

Broad View

September 2022

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Telling our Story. Sharing our Faith - Mark Green Fall is upon us and with it the start of a new program year. There are lots of new beginnings for us here at Broad View United. In the pages of this newsletter you will find many updates and introductions to new programs and staff. We are excited to welcome Ha Na Park as our new co-lead and her husband Min-Goo Kang our new Intercultural Minister. It will be an exciting time as we get to know **each other and learn each other's story.** And so, as we continue to build a safe, brave and bold community and vision for ministry, we felt as a team that this years theme might be best captured as "TELLING OUR STORY, SHARING OUR FAITH".



As we continue down the road of learning about each other as an amalgamated congregation, it will be another important step to learn to tell our story and listen to the stories of others. Throughout the summer people from **both campuses' have remarked that there seems to be a lot of faces around them that they don't know. Each has assumed that those they don't know are from the other campus. However, such is not the case. In fact, we have a significant number of folks who are new to BVU since the amalgamation who are attending and who you are seeing around you. Thus it's a great opportunity for us to find ways to connect, share our story and** grow in our faith.

I often hear, after a funeral that I've led, people tell me that they learned so much about the deceased that they had not known when the person was alive. What a shame that so many aspects of our life story are often not shared with others that we might connect where there are shared experiences and reflect on wisdom gained. Sometimes we are shy about asking questions of another in fear that we might be prying or treading in sensitive areas. Other times we are reticent about sharing our perspective thinking, that no one really wants to hear about our life. Yet it is the sharing of our life story where we make the best connections as we allow ourselves to be vulnerable and find the common ground in our differences.

As we seek to bridge the divides in our families, our communities and our country, it will require that we learn the skill of hearing the story of another to find the places of commonality and relearn the skills of talking about the places of disagreement and discord. Church is a wonderful place to practice these skills as we are a **collective of many diverse people that you won't typically find in one's regular circle of friends. Here we learn to** tell our story and listen to the stories of others and reflect on the stories of our faith and all the overlaps of such. **That's what it means to engage our faith. And I think it will be an exciting adventure for us to engage with this** fall.



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A MESSAGE FROM HA NA

Hi Broad View United!

I am excited to send my warm greetings to you on the Trans Canada Highway; we're just passing Kamloops. My family — Min-Goo and I, with our two boys (Peace and Jah-bi) — enjoyed such a wide and stunning view last night. It's good to be back in BC!



First of all, thank you so much for welcoming us with a Welcome Pantry! I cannot wait to finally get to our new home in Victoria and fill our pantry with your welcome gifts such as jam, pickles and olives, etc. My family enjoys food. You will soon meet two experienced cooks and two developing ones; we are all looking forward to sharing recipes and meals with you.

We are also hoping to bring our own Korean welcoming tradition to you, too! When we had our first staff gathering on zoom this month and were asked how Koreans traditionally offer welcome, Min-Goo and I thought of the same practice! :)

Traditionally, when Koreans move into their new home or new community, the newcomers bring their welcome gift to the host family and community. In Korea, the gift would be sweet soft rice cakes. For example, we order rice cakes in advance, and take the warm rice cakes from the store and give them to our new neighbours that same day. That way, Koreans say to the host community, "Please treat us well. Thank you for your welcoming." Hopefully, my family can do something 'similar' to express our tradition when we meet you in September: Korean pieces of magnetic LOVE!

Now, I think about how Jesus offered welcome in his life and ministry. Jesus received many great welcomings: at the wedding in **Cana, from Peter's mother**-in-law, at the house of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, to name a few. This **reflection leads me to wonder how Jesus "offered" welcome.** What cultural, traditional, or spiritual influences inspired Jesus to offer welcome in particular ways?

