



**Broad View**  
— UNITED —

**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024**

Broad View United in amalgamation with  
First Metropolitan United Church



[broadviewunited.com](http://broadviewunited.com)



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## Minister's Message

"Me encanta!"

Just a few days shy of Christmas Eve, when I told my friend that I had started to learn Spanish, she said, "Me encanta.", in Spanish, which means "I love it!". And that enchanted me. Me encanta! I could immediately see the linguistic connection between "encanta" and being enchanted!

Since then, I have learned and practiced Spanish using DuoLingo on my phone, every day. Finally, today, I got into the new grammar that explains Me encanta, and it fascinates and inspires me so much!

I understand that what fascinates me is purely based on how I interpret the grammar, but I hope there is some truth to my interpretation! Let me explain. "Me encanta" is literally translated in English to mean "I love it." When you say in English "I love it", it's all about 'you' loving something. Whether or not the thing you love has any influence on you or relationship with you is not a consideration to the statement that you love it. If you like it, that's all there is to it. As long as *you* love it, if *your* will is to like it, that's all you need to say: you love it. In contrast, when you say, "Me encanta", you are saying that this thing has the power to make me love it. "I love it" because of the fact that I am enchanted. This one thing makes me receive its influence and recognize our relationship. This thing in the world, this person in the world, or this nature in the world enchants me; that's the reason I have come to love it. The grammar, in this particular exclamation "Me encanta", presumes the relationship I have with the thing in the world in the first place. It has the power to make me like it, love it and praise it. It's how I find myself, my emotion, my status, in dynamic relationship with all that exists in the world.

This new grammar enchants me to wonder what if, in the upcoming new season of Lent, we could open ourselves to "Me encanta", *to be enchanted*. To love.

Both Encanta and Enchant come from the same Latin origin, "Encantar", which also has a connection to singing and chanting. For example, love influences me like a song, just like the music flows into my body like the sound waves contained in chanting.

In this new season of Lent, we envision ourselves being enchanted ("to love") by the glowing love of God in the world — beautiful, sacred, and inviting us to hope, to sparkle, even while the world nudges us into polarization through conflict and a global epidemic of sadness. Traditionally, the season of Lent is a time to journey with somber courage, going deeper into life's shadows: following the stories of Jesus' 40-day retreat into the desert, grief, conflict, violence, death, the cross. Now, I invite you to ponder... What would it be like if we still looked for the glowing and growing love of God, sparkling much like glitter, even in the nighttime of our soul, and even, along with God, created more?

Love the sacred, glittering new hope in the world, because God's love enchants us in the first place, open ourselves up to the resurrection to love it, praise it, and live it.

Broad View United invites you to Me Encanta throughout Lent. Let's create enchanting moments together, through Glitter+Ash Wednesday, the communion with rainbow bread (1st Sun of Lent), Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage walk, P.I.E. day, a visioning process with Allison Rennie, and many more. Find all of these invitations to chanting together in love, in this Feb Newsletter. Me encanta! I love it!

Blessings Ha Na Park Co-Lead Minister



# Thank you | BVU Grand Opening Celebration

Thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and celebrated with us at the BVU Grand Opening Celebration last Sunday.

"With our hearts full of gratitude and joy, we welcome you into our newly renovated space. Worship, play, learn with us, and join us in this new beginning in the life of our faith community, Broad View United. In this beautiful home in Saanich, we are ready to move into the future with bright, green, and safe community spaces that are accessible and welcoming to all. Our vision is to become an agent of transformation and a progressive Christian voice in the region and in the world, reflecting our core values of being progressive, walking the talk (integrity), and interculturally vibrant. All are welcome, and we truly mean it!" ~ Adapted from the greeting by Kathryn Clinton, BVU Board Chair.

If you missed the video about our new BVU that we shared before and after the celebration, we invite you to watch it. Here is the [LINK](#). You can also find the video on our BVU website. Special thanks to Vanessa and Joan for their creativity.



## Staffing Updates

**Front Desk reception and Admin:** We are delighted to announce that we have hired **Janiena Dirain** to fill this position as of Jan 22. Janiena comes with a broad set of skills and a welcoming friendly personality. We think we she will be a great fit with our team. A huge thank you to **Greg Golden** for filling in this position during the month of January and being a part of the transition time.

**Holidays:** Mark will be on holidays Jan 22 – Feb 7th.  
Margaret will be on holidays from Feb 18 – Mar 2

**Children Youth and Families:** Pat's last Sunday with us will be Feb 11th and we will acknowledge her contribution during the services and with cake after the ConXion Service. Pat will be with us through to the Ash Wed International Pancake event. We wish her well on her travels and we will miss her. If you wish to bring a card from home on Sundays or during office hours (with a gift no larger than the card) to express your thanks and blessings, we would be delighted to collect them for Pat, who will be traveling and relocating after her last day here.



Micia will continue her work with Children and Families and Karl Hiscock will join the team as a leader in-training. Karl has been a member for BVU since its inception and life-long member for the United Church. He brings passion and energy and a great love for children and youth ministry that he is excited to share.

## Broad View United Thrift Store Updates

Greetings from the thrift store community.

January was a busy month! We opened on January 10th and what a showing from our loyal customers! We received rave reviews and plenty of excitement. Also in January news the shop is excited to announce our new website. You can find us at [broadviewthriftstore.com](http://broadviewthriftstore.com) to keep up on all the latest news, hours of operations and donation information. As well Google has changed our status from "temporarily closed" to reflect our reopening. Phew! That was a challenge.

We continue to diligently process and arrange your welcomed donations, and are actively seeking volunteers. Feel free to check out an overview and fill out a request online or drop in to see Sharon Parker (the manager) from Tuesday – Saturday from 9am-3pm.

Happy February everyone!

Continue to spread love and kindness where you can. ❤️



**Donation Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 3pm.**  
**Open Hours for February: Wednesday 10am - 6pm,**  
**Saturday 10am - 4pm.**

## BVU Invitation to the Lenten Journey, 2024

In the new season of Lent, we envision ourselves being enchanted ("to love") by the glowing love of God in the world — beautiful, sacred, and inviting us to hope, to sparkle, even while the world nudges us into polarization through conflict and a global epidemic of sadness.

Traditionally, the season of Lent is a time to journey with somber courage, going deeper into life's shadows: following the stories of Jesus' 40-day retreat into the desert, grief, conflict, violence, death, the cross. What would it be like if we still looked for the glowing and growing love of God, sparkling much like glitter, even in the nighttime of our soul, and even, along with God, created more?

