower costs and save space as vehicle ownership has declined.
- The Housing team is working with Threshold Housing to ensure greater provincial support for youth aging out of care at 18, who are often left with no option but sleeping on the street. We have secured a meeting with three provincial cabinet ministers to press them on policy and funding changes.

GVAT is also arranging training for members on Foundations of Community Organizing and on Diversity and Inclusion. **YOU are a part of all of this because of Broad View's commitment to GVAT. Interested in anything on this list? Questions? Contact Stephen Tyler on the Justice Team: stephen@adaptiverm.ca**

Greater Victoria Acting Together includes 33 member organizations who represent about 70,000 people in the region. www.gvat.ca

AGM POLL RESULTS

Justice Team made a presentation at the AGM that included the diagram from last month's newsletter.

Then there were a few poll questions for participants in the AGM unfortunately we didn't have time to share the poll results at the AGM. We are now pleased to give you the polling results below. The Justice Team will consider these results as we continue to engage with the congregation to strengthen and coordinate all of our justice work.

Question #1 - About the vision

96% = about right

1% = not bold enough

3% = Too bold

Questions #2 Areas of Interest

Walking with the Poor/Vulnerable = 31%

Living in Right Relationship with the Earth = 26%

International Peace & Justice = 19 %

More than one circle/all 37%