For this question, I smile with the understanding that in Jesus' stories and parables, Jesus shows intense interest in "who" more than "how": Who are missing at the table? Who are God's beloved children? Who are welcome in this place? The Gospel stories consistently flow with God's heart message: God's wholesome welcoming knows no borders. Sinners and tax collectors, those who are at the margins (the tenth leper came back), those on the tree (Zacchaeus was asked to host Jesus and his friends) and those at the well (The Samaritan woman enjoyed the conversation about "drinks") are beautiful circles that complete the "Kin_dom" of God.

Thank you for your welcome, dear Broad View. I would love to grow together with you all, expressing who we are as a welcoming community in the places where we find welcome.

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Our Staff

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Margaret's Sabbatical Update

Children, Youth & Young Adults

KIDS' ZONE

Our regular Sunday morning programming for kids will begin on Sunday, **Sept. 18th. There is a children's conversation during the service after which** we will move to the hall and the upstairs youth room. The kids will be broken up into smaller groups by age where we will discuss the story and

engage in activities that guide us toward understanding the bible story and connecting it with our own lives.

YOUTH GROUPS

Junior Youth Group is a chance for kids in grades 6, 7, or 8 to gather together in a safe space to build community and explore a new way of being with their peers. We meet every second Friday from 7pm-9pm starting on FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD in the hall at the Arbutus site. Bring your friends for an evening of fun and friendship.

Senior Youth Group is for students in grades 9 – 12. We meet every

second Sunday from 7pm – 9pm in the hall at the Arbutus site starting on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH. Bring your friends!

PARENTS & TOTS PLAYGROUP

This Wednesday morning program is for kids aged infant to 4 years old and their caregivers. The kids have lots of toys and lots of space to play and explore and the adults have a chance to interact with their kids in a new space and build community with other caregivers. Snack for the kids and coffee/tea for the adults is provided. No need to pre-register. Just show up! We gather every Wednesday from 9:30am-11:30am starting on WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST. Bring your friends and neighbours.

YOUNG ADULTS

For all those aged 18 – 29, we meet for lunch on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month after the service. Lunch is provided. You do not need to pre-register. Just show up and enjoy this supportive and welcoming community. Come for the service then stay for lunch or just join us in the hall around 12:15pm. Our first gathering will be SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th.



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Conting sept. 21ST!

Broad View

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SNACK FOR THE KIDS & COFFEE/TEA FOR THE CRAEGIVERS

WEDNESDAYS 9:30-11:30AM

2625 Arbutus rd. in the Hall

WWW.BROADVIEWUNITED.COM

START UP SUNDAY!! September 11th beginning at 10 am

This will be our last Sunday of one worship service and we will use the hall as a secondary space for worship and integrate with our livestreaming and various staff moving between the two space. The service will be an upbeat and lively intergenerational event where we introduce our theme of TELLING OUR STORY, SHARING OUR FAITH for the coming year. Following worship, we will retreat to the lawn for a BBQ and corn roast. There will be various games, activities, and a large jumping castle for our children to enjoy.

This is also to be the first Sunday for Ha Na and Min-Goo to join us in worship together with their family. This event will be a good opportunity for us all to meet each other and begin the process of learning to tell our stories to each other.

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us!

WELCOME, HOSPI TALI TY AND COFFEE

In late June the hospitality team met to think through what process we might want to use to reinstitute the service of both pre and post coffee time. It was decided that trying to find teams for two services each Sunday was going to be onerous and instead the decision was that we would hire a person to make the coffee/tea and do the clean up and instead use members of the congregation for an expanded hospitality role.

Starting in September, we will be creating a series of teams whose responsibility it will be to oversee the welcome and hospitality aspect of interfacing with those new to the community

as well as those who are members and adherents. We will have "welcomers", and those dedicated to serving newcomers and staffing a newcomers information booth. People will be asked to serve one Sunday a month and there will be training required and offered for those who agree to serve in this capacity. We have brainstormed a list of folks and will begin the recruitment process over the next week or so. We hope if you are asked to serve that you will give prayerful consideration to serving in this way. If you are interested in being considered for one of the teams, please contact margaret@broadviewunited.com

In addition you will see a number of new initiatives to help us welcome, track and integrate newcomers into our BVU family. More updates on this in the October newsletter.