Love the sacred, glittering new hope in the world, because God's love enchants us in the first place, open ourselves up to the resurrection to love it, praise it, and live it. (*You are invited to read Ha Na's message in this newsletter: Me Encanta!*)

For more updates and details, please check the BVU Bits and Bytes and the March newsletter. **Stay tuned and journey with us.**

**Please mark these dates:**

**February 14** | Ash Wednesday

**International Lenten Pancake Supper, followed by the Glitter+Ash ritual**

### **International Lenten Pancake Supper**

The International Lenten Pancakes Supper is not only about the world of diverse pancakes to share, but also how we celebrate and acknowledge the beginning of our unique Christian journey with all communities and the cultures that we are and bring. It's all about faith, relationships, and honouring one another. Please come and enjoy pancakes from around the world, including Mexican Tortilla, Korean Kimchi pancakes, Japanese Okonomiyaki, crepes, latkes, regular and GF pancakes. Tickets go on sale on Sundays and during office hours: \$ 5 per person and \$ 15 per family (cash only.) After we enjoy our pancakes, we will go into the sanctuary for an Ashes ritual.

### **What is the Glitter+Ash ritual like?**

On Ash Wednesday... WE WILL BE SEEN

Glitter is like love. It's irresistible and irrepressible.

Ashes are a statement that death and suffering are real.

Glitter is a sign of our hope, which does not despair.

Glitter signals our promise to repent, to show up, to witness, to work.

Glitter *never* gives up — and neither do we.

Ash Wednesday is a day when Christians receive the mark of the cross on their foreheads to begin 40 days of reflection and transformation in preparation for Easter. Glitter Ashes lets the world know that we are progressive, queer-positive Christians. The public face of Christianity is often a face of intolerance — especially toward LGBTQia people. There are millions of Christians who believe that the Gospel commands us to love, not hate. Glitter ashes are a witness to an inclusive Christian message. Being enchanted by the glittering, glowing and growing love of God in the world, we show our faith in God who empowers us and wants us to repent of hurting each other. We want people to see how important our faith is to us. For more learning, click [HERE](#) or google Glitter Ash Wednesday.



The glitter we will use is safe for cosmetic application.

**February 18** | First Sunday of Lent, Communion with rainbow bread (gluten free too.)

**March 2-3** | BVU Visioning Process with Allison Rennie.

Allison Rennie will visit us and share worship leadership with their message, *Rooted in Vision and Purpose*, on Sunday, March 3rd, followed by afternoon congregational gathering at 2-4 pm. We invite you to watch their introduction video, [HERE](#), to get to know Allison and what the Visioning Process will lead us into. Find Allison's written article and their bio, in this newsletter.

**March 16 (Sat)** | Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage walk (Find the poster in this newsletter)

**March 17 (Sun)** | P.I.E Day Sunday (PIE = Public. Intentional. Explicit)

These are the standards we hold ourselves and our welcome to when we become affirming, welcoming and inclusive Christian communities. P.I.E. (Pi = Greek letter "π" = 3.14 = March 14) Day is a chance to serve some pie and roll out the PIE by celebrating the full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ and Two Spirit people in faith communities and beyond across Canada.

**March 28** | Maundy Thursday

**March 29** | Good Friday service(s)

**March 31** | Easter celebration

## Order Your Broad View United Name Tag

Interested in ordering a Broad View United name tag? Wearing one during Sunday mornings or at community events helps us easily address each other by name, encouraging closer interactions. On the new sign-up sheet, you now have the option to include the pronouns on your name tag.

There's also a change in the way we're ordering Broad View United Name Tags. We're now ordering on **the first Sunday of each month** (upcoming date: Sunday, Feb 4th). You can pick up your name tag on the third Sunday, or afterward, at the Narthex (Sundays) or during office hours.



- **Sunday morning at Narthex:** In the provided envelope, please sign up with your name and email, and pay \$7, through the offering/donation box or via e-transfer to [office@broadviewunited.com](mailto:office@broadviewunited.com) (mention it's for a name tag).
- **Via Jotform:** You can order your name tag via Jotform on BVU website. Here is the [link](#).



Please note that only name tag requests with completed payment received by the first Sunday of each month will be processed. If you have placed an order but have not made the payment, do not worry. Please reorder it in the next month!

## Transition Notes from Shelagh

As we progress through the beauty of Epiphany, I want to salute and thank everyone who is working so hard to make this amalgamation a source of belonging and spiritual joy! I am glad to see the opportunities (like the Community Choir and volunteering in different roles) for us to get to know each other in informal situations.

One of the questions that has come up is regarding membership for folks, like me, from First-Metropolitan United Church. It's continuous into the amalgamated Community of Faith. There are no forms to fill out and no dotted lines to sign! We are now members of Broad View United. As time progresses, our technologies will be merged, and the Congregational list will be unified. We will also be able to order new name tags as the old ones need replacing.

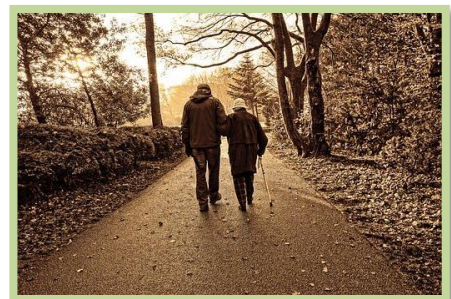
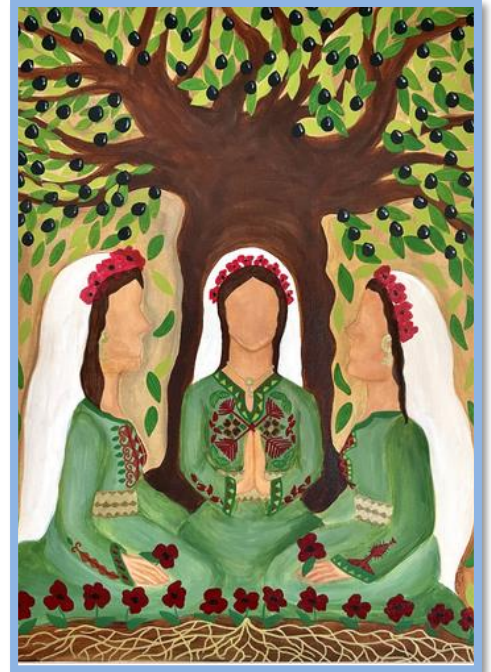
The Broad View United Church Women held a very successful inaugural meeting in January! We invite you to save the date of March 1 for the **World Day of Prayer** gathering at the church. Annually, Christian women from a different area of our beautiful world create a prayer service. Over the years we have been introduced to the concerns and achievements of women in every circumstance of life. This year the service of prayer was written by the Christian women of Palestine. Megumi Matsuo-Saunders is a past-President of the Women's Inter-Church Council. The WICC is based on ecumenism: dialogue and collaboration between different Christian denominations. We appreciate our commonalities and the unique perspective that each denomination brings to the table. Together, we represent the diverse body of Christ seeking to bring hope to those touched by injustice. As women of diverse backgrounds rooted in the Christian faith, we are called to reflect the essence of this faith. Through compassion, understanding and mutual respect, we work together to grow in ecumenism, share our spiritual traditions, and challenge injustice.