Worship & Music Updates

WORSHI P TI MES AND FORMATS

Sunday Sept 18th will see us return to our two Sunday service offerings; 9:30am will be The Bridge service with a typical United Church format and blend of traditional and contemporary music. Special music will include occasional offerings from a choir and from some of our song leaders.

At 11:00am we will have The ConXion service with a more edgy combination of music drawn from a variety of sources including pop, jazz and folk genres. The trio of Louise Rose, Jeff Poynter and Cheryl Dennett will continue to form the core of the music for this service. The service flows gradually and builds to the sharing of the message at the end of the service and folks are sent out into the world.

MUSI C

We are still working to fill the gap left with the sudden death of Jim Sparks. Music leadership is being sought for an accompanist for the 9:30am Bridge service and also a new leader for the BVU Community Choir. We are in the midst of following up on a number of leads and will have more to share with you in the near future.

TESTI MONY

As part of our process of learning to *tell our story and share our faith*, we are going to be inviting various members of the congregation to share a little of their story each week in worship. These sharing times will be a testimony to ones faith, or something that made an impact on their spiritual journey, or what drew them to Broad View United and what has kept them here or perhaps another poignant question. One of the members of the ministry team will approach individuals with an invitation to share a two minute reflection. We are hoping when you **are tapped on the shoulder that you will be ready to say "yes"**.



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Congregational Care

PASTORAL CARE UPDATE

We offer our love, condolences and support to the families and friends of the Broad View Community members whose loved ones have passed on during the last few months. We remember, Shirley Shnider, Marjorie Cowley-Peary, Eileen Clark, Lyn Geiger, Joan Penner, Lydia Chappell, Jim Sparks and John Klymak.



Jim Sparks - In Memoriam

A service celebrating the life of one of our beloved music directors, Jim Sparks will be held on September 24th at 1pm at the Chandos Pattison Auditorium in Surrey BC. The service will be livestreamed and we will hold a public gathering to view this livestream together at the same time in the Sanctuary at BVU Arbutus. **Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Jim's wife, Cheryl, and with the rest of his family.**

FALL GRI EF GROUP

There is not a week that goes by that someone within our community is not affected by a loved one or friend who has died. The work of grieving someone we have loved and lost can be lonely and isolating. If you would like to be part of a Fall Grief Group that will meet for approx 6 weeks to explore the many emotions and phases of grief, please be in touch with Margaret, Pastoral Care and Small Group Minister.

Times and dates will be coordinated once we have sufficient persons who have expressed interest. <u>margaret@broadviewunited.com</u>

NEW CONGREGATI ONAL CARE I NI TI ATI VE

- Circle Chat: A new drop-in group for those who are missing conversation with their church family. There will be time for sharing our stories, supporting each other, visiting and refreshments. Watch the Fall Program Guide for more details!
- We will also be starting a New Small Group at Berwick Lodge to connect with BVU folks who live there!
- The ministry of Pastoral Care takes a village.

There is not a week that goes by that I am not heartened and touched to see how folks notice and reach out to others who are needing some extra care and love. It is especially when we are going through the valleys of life that the smallest acts of kindness remind us that 'God is with us. We are not alone'. Thank you all for shining your light. You truly make a difference!

Please feel free to be in touch with Margaret Harper, Pastoral Care Minister <u>margaret@broadviewunited.com</u> or one of the following Congregation Care Resource folks.

Rosita Dworschak rosita47@telus.net, Edna Hamilton edbob74@gmail.com, Val Bauld valbauld@shaw.ca



BVU Community Program Updates

<u>SEPTEMBER MOVI E NI GHT</u> SATURDAY SEPT 17TH @ 7 PM

This month's movie is PEACE BY CHOCOLATE. The film is based on the true story of the Hadhads, a family from Syria who moved to Canada as refugees from the Syrian civil war, settling in Antigonish, Nova Scotia and establishing the Peace by Chocolate artisanal chocolate shop. Popcorn, snacks and beverages are provided and discussion follows.

2022/23 PROGRAM GUI DE

Staff and the Education Team have been busy discerning program offerings for the 2022/23 year. The program guide will go live on the website on Friday Sept 9th and will be available in booklet form starting Sunday Sept 11th. Take a look through the guide at the various program offerings and find the ones that are right for you. There is a wide range of study, community building, intercultural and spiritual practices offered. While we have attempted to provide a comprehensive outline for the coming year, there will be occasional offerings made that we could not anticipate or plan for at the time of publication and we will keep you updated in the newsletter and on the website.

SUMMER CAMP CELEBRATI ON

This year in addition to working at the thrift store, two of our summer students (Josh and Jo) together with our children and family minister Pat McKay created two weeks of camp for children within the congregation and in the community. Each week was jam packed with crafts, activities, learning circles and outdoor activities. Their theme for the summer was *Finding Our Way*.

the summer was *Finding Our Way.* Evaluations from parents and children

were very positive. It was a great success all around.









Telling Our Story Sharing Our Faith 2022/25 Program Guide broadviewaniked.com (? ()







Confused about climate change? Unsure which news stories to believe? Wondering what you can do about it?

Creation, Climate and You

An opportunity to come together with others from Broad View United in an open-minded, small group conversation.

FORMAT: Three 90-minute Zoom conversations over three weeks. Come for one, two, or all three chats. Each conversation is designed to stand alone, but each week we'll go a little deeper into the science and the feelings/ideas that this existential issue evokes.

<u>WHEN</u>: Wednesday @ 7pm on Sept 28th, Oct 5th, and Oct 12th Register on our website, broadviewunited.com, to receive the Zoom link.



Hosted by the Caring for Creation Small Group Questions? Contact Brenda at bjhenderson@shaw.ca



- \Rightarrow Are you looking for a place to get to know others---a place of spirituality and nurture?
- ⇒ Are you NEW to Broad View United and want a place to meet and connect with others?
- \Rightarrow A place where friendships can grow and deepen?
- \Rightarrow A place where you can be known, valued and loved?

Small groups are a new ministry at Broad View United---a space where 6-12 folks gather to connect and support each other, grow and learn together in a way that is not possible in a larger gathering.

It is amazing that in the space of two years, small groups have become 'an anchor' for many at BVU—some groups continue to meet online, some meet in-person, and some are a hybrid of the two.

We currently have 10 small groups that are operational, including one that is specifically an online group which enables those who live outside of Victoria to participate. A new small group will soon be meeting at Berwick Lodge.

WHAT'S NEW:

- WATCH for a Fall Promotional Video which will include stories and testimonials from Small Group Members.
- ♦ SIGN-UP/EXPRESS INTEREST at our Welcome Centre coming soon to the Narthex.
- WANT TO BE IN A GROUP with one or two friends—we are happy to arrange that! Perhaps you would like to lead, or co-lead a group!
- FALL IS THE PERFECT TIME to join a small group. We have a few groups that are looking for new members, as well as some new groups that are poised to begin.

Please see our Fall program brochure which will be available on Start Up Sunday (Sept. 11) to learn more about how you can become a member of a small group. We long to welcome you!

To speak to someone now about Small Groups, or if you have questions to explore, please be in touch with one of the Small Group Core Team.