Rev Shelagh MacKinnon, Minister – Pastoral Care and Transition

## Flatlanders Walk

Flatlanders walk: Looking for an easy afternoon stroll and some good company? Join the Flatlanders walking group for a pathway tour of **Esquimalt Gorge Park on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 1 pm**. Meet at the new park pavilion, entrance off Tillicum Road by the Gorge bridge (ignore the construction equipment which has nothing to do with the park). Refreshments later at the popular Iluka cafe at Admirals Road and Craigflower. Everyone welcome.

Email Edeana Malcolm at [dnmlclm3@gmail.com](mailto:dnmlclm3@gmail.com) for information and to let us know you're coming.





## BVU Library

The church library is open for borrowing books. The Library is a collection of three libraries, Cadboro Bay United, St. Aidan's United and First Met United. The three churches used different methods for signing out books; cards, and two different computer systems. There were also three methods of labeling the spines to identify the books so it has been difficult to combine the collections easily. However, for the present time, the books may be borrowed on the honour system whereby the person borrowing the book takes it out and returns it to the place they took it from when they have finished reading it.



The Library has been arranged in the following sections; the first section (nearest the kitchen in the Commons room) has 4 divided shelving units. The first set contains information about the Bible. The next set contains books about Theology and Spirituality. The third set contains books about the United Church, Prayer and Meditation, Worship and Devotion, and also other religions. The fourth set contains books about Ageing, Family Relationships, Personal Relationships, Gender Identity, and Healing. Along the bottom shelves of this section are the Children's Picture Books. The second section is located between the First section and the fireplace and has two sets of shelving units. The first set contains Fiction books and the second set has Biographies. Finally, the third section also has 2 sets of shelves. The first set contains books on Social Issues and First Nations Issues. The second set contains books on Personal Growth and books for Youth and early chapter books.

All the books in all the sections have been alphabetized by author (most have the first three letters of the author on the spine label) so please try to return books in the correct place. There is no Librarian at the present time to reshelve the books for you so do your best to return them to the right place. We have many boxes of books for the Library that will not fit on the shelves. For now they are being stored until a decision is made on how to use them. Thank you for your co-operation. Eileen Campbell

## Support Palestinians! Buy Olive Trees!

Support Palestinians by purchasing a Zatoun Trees for Life sponsorship (3 trees for \$20.) Your sponsorship will provide Palestinian farmers with olive tree saplings to plant and nurture in order to renew their decimated groves and damaged livelihoods.

The olive tree has always been a powerful symbol of "sumud", (Arabic for steadfastness). Olives are also a valuable part of the Palestinian economy. Here is a wonderful opportunity to stand in solidarity with Palestinians. By purchasing olives trees, we demonstrate that we support them in their rootedness and connection to their land.



Available for purchase at the BVU Justice Fairs (next one on Feb 18).

Sponsorships make lovely hostess, birthday and Easter gifts for friends and family. A certificate for each sponsorship is provided.

For more information contact Robin Breckon at 250-516-3227 or [robin.breckon@gmail.com](mailto:robin.breckon@gmail.com)

## Engaging the Vision and Purpose for Broad View United

### Purpose:

- To inspire engagement of all community of faith participants with Broad View United's vision, purpose, and core values
- To strengthen the board's role in developing strategic actions by gathering input from a wide variety of Broad View United community members

What does God have in store for Broad View United at this time?! Whether you are newly participating with Broad View United or a sometimes attender or a member of long standing you are invited to share your voice and your vision for Broad View United.

Over the period of three months, you will have opportunities to discern the Spirit's movement in your community. You will collectively pay attention to what is being called out of you in this place and time, what is your unique purpose now? You will celebrate the vision and purpose from the past that still aligns in these present days. And through contemplation, conversation, collective and individual engagement you will help make room for what is emerging and is still taking shape. Broad View United's living strategic plan and current vision and purpose provides a starting point for listening, praying, wondering and talking together. And singing. Yes.

Allison Rennie will visit Broad View to facilitate this time of connection - and what will be the result? That you know each other better, that you have contributed to the board's ongoing work of strategic and faithful planning, that you have caught a glimpse of the emerging and deepening identity of Broad View United as a united and uniting community in greater Victoria.



Make a note of these dates:

Session 1 Sunday March 3: Rooted in Vision and Purpose

Allison Rennie to preach at both worship gatherings + afternoon congregational gathering 2 - 4 pm

Session 2 Saturday April 6: 9:30 - noon Holding on and Letting Go: Practices of Collective Discernment

Session 3 Saturday May 4: 9:30 - noon For Such a Time as This: What Matters Most

In addition to these large group gatherings, Allison will meet with existing small groups to encourage the specific vision held by those whose voices we want to amplify.

Allison Rennie is a gifted teacher and deeply passionate about nurturing the spirituality of people all ages. Allison was born in Vancouver, raised in Summerland, and has studied, lived and worked in a variety of places. Allison's BA with a double major in Christianity and Culture and Theatre, and MFA in Writing and Consciousness together with a Chef's training diploma and Youth Ministry training Certificate gives you a sense of the scope of their interests. They are trained SoulCollage® facilitator, Spiritual Director, former program director at Naramata Centre and have recently wrapped up work as the Director of LeaderSHIFT for the Pacific Mountain Regional Council of the United Church of Canada. A good mystery, a great movie, a fresh loaf of bread, a moment of learning, a good question, big work and a deep conversation – all of this is fuel for Allison's creativity! The gifts of group facilitation, hosting important conversation, engaging in spiritual practice and serious playing are all brought to the table in their approach as a spiritual animateur.

## Walking together on the Coldest Night of the Year, Feb. 24

### We need your support for Our Place Society.

The Coldest Night of the Year is a family-friendly walk on February 24 to raise money for Our Place Society. The Broad View United community has been a strong, steadfast supporter of Our Place who serves people experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness.

The Coldest Night of the Year is an important fundraiser that makes a real difference in the lives of many in our neighbourhoods who are struggling to find hope and belonging. We have set a goal to raise \$10,000 this year.

You can support this worthy cause by donating and/or joining our team and fundraising.

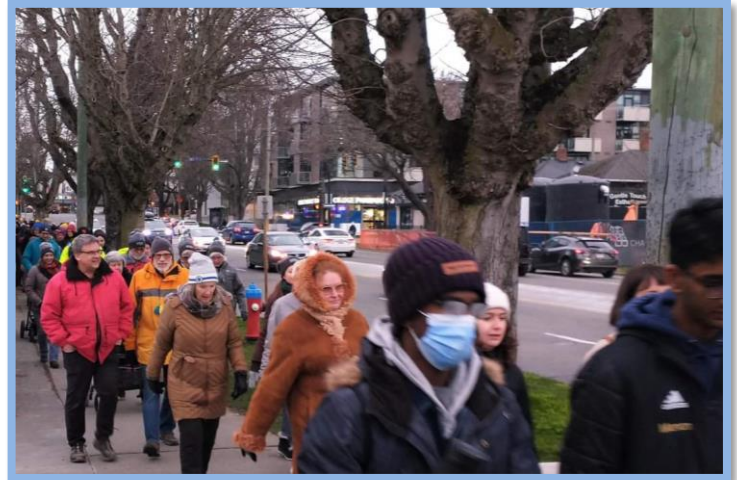
**To donate**, please go to [www.cnoy.org](http://www.cnoy.org), then click on the donate box. That will bring up a search box where you type “Broad View United” and then click go! You will then see the Broad View United team listed at the top of a list of teams. Click on “Broad View United” and then click on the “donate to team” box on the next screen. Then, you will have an option to associate your donation with a particular team member or to the whole team generally.

Our team will be walking a 5- or 2-km route on February 24 at the Victoria Pandora location that starts and ends at Our Place Society. However, many of our walkers decide to participate by self-organizing with friends or individually to walk on their chosen path any day in February. Regardless of where or when you walk, we ask all our walkers to register with the Broad View United team.

**To register as a walker**, please go to [www.cnoy.org](http://www.cnoy.org). (*Note, these instructions work better than those in the January Newsletter.*) Then click on “register to fundraise” rectangle. If you have registered in previous CNOY events, you will have the option to renew your existing account by signing in. If you have never registered in the past, then you will need to create an account as a first timer. After completing the registration for 2024 CNOY, you will be given three options “walk by yourself”, “join a team”, “start a team”. Please click on “join a team” which brings up a search box. Type “Broad View United” and enter, and our team name will be shown. Click on our team and you have joined. Welcome!

**For more information**, please contact Brian McConkey or Adele Heise by phone at 250 883-0033 or by email at [brianmcc306@gmail.com](mailto:brianmcc306@gmail.com)

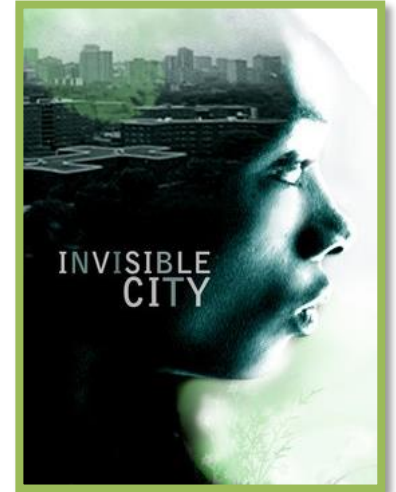
**Broad View United – Walking together on the Coldest Night of the Year, Feb. 24**



## Program Updates

### Movie Night

MOVIE NIGHT RETURNS! Now that we are back in our own space, we will resume our monthly Movie Night beginning Saturday February 24th at 7pm. In honour of Black History Month, we will be watching an NFB production entitled INVISIBLE CITY. The film is a moving story about two boys from Regent Park in Toronto crossing into adulthood – the influence of their mothers, their mentors and the pressures of the environment around them lifts up the social pressures and the connections between urban poverty and race. Popcorns, snacks and beverages provided. Discussion to follow. No need to register... just show up. 😊



### The Healing Pathway

The Healing Pathway group will be offering healings in February on Monday, 5th at 7:00, Monday, 12th at 1:00, Monday, 19th at 7:00 and Monday 26th at 1:00 in the Chapel at Broad View United. The practice session for healers will be on February 24th from 9:00 to 11:00 also in the Chapel. Contact Eileen Campbell (ecchome@shaw.ca or 250 477-4221) if you would like to book a session for a treatment.

### Broad View Knitters

Have you ever wanted to learn knitting? Do you have a half started knitting project that you are stuck on what to do next with? Are you an experienced knitter looking for like-minded people?

Then welcome to Broad View Knitters first ever knitting café which will be held on February 13, 2024 from 1 pm to 3 pm in the Cedar room! A selection of yarn, knitting needles and advice will be available to you. Coffee, tea and treats will be served.

For more information, please contact Shelagh MacKinnon or Liane Clark at 250-590-3677.

A promotional graphic for Broad View Knitters. It features a purple background with a white brick wall pattern. On the right, there is a wire basket filled with colorful balls of yarn in shades of pink, orange, yellow, green, and blue. Text on the left reads: 'Welcome TO Broad View Knitters' in a playful font. Below that, a blue box contains the text: 'First ever knitting café will be held on Feb 13, 2024 from 1 pm to 3 pm in the Cedar Room'. At the bottom, a pink box contains the text: 'For more information, please contact Shelagh MacKinnon or Liane Clark at 250-590-3677'.

As background, the First Met Knitters started in 2005 and met the second Tuesday of every month under the leadership of Shirley Chatfield and Joan Mickleson. They always welcomed new members. The more experienced knitters made themselves available to explain a technique, show how to fix a mistake or simply share what they are currently working on. In the fall of 2023, with amalgamation with Broad View United on the horizon and Shirley and Joan wanting to step down from their roles, the First Met Knitters made the decision to continue under the leadership of Liane Clark and to become the Broad View Knitters. Despite the changes, they remain an open and welcoming group who hope to see you on February 13!