Please let us know how we CAN HELP YOU CONNECT!		Your Core Team
Margaret Harper	margaret@broadviewunited.com	250-477-2715
Val Bauld	valbauld@shaw.ca	250-721-5962
Betty Doherty	bdoherty1@telus.net	250-472-1756
Adele Heise	aheise@live.ca	250-883-0033



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<u>CONGREGATI ONAL MEETI NG</u> <u>SEPTEMBER 13TH @ 7PM VI A ZOOM</u>

On Monday August 22, about 91 people gathered online to chat about the proposed renovation summary and to hear some projected increases in budget needs for the project. Covid has changed many things, especially as it relates to construction and renovation. We are not exempt from these changes either. An update on where the budget is headed was shared as well as possible ways to bridge the gap. A straw poll was taken at the end of



the meeting and about 88% of those attending felt either ready to move ahead now or were cautiously optimistic that we could do so. That budget and the package are available online for you to peruse under the Building Reno tab or by clicking <u>HERE</u>

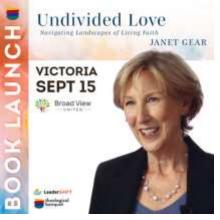
More information is being gathered in preparation for a second congregational meeting on Wednesday, September 13th at 7pm via zoom. A package with the most up to date budget will be circulated prior to the meeting as well as a zoom link.

At that meeting there will be a formal motion made and a vote held. Following that vote the Trustees seek to enact what the congregation has decided. If the decision is to move forward with the renovations they will then ensure that the request goes to the Pacific Mountain Region for their approval.

BOOK LAUNCH! Undivided Love - Janet Gear

Join us on Thursday Sept 15th from 7pm – 8:30pm to hear Janet read some excerpts, answer some questions and share in some light refreshments. Rev. Janet Gear is a McGeachy Senior Scholar, United Church Minister and formerly on staff at VST as the UCC Faith Formation Director.

Undivided Love is a book about faith: how it is expressed and what it communicates. Janet Gear offers readers a sympathetic way to interpret the belief-inspired actions of those around them without assuming homogeneous understandings of God, the church, and our place in the world. Recognizing



the pastoral and strategic challenges provoked by conflicting understandings of what the church is for, Gear guides leaders in the artistry of handling shadows and strengths coexisting across five streams of lived faith: evangelical, ecclesial, missional, ecumenical, and spiritual.

Ultimately, *Undivided Love* empowers congregations to navigate the terrain of theological diversity shared by their community of faith, to nurture its various longings and receive its unique gifts, and to ultimately address the deeper question: what are we called to do? Mark your calendars and join us on Sept 15th.

Ζ

Undivided Love

JANET GEAR

Undivided Love

JANET GEAR

AUTHOR READING BOOK SIGNING REFRESHMENTS & GOOD COMPANY

Join Janet Gear to celebrate the release of her illuminating book, 'Undivided Love, Navigating Landscapes of Living Faith'!

BRING A FRIEND, LEAVE WITH A BOOK

VANCOUVER

The Chapel at St. Andrew's-Wesley United Church

7-8:30PM TUESDAY

SEPT 13 Corner of Burrard & Nelson Streets VICTORIA Broad View United Church 7-8:30PM THURSDAY

SEPT 15

LeaderSHIFTUCCan.org

ets

In Partnership With









Cover painting by Neil Thorogood

Social Enterprises Update

THRI FT STORE UPDATE

We have finished another successful summer and are pleased to say that both the volunteers and the summer students did an amazing job of keeping on top of donations and sales as well as attending to a backlog of projects that having the extra help enable to be accomplished. A huge thank you to Josh, Calista, Harneet, Jo and Emma for all their work and dedication this summer. We are truly blessed with the quality of students we had again this year. Katy and Sam were gone for much of the summer taking a well deserved break with their families. They will return to their management roles as September begins and have a number of ideas they are eager to implement in the coming months.

Plans for a Christmas pop up sale Nov 5th are in the works and we are awaiting news of where the renovations will at in their timeline to determine the location of the sale. Stay Tuned.

JUST LI KE FAMI LY UPDATE:

Broad View

UNITED -

After three years of leading our Just like Family homecare social enterprise, Sarah Bowder has decided that its is time for her to step away from the role of president and CEO. Sarah has done an incredible job of helping us get the franchise off the ground and grow it into a viable business in a very short period of time. The board has been seeking a replacement for her over the summer months.