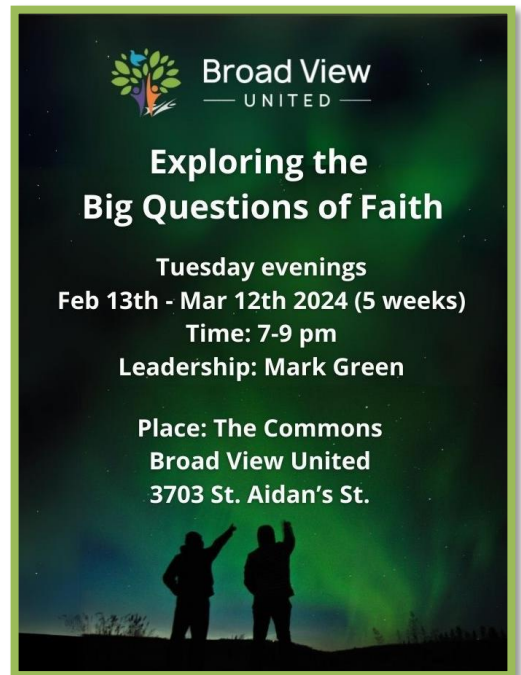
## Exploring the Big Questions of Faith

**When:** Tuesday evenings Feb 13<sup>th</sup> - Mar 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 (5 weeks)

**Time:** 7-9 pm **Leadership:** Mark Green **Place:** BVU Commons

There is still room for those who wish to explore with others some of the big questions of Faith and find not answers but perhaps perspectives that shed light on the questions being asked. Bring your questions and as a group we will prioritize what feels most pressing to those attending. Questions like: Why does God allow suffering? Does God have a purpose or plan for our lives? Is there life after death? Does God allow evil to exist or is it beyond God's control? What is the nature of God? Through readings, film clips and discussion we will probe some of the mysteries of life to make peace with them.

Register online at <https://form.jotform.com/240038554469259>.

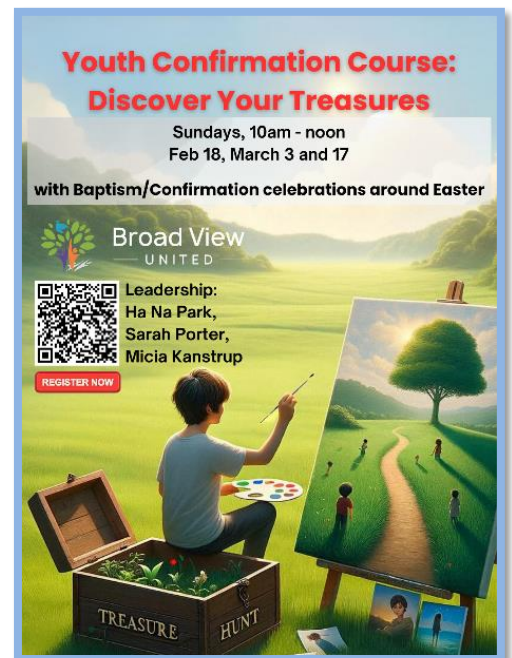


## Youth Baptism/Confirmation Course: Discover Your Treasures

We invite youth aged 13 to 19 to explore life, faith, and community in the upcoming Youth Baptism and Confirmation course. Traditionally called 'youth confirmation,' we emphasize that the end result of this process doesn't have to be baptism or confirmation. We encourage youth to use this gathering as a starting point to go deeper with peers and explore any questions they might have regarding life, faith, and community.

Sarah Porter, a warm, thoughtful, and engaging young leader from BVU's own, and Ha Na Park will share leadership to offer an open, safe space for exploring faith without the pressure of baptism or confirming baptismal faith. It's all about having genuine conversations and exploring questions about life and faith. We have discovered treasures in meaningful, interesting, and engaging questions. Here, no one has all the answers, so it's about discovering treasures in our lives, faith, and community through our stories. If the youth consider confirmation or baptism, we're looking at holding the celebration around Easter, which the youth and leaders will create together, making it a beautiful milestone in life filled with blessings from families, friends, and the community.

**Note the date changes: Sundays, 10 am - 12 pm, Feb 18, March 3 & 17.** Please register via Jotform ([LINK](#)) or email [HaNa@broadviewunited.com](mailto:HaNa@broadviewunited.com).



## Inter-View: Inter-Spiritual and Queering

**Feb 14th, in-person at International Pancakes Supper, followed by Glitter+Ash Wednesday ritual.**

Inter-View: Inter-Spiritual and Queering is a monthly conversation that integrates two lenses: Inter-Spiritual & Queering.

We hope Inter-View becomes a safe space for Broad View United's queer and transgender members and allies, a community where you can experience a warm welcome, learn from each other, and provide mutual support.

Inter-View meets on the second Wednesday of every month, and that Wednesday falls on Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday (Feb 14) this month! Therefore, instead of meeting on Zoom, we're planning to share an International Pancake Supper together, followed by the Glitter+Ash Wednesday ritual to begin the journey of Lent.

Find out more in this newsletter about the International Pancake Supper, followed by the Glitter+Ash Wednesday ritual, on Feb 14th. We'd love to see you there.

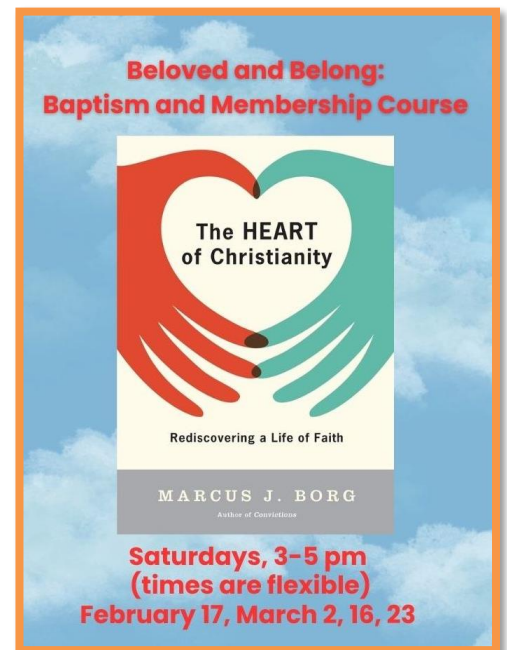


## Beloved and Belong: Baptism and membership course

Would you like to become a full member of Broad View United? Are you interested in exploring your faith and baptism? If yes, Beloved and Belong: Baptism and Membership Course is for you! You will find a wonderful group of people who will, together, engage with one another through conversations and arts, following the Marcus Borg's book, The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith, as our guide. This course is for everyone who would like to engage in meaningful conversations on how to discover (or re-discover) a life of faith by reconceptualizing familiar beliefs. Membership/Baptism will be celebrated around Easter.

Scheduled dates: Saturdays, 3-5 pm Feb 17, Mar 2, 16, 23.

Please register on Jotform: click [HERE](#), or email [HaNa@broadviewunited.com](mailto:HaNa@broadviewunited.com)



Visit our website: [broadviewunited.com](http://broadviewunited.com)

## Deep Dive Into Death

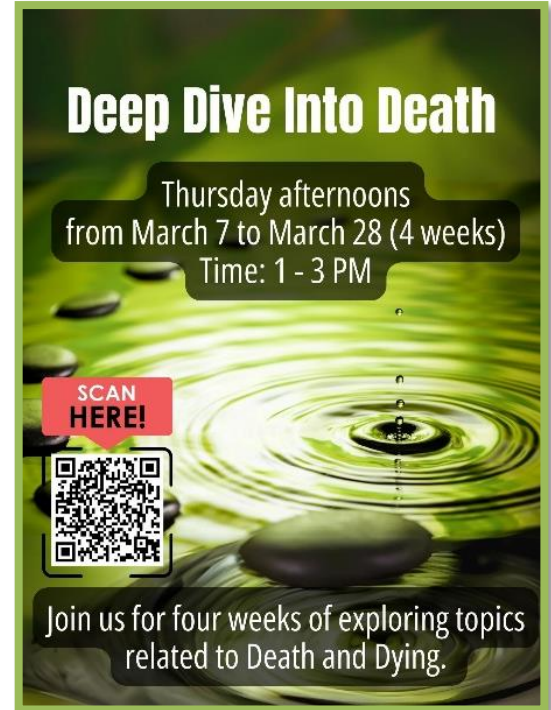
A four part series in March. Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21 & 28 1:00-3:00 PM.

All are welcome to participate in this series of conversations related to Death and Dying.

Each session will include leader input, and ample time for exploration and open conversation!

These are some of the topics we will cover this year.

- The Great Beyond: What if anything, happens when we die?
- Are there ways to prepare for our deaths? How do we talk about dying with those we love?
- Exploring Spiritual and Religious Rituals to Aid the Process of Dying
- Writing an Ethical Will/Leaving a Spiritual Legacy to our Loved Ones
- Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) Learning about the law, process, how to access, etc. This session will be facilitated by *Dying with Dignity* (Victoria Chapter) **and will take place on March 21**. This session will also be open to any who may not want to attend the rest of the series.

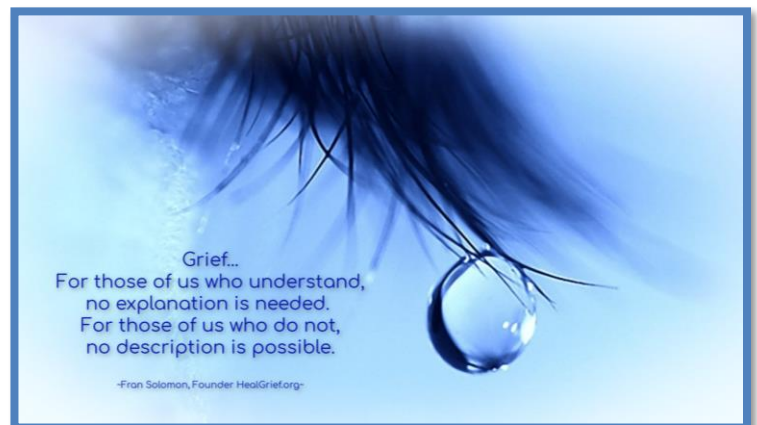


Registration is now open through Jotform by clicking [HERE](#). Questions can be directed to Margaret Harper [margaret@broadviewunited.com](mailto:margaret@broadviewunited.com)

## Exploring Grief and Loss Together

**\*A 4-6 week program to begin in April. Dates/times will be chosen once sufficient numbers have expressed interest.**

To be human is to know that inevitably we will all face situations of loss and grief, sorrow and change, heartbreak and despair. Learning to navigate the complexity of emotions as a result of the grieving process is a path that can be lonely, difficult and often overwhelming. Joining with others who are on a similar path can provide tremendous relief and the sense that we are not alone. If you have experienced a death loss, please know that you are welcome to gather in a safe and confidential place to process the feelings and phases of grief.



Please reach out to Margaret Harper, for more info and to register. [margaret@broadviewunited.com](mailto:margaret@broadviewunited.com)

## Justice at BVU

### Justice Fair, Sunday, Feb 18th

The BVU Justice Team plans to host a Justice Fair on one Sunday morning each month, where we will introduce and share ongoing and new justice and outreach initiatives with the various teams within BVU and community partners. If you attend the Sunday morning service on February 18th, stop by The Commons afterward. A cup of coffee or tea makes for a great conversation partner! This February, we'll be featuring:

- BVU Intercultural Ministry
- Evolving Church (focusing on the intersection of justice and worship, especially with ministry in the heart of North Park)
- Shelbourne Community Kitchen
- initiatives supporting the Palestinian community such as Zatoun oil and dates, Trees for Life, and the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage.

Meet the leaders of BVU and our community partners and get involved in important activities that are moving in the world and within us!

### Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage

All Ages and all faiths are welcome to join with Broad View United as we host a 25 km walk, half the length of Gaza. You do not need to do the entire walk-in order to participate. Details coming soon.

  **Broad View**  
— UNITED —

**#GOPilgrimages**

**GAZA CEASEFIRE  
PILGRIMAGE**

**Victoria, BC**  
March 16th

This Lent, a global movement is walking in prayerful solidarity with the people of Gaza.

Come, **walk with us.**

<https://gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com>



## **940 Caledonia (A documentary)**

Evolving Church\*\* invites BVU to view a new documentary, filmed by Krista Loughton, about the 2020 flood in Central Park and the combined community effort of the homeless campers, North Park housed neighbours, and others to move the campers out of the park to a safer location in a parking lot a block away. Krista Loughton (now a Victoria City Councillor) had made a previous documentary called "Them and Us", about homeless people in Victoria, which probably some BVU people have seen. This new film is specifically about the 2020 flooding-out of the Central Park campers. It will be showing at the upcoming Victoria Film Festival, demonstrating that change is possible when barriers are removed and cooperative efforts are supported.

\*\* **Evolving Church**, carrying forward the spirit of First Met United Church at the intersection of justice and worship, focuses on North Park. They host the Aug 31 service and vigil for Overdose Awareness Day.

Tickets are available on the [Victoria Film Festival website](#). Date/time: Thursday, Feb 8, at 6 pm, at Blue Bridge Theatre (2657 Quadra St.)