It is with pleasure therefore that the JLF board announces its appointment of Mark Porter to role of CEO and President effective Oct 1st and we feel

blessed to have Mark step into these shoes. Mark and his family are members of BVU. Mark Porter is a business executive who comes to us with extensive business experience and expertise specializing in Human Resources with over 30 years of experience in a variety of organizations in Canada and the UK. Mark recently retired from WestJet where he held the role of Executive Vice-President, People and Culture for almost seven years. Mark looks forward to working with JLF and in making a difference both in the community we serve as well as for BVU.









Intercultural Ministry

THE I NTERCULTURAL SPACE

Building an intentional community through deep dialogue and practices

Tired of small talk? (Talking about weather all the time?) Don't want to waste your precious time and energy on things that don't feed your soul? Looking for real and long-lasting friendships across different cultures? Committed to build right relationship with all of creation, but don't know where to start? Want to make meaningful connections between your spiritual life and your actions? Open to holistic learning – engaging the body, the mind, and the spirit? Curious about what an intercultural community looks like?



Welcome! You have come to the right place!

You're invited to join me to explore intercultural reality by creating a space for mutual learning, growth, and transformation. We will bring all that we are, including our identities, experiences, questions, doubts, struggles as well as our joys, hopes and celebrations! Sometimes we may feel confused or ambiguous, but we can be assured that we are on the right track. We are not here to debate who's right or wrong anyway. And there is no single definition of what intercultural community is. It's our intention to engage differences that will carry us through, not our answers. In the end, we will rejoice that our understandings and experiences of God and of each other have been broadened!

Watch the upcoming program brochure for new programs and initiatives including a intercultural bible study. I'm excited to be joining the BVU team and getting to know each of you as we tell our story and share our faith.

EVERY CHI LD MATTERS - ORANGE SHI RT DAY FRI SEPT 30

Orange Shirts are available for purchase at:

- Broad View Thrift Store <u>broadviewthriftstore.com</u>
- UVic Book Store— <u>uvicbookstore.ca</u>
- Songhees Wellness Centre and Songhees Ship Point Kiosk
 <u>exploresonghees.com</u>

Orange Shirt Day is held annually on September 30 in Canada to bring people together to honour and remember the sacrifices of residential school survivors and their families.



Reconciliation

NATI ONAL RECONCI LI ATI ON DAY - SEPT 30TH

As part of our ongoing commitment to participating in the Truth and Reconciliation commission recommendations and walking the path with local indigenous leaders, we have provided for you a compilation for events that are happening in and around Victoria leading up to National Reconciliation Day on Friday Sept 30th. It is our hope that members of the congregation will make an effort to attend at least one of these events to further our collective



- ⇒ BVU National Day of Reconciliation Vigil Sept 30 at 2:15 pm at Arbutus site In honour of those children who continue to be found in unmarked graves across Canada, we will join in a 20 min vigil of song and ritual. This will be a small part of our commitment to continue to be a part of a painful journey as more gravesites are uncovered. Following the vigil there will be an opportunity for those who wish to gather in table group in the hall for conversation, reflection and refreshments.
- ⇒ EXPLORE SONGHEES is offering walking and canoe tours from Ship Point every Thursday through

Sunday until Oct 9. It's an opportunity to learn more about the Lekwungen people's history and culture in the Victoria area, especially the Inner Harbour. And, bannock is included. The canoe tours are 2 1/2 hours and guests are invited to paddle (but not a requirement). They cost about \$70 per person and are informative and fun.

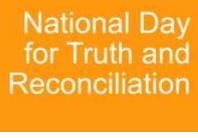
- -The canoe tour schedule is: Thurs-2pm & 5:30pm, Fri and Sat-11am, 2pm, & 5:30pm, & Sun- 11am & 2pm.
- -The walking tour schedule is: Thurs, Fri, & Sat-noon, 2:30pm, & 5pm, and Sun- noon & 2pm.
- Their website is exploresonghees.com

We are hoping to book one or more tours if there is a positive response, & may be able to get a group rate.