## **Greater Victoria Acting Together**

Broad View is a member of this broad-based community coalition working for the common good in Greater Victoria. In the past couple of months, GVAT's new part-time Organizer Izzy Adachi has met with member organizations and their leaders, checking their views about the organization's priorities. At the same time, GVAT has continued to press municipal and provincial agencies to take concrete measures to support housing affordability, and to promote safe active transportation routes in Victoria (including access for mobility scooters). BVU's Stephen Tyler helped plan and lead a recent 2-day training course on Foundations of Community Organizing with Izzy, and a couple of BVU members are participating this week in an on-line training to help strengthen Broad View's capacity to provide input and representation to GVAT planning. Watch this space for more info on GVAT.



Izzy Adachi

Greater Victoria Acting Together

## REGENERATE GREATER VICTORIA

— a place-based hub within [Regenerate Cascadia](#) — warmly invites you to attend a

# Community Conversation

Let's discover how we can move forward together with our work of local regeneration. This conversation will center the principles of [watersheds](#), the living systems that nourish the health of all.

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Saturday, February 17th, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

at Broad View United Church, 3703 St. Aidan's St.

**What to expect:** We will be engaged, in small and large groups, around the inspirations, questions, and projects that are unique to the Greater Victoria hub that nests within our larger bioregion of Cascadia. **No previous involvement necessary!**

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## Discovery Café\* — event outline

**10:00 — Welcome and land acknowledgment**

**10:15–10:45 — Speaker:** Gerald Harris, director of Friends of Bowker Creek, speaking on the ecology and culture of watersheds

**10:45–11:45 — Small group discussions:** discover the gifts of, and challenges facing, our watersheds

**11:45–12:15 — Large group harvest:** discover themes and patterns observed in our discussions

**12:15–12:30 — Open conversation and question period:** what are our needs? where are the supports?

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**Please invite others from your networks** to join this vital conversation. Organizing around watersheds is critical to the regeneration of entire bioregions, and beyond. We will be stronger together and amplify our work through our connections to the land and to each other.

**Please RSVP by February 14** to help us comfortably arrange the space at Broad View United. Please include numbers of invitees and their group or organization, if applicable.

**Light refreshments will be available.** Also enjoy a stimulating array of maps to inspire curiosity about our home eco-region. Any maps that you have of the region are welcome for the display.

**We look forward to seeing you!**

*In friendship, the organizing team, Regenerate Greater Victoria*

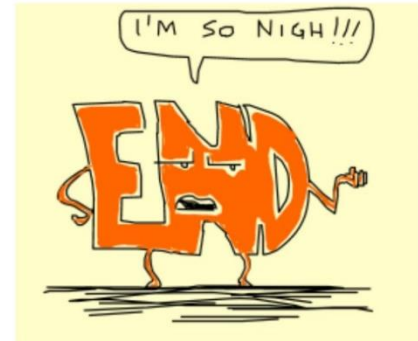
\*The Discovery Café is adapted from the World Café format

## HUMANITY HAS NEVER FACED AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT LIKE GLOBAL WARMING BEFORE - NOW WHAT?

Unlike the collapse of civilizations due to natural disasters, war, famine and disease, or the threat of nuclear annihilation that we've lived with for decades, once the carbon in our atmosphere reaches a certain point, the laws of physics take over. Humans will not be able to stop these global forces from trying to rebalance Earth's systems. We can try to mitigate and adapt but even if the burning of fossil fuels ends tomorrow, we are now locked into a future of extreme climate instability.

*Feeling anxious much?* 😬

The insecurity and fear you may be feeling is a normal response to this kind of threat: we aren't going to be able to sugarcoat or greenwash our way out of this wicked predicament.



***What can ordinary people do in the face of climate chaos?*** Throw up their hands in despair and give up? Keep calm and carry on with business as usual because it doesn't matter anyways? As Christians, we look to our stories and the life of Jesus for inspiration and guidance. We know we have a duty of care for Creation- all creation, not just the human ones. But sadly we haven't accepted our responsibilities, so here we are today. ***Healing our relationships with Earth and with all who call Earth home, has to be our priority, but what does that look like?***

### DYK? Four levels of action for change

#### **LEVEL 1: Individual**

(buy less, drive less, eat less meat, recycle more, plant a garden, reduce air travel)

#### **LEVEL 2: with family and friends**

(Get family and friends to do the same, install solar panels/heat pumps, support local growers, help restore wetlands, cut your family's plastic use in half)

#### **LEVEL 3: with community, workplaces and local institutions**

(Change the way your school or church deals with food waste, get workplace to have a bike lock-up, encourage more tree planting on private and public lands, meet the mayor to talk about car-free days)

#### **LEVEL 4: through the economy and policy change**

(Write politicians, sign petitions, participate in marches, rallies, & push for systemic change)

**More about action next month. Here are 2 questions for you now:**

**What level(s) of action appeal(s) to you?**

**When you do take action, how does it make you feel?**



## Intercultural Programs

*“The intercultural vision calls us to be aware of who is at the centre and who is at the margins, and to empower those at the margins to lead us into change.”*

*– excerpt from the United Church of Canada’s vision to become an intercultural church.*

Hola, olá, 你好, سلام, 안녕하세요, Xin chào, Kumusta, Hallo, नमस्ते, こんにちは, hello!

Greetings from Broad View United’s intercultural space! The above languages represent the diverse backgrounds of those who attend our Saturday Social these days.

Our intercultural community is growing, and there is something exciting happening!

### **English Conversation Circle on Zoom: every Thursday 3:30 – 5:00 PM**

A dozen people join the weekly English Conversation Circle on Zoom regularly. Participants engage one another in candid dialogues, uncovering hidden meanings across various cultures. Topics include: How does the weather influence culture? The implications of the question, “Where are you from?” and cultural views of aging? The gift of our conversation circle is the openness and willingness to learn from each other. There is no expert in the room, as everyone has something to share.



### **Saturday Social: every Saturday 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

Our Saturday Social offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with people across diverse cultures! The group is increasingly intercultural AND intergenerational, with some families attending as three generations. The 30-40 participants represent 7-10 different countries and languages! Various activities, including ping pong, games, karaoke, dance, and conversations over tea or international snacks, happen simultaneously.



As the group continues to grow, I want to clarify the intention of our Saturday Social. We aim to create a safe space for intercultural folks – those who have just arrived in Canada within the last 5 years or so, or whose community has been traditionally marginalized in our society. Members of the dominant culture in Canada are welcome to join in this effort, focusing on creating a welcoming space for the intercultural group.