Find Us:









⇒ Thu-It (truth) A multi media experience at the Cowichan Community Center Sept 6 – Oct 6th

Travel through over 150 years of colonial history and the impacts it had and continues to have on Indigenous communities, families and individuals. Told through a variety of archival materials, news and the stories and experiences of a group of Quw'utsun' Elders, participants will have the opportunity to reconsider learned history and discover Thu-it - Truth.

Choose your journey:

- A walk-through multi-media exhibit
- An immersive 3-hour Guided Session (tickets required)
- An Indigenous Excellence and Youth Art Exhibit
- Or, experience all three!

⇒ SOUTH ISLAND POWWOW join Songhees Nation on National Truth and Reconciliation Day, Sept 30, 2022 at the Royal Athletic Park (1014 Caledonia Ave) for the South Island Powwow. This is an opportunity to recognize Survivors and their families in the spirit of reconciliation. Through song and dance, we will celebrate traditional Indigenous

cultures and resiliency. We will sing and dance together, not against one another. This is a time to memorialize our past and future. We look to hold space and honour our residential school, day school, and 60s scoop Survivors and their families. Celebrate Indigenous cultures that colonization tried to erase, and showcase our strength and resilience. While bringing people together, for celebration and to build bridges amongst all Nations. Free to Attend

Schedule of Events

- 10am Doors Open
- 11am Opening Ceremony
- 12pm Grand Entry. Intertribal dances, category dancing
- 6pm Grand Entry, Intertribal dances, category dancing
- 12am Retirement of Colours
- ⇒ Broad View Magazine September Issue Indigenous Vision <u>Click here to read</u>



- One woman's journey to reclaim her Sami roots
- The United Church's residential school legacy
- How Indigenous influencers are making culture cool



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Welcome to Lekwungen Territory...

It is here where our people have thrived since time immemorial...It is here that we invite you to join us to experience Lekwungen culture and hospitality on our beautiful lands.



Ey Stelnexw (good medicine)

Offering special rates for group tours.

778.584.4748 1100 Admirals Road, Victoria info@exploresonghees.com www.exploresonghees.com

Outreach

TENANT STARTER KI TS FOR OUR PLACE SOCI ETY

A big thank you to everyone who brought items for the Tenant Kits or donated money to the cost of items needing to be purchased. They are now complete and will be stored until Our Place is ready to distribute them to the people who will be moving into their new home. We were so pleased to have all the items donated so quickly.



<u>Shelbourne Community</u> <u>Kitchen</u>

For the month of September we have been asked to collect cans of soup for the community kitchen to help fill their shelves. There will be a donation bin in the entrance under the coat rack for folks to leave their donations. Thank you, as always, for your participation.

The donation bin was emptied quite a few times over the summer and the folks at the community kitchen **were grateful. Let's keep that energy flowing and** continue to show our support.



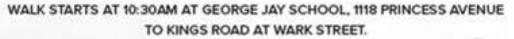


A WALK TO COMMEMORATE 100 YEARS



Join us on September 5 to commemorate the 1922 Chinese student strike against racism and segregation.

WE MUST REMEMBER OUR HISTORY, NO MATTER HOW DARK AND PREJUDICED.





PLEASE COME OUT AND JOIN US! For more information, email: vicchinesemuseum@gmail.com

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<u>MARGARET'S SABBATICAL:</u> <u>RESI LI ENCE OF MI ND, BODY AND SPI RI T.</u>

I am still reveling in the gift of Sabbath time with which you (the community of Broad View United) gifted me. Thus, I begin with an expression of deep gratitude to all of you!