Volunteers are most welcome for setting up table tennis tables, helping in the kitchen, welcoming, and engaging as conversation partners. Please let me know if you’re interested in being part of this transformative ministry.

## Taste of Home Season 2: starting on March 9.

Our popular food program, Taste of Home, is returning with diverse menus and exciting new additions. Simply put, Taste of Home is about honouring where we come from by celebrating diverse cultures through food. While this program is specifically designed for those who have arrived in Canada within the last 5 years or so, we warmly welcome everyone to join the Weeks of Connection and A Feast of Friendship.

- **Weeks of Connection:** On weeks without sessions, participants are encouraged to pair up with volunteers from the congregation for home-cooked meals, deepening friendships.
- **A Feast of Friendship (May 11):** The program culminates in a vibrant “Taste of Home Potluck Supper,” open to the Broad View United congregation and friends.

For more information about the program and to register, please click the following link. Space is limited, so we encourage people to register as soon as they can.

<https://form.jotform.com/230226747023247>


Questions? I am happy to talk about how we can grow interculturally. So, please don't hesitate to contact me at [min-goo@broadviewunited.com](mailto:min-goo@broadviewunited.com)

### TASTE OF HOME

Connecting through cultural recipes and family traditions.


Date: March 9, 23, April 6, 20, May 4, 2024  
Time: Saturdays 3:00 – 6:00 pm  
(Potluck on May 11 at 5 pm)  
Location: Broad View United (3703 St. Aidan's St.)





University of Victoria | Centre for Studies in Religion and Society


## Queerness Isn't Inclusive, and Church Shouldn't Be Either



Linn Tonstad  
Yale University

8 February  
5:00–6:30pm  
David Lam Auditorium  
(MAC A144)

REGISTRATION AND ZOOM LINK  
[uvic.ca/csrs/events](http://uvic.ca/csrs/events)



SCHOLARS IN THE SQUARE

## Spiritual Care Team

### In Memoriam

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Tony Smith on January 29, 2024. We uphold Marilyn and family with our love and prayers in these early days following their loss. Service information will be forthcoming.

We also lift up the following people from the First+Metropolitan community who died towards the end of 2023.

**Shirly Child** (October, 2023)

**Doris Joyce May** (December 13, 2023)

We give thanks for their witness and acknowledge the magnitude of the gifts they shared with us during their lives. Our love and prayers remain with their families and loved ones.

### Upcoming Memorial Services

Diane Kendall: Broad View United, Saturday, Feb. 10 at 2 pm.

Louise Hudson of the First+Met congregation: Broad View United, Saturday, March 23 at 11:00 am.

### Prayer Connection

Did you know that Broad View United has a dedicated group of individuals who are committed to praying on behalf of you, someone you love, or any situation that is heavy on your heart. All requests are held in utmost confidence. We are excited to introduce our co-leads for our amalgamated prayer team with First+Metropolitan Jean Margison and Anne Sikstrom.



Jean Margison



Anne Sikstrom

Confidential requests can be sent to Jean or Anne at:

[Jean@jampot.ca](mailto:Jean@jampot.ca); [anne.sikstrom@gmail.com](mailto:anne.sikstrom@gmail.com) , via [prayer@broadviewunited.com](mailto:prayer@broadviewunited.com), and also from the Broad View United web site.

Requests can also be passed along to staff members Shelagh MacKinnon and Margaret Harper. Stay tuned for soon we will have boxes where folks can leave paper requests.

In loving and faithful service,  
Shelagh MacKinnon and Margaret Harper



# Children, Youth & Young Adults

## Children's Program

This is our regular Sunday morning programming for kids aged pre-K to Grade 8. There is a children's conversation during the service after which we will move to the classrooms in the Commons area. There we will discuss the bible story and engage in activities that guide us toward understanding the bible story and connecting it with our own lives.

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**Junior Youth Group** -Our gathering times for February are Fridays, Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30. Bring your friends for a fun evening of discussion, games, snacks and laughter.

**Young Adults** is for those aged 19 – 29 (ish). We meet on the first and third Sunday of each month after the 11am service for lunch (around 12:15). Our next Young Adult lunch is Sunday, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> then again on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. Lunch is provided. You do not need to pre-register. Just show up and enjoy this diverse, supportive and welcoming community.

**Drop In Playgroup** is for caregivers and children up to age 5. Together with Saanich Neighbourhood Place the program runs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 til 11:30 in the lower hall. There is a circle time program on Mondays and a shorter circle time on Wednesdays and Fridays. Snack is provided. You don't have to preregister. Just drop in!

For the Monday and Friday groups **we're in need of volunteers** who enjoy interacting with babies, toddlers and their caregivers. This is our weekly collaboration with Saanich Neighbourhood Place, and on Mondays two of their folks will be here, one of whom (the wonderful Ally!) leads a 45-minute music time starting at 9:30ish, followed by time for the littles to play and grown-ups to socialize until 11:30. Fridays is play and social time. Volunteers help with hospitality and orientation to the space for newcomers. Hospitality includes equipment set-up (tables, chairs, toys), take-down and sanitizing, as well as snack and beverage prep and clean up. You'd start by 9am and be done around noon. This group is adorable and a lot of fun!



# INTERNATIONAL PANCAKE SUPPER

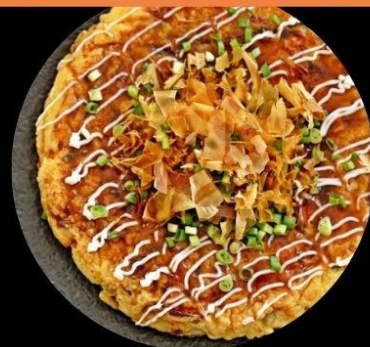
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, DINNER AT 6 PM

Korean Kimchi Pancake



Korean Green Onion Pancake

Japanese Okonomiyaki



Mexican Tortilla

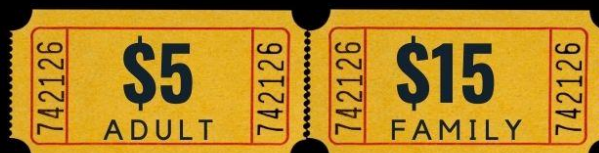


Classic Potato Latkes



Classic Pancake

PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
INTERNATIONAL PANCAKE SUPPER WITH  
A SHORT ASH WEDNESDAY RITUAL TO FOLLOW



Broad View  
— UNITED —

Broad View United  
3703 St. Aidan's St., Victoria BC

GLITTER  
ASH