I confess the biggest adjustment to 'stepping into Sabbath time' was to simply accept that the chatter of my mind was taking its own sweet time to let go. In our Sacred Pause meditation group here at BVU, we know the many challenges of becoming attuned to the 'still small voice of God'. Making space in our lives does not come easy for most of us, for the daily routines of life are mostly here for good reason! Initially I was frustrated that I could not 'gear' down. One of the things I



discovered about the relationship of resilience to my 'monkey mind' was I needed to accept what was---without any further strivings or willing it to be other than it was.

The month of May into early June saw me travel to Ireland to join the retreat that had been postponed since 2020 due to COVID. It was well worth the wait. The retreat was organized by Innovations in Resilience, and is based on some of the leadership and inter-personal methodology and research from Parker Palmer's Centre for Courage and Renewal and Brené Brown's The Courage Way. The prime foundation for their retreats is to provide a container where people can hone leadership skills based on listening to their authentic selves and learning to step into their vulnerabilities with courage, conviction, joy and delight.

Our morning sessions offered a plethora of ways to cultivate the ongoing spiritual practices of Awe, Gratitude, Wonder, Empathy & Compassion. We worked hard in the morning and in the afternoon we hiked the **beautiful and rugged Dingle Peninsula. We were not simply 'out in Creation'. Creation was an active** participant in our retreat, for the land, sea, wind, and beach enfolded and held our bodies and souls as we hiked. In fact, some of the best conversations I had were with the land. Daily we were offered opportunities to try new spiritual practices, chances to dig deep into the human and spiritual condition, reflect on some of the big questions such as 'how to live authentically in a world of quick sound bites amidst all that would rather NUMB us to the stuff of life that truly matters?"

Circles of trust were created and practiced. Laughter, Tears, Relationships, Learnings, even our stories of shame and struggle became the building blocks for how to be together in community where every person is seen, accepted, welcomed and celebrated. One of the practices which I shared this month in worship was 'Introduce yourself in a way which you never have before." [More on this as the year unfolds]. Another was 'how to befriend stress and have it work in your favour'. At Broad View United, one of the hallmarks for who we are and how we aim to be with each other is that we are attempting to truly live out what 'unconditional acceptance' means. This continues to be the Way of Jesus. One of the things I commented on during the retreat is, "This kind of community can be created anywhere. Any place can be Dingle!" I believe we are on this journey at Broad View United.

I had not planned to catch COVID in Ireland. However, that too contributed to my understanding and definition of resilience. Due to this, June and July saw my energy on the low side due to fatigue. My monkey mind had finally subsided, only to be challenged by a body that seemed out of step with my renewed mind and spirit. Again, balance was eventually restored, but could not be summoned!

There were spacious times for reading, doing some research on welcoming newcomers and hybrid worship services. I attended an event put on by Victoria Hospice and the Yakimovich Centre called "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow". I attended a travelling exhibit hosted by *The Sixties Scoop The Indigenous Society of Alberta*'. I travelled and stayed with friends in Alert Bay on Cormorant Island, and was nourished and challenged by the incredible U'mista Cultural Centre built on the site of the former residential school. I met with a longtime childhood First Nations' friend on Treaty Four territory. I had not seen her for over 50 years and we had the most profound, revealing and healing conversation about our experiences as young girls which included: Racism, how Residential Schools had impacted her family and the nature of friendship seen through the lens of who we were, and who we are now.

I am keen to be back with you, as Broad View United welcomes two new ministry folks to the team: Ha Na Park and Min-Goo Kang, and as we await the renovation of the Cedar Hill Cross Site. As always, we celebrate who we are as the body of Christ in a myriad of ways as we keep saying "Yes" to the promptings of the Spirit.

In closing, here is part of a poem that I wrote in Ireland:

Now I jump differently no longer fearful of being counter Now the fish dances upstream ready to reach the destination where it will spawn giving birth to a million possibilities And the spray is refreshing And I tingle from the inside out Scales enlivened Eyes on the prize of this astounding moment of Freedom & Awe





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