



Broad View
— UNITED —

Broad View United in amalgamation with
First Metropolitan United Church

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024



broadviewunited.com



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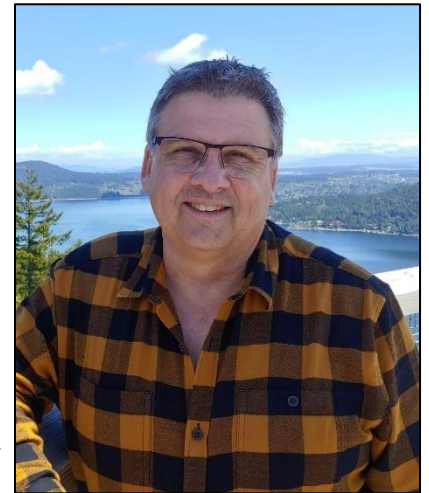
Minister's Message

Discerning some pathways forward – Mark Green

As you leaf through the pages of this newsletter, you will notice that lots of things are happening during the Season of Lent. You will find Spiritual Practices to be involved in, special services in Holy week, Justice initiatives and update on the visioning process. Once again, we hope that you can find an entry point that calls to you for engagement in the life of Broad View United.

One of the founding principles of BVU has been Flexibility.

- Flexibility in the use of space – no room would have a singular purpose
- Flexibility in participation - A variety of entry points for people into the life of a faith community would be provided
- Flexibility in perspectives – a diverse make up of staff, Board and Teams means richness in programs and activities provided and people being able to see themselves represented in some way
- Flexibility in “how things happen” - an ability to recognize that there are a multitude of ways to accomplish a task, project or service.
- Flexibility in our governance and staffing structure to be able to respond in a nimble way to opportunities and needs as they arise



Rev. Mark Green

As we engage our Visioning process with Allison and various members of BVU, we will have the opportunity to explore things we have done in the past in the different church experiences that we've each had. As well we will spend time dreaming about what the future needs, promises and dilemmas of our society and world might be as we live into the next incarnation of BVU. We will need to be both flexible and curious to listen deeply to the values that each person expresses as they share their hopes, dreams and past experiences.

The goal is that by the end of the visioning process we can celebrate together on Pentecost Sunday a new updated articulation of our priorities and our passions as a Community of Faith and that everyone will find at least one place that expresses for them a key component of what being “church” means for them.

I am excited to see what you each bring to the table. I'm curious to hear how you will want to build on what we have done to date and what priorities you will name for the coming years. This process doesn't begin and end with the time we spend under Allison's leadership. There was much that has brought us to this point in time and work that we will continue to do after the Visioning process wraps up in May. There will be things for the Board to refine, projects for Teams to take hold of, new Teams and small groups to emerge and new initiatives to find staff and volunteers to manage. It will be an exciting time.

I hope you will each find a way to engage in the process in some way, shape or form ...even if its simply to offer prayers for those who are meeting to discern. Blessings to you one and all.

Mark Green Co-Lead Minister

2024 BVU AGM

The BVU Board has chosen Sunday April 21st as our AGM date. The meeting will be at 2pm and will be a virtual meeting. The annual report along with yearend financials for both BVU and First Met will be distributed approx. 2 weeks in advance of the meeting. A link will be sent around as well several times in advance of the meeting for folks to connect either by computer zoom or on their phone.

Building Renovation Update

Finishing up of a number of delinquencies continues as we seek to close off the project. The following are underway or completed.

Completed: Hooks in bathrooms, fire window in Admin office area, new flooring and painting in auxiliary admin offices, plugs in Narthex kitchen, adjustments to HVAC systems, office millwork, additional alarm system panels and configuration, additional handrails for chancel, adjustments to auto doors.

In Process: Millwork in photocopy room, millwork in chapel, lighting/baseboard in auxiliary admin area, keying of building, chancel stair demarcation, restor lighting controls for sanctuary, larger dishwashing sink in commons kitchen, repair to ceiling cracks that have emerged in admin entry, narthex and sanctuary, first aid/AED stations mounted, white boards installed, EV chargers activated, outdoor plug by shed, repair to admin reception desk, compost/garbage custom bins for kitchen, planter custom liners, exterior rainbow stairs off chancel doors

If you have any questions or clarifications about any of the above, talk with Mark 😊

Volunteers Needed

BVU is a busy place. There is always a need for volunteers in a variety of areas. Each month we post opportunities to be involved. Contact Janiena at the reception desk to have your name added to the list of those interested in any of the opportunities below.

Easter Sunrise Breakfast: We are looking for 5 people who can help us prepare a simple breakfast of hardboiled eggs, hot oatmeal (+toppings), hot cross buns and fruit. This hospitality will be offered to those who have attended the Sunrise service. Let the office know if you can help with this.

Gardening: those interested in helping to weed and maintain the garden beds around the labyrinth and front of the church. Your involvement could be a few hours per week or month. A schedule will be created for those interested and additional hours needed will be contracted out. Grass cutting will be a contracted item.

Hospitality: We are pulling together our hospitality team of those interested in both oversight of hospitality as well as some occasional coordination of our hospitality ministry. This is an important behind the scenes involvement to ensure that all those coming to BVU feel welcome and attended to.

Sanctuary Candle Maintenance: We need 1 or 2 people to make sure that the candles on the sides of the church are refilled and maintained each week.

Staff Happenings

Sabbatical: It is the policy in the United Church that Order of Ministry persons will earn 3-month sabbatical every 5 years in ministry in the same place. Shelagh MacKinnon has been putting off her well-earned sabbatical time until the amalgamation process was completed. She will be away on Sabbatical April 8th to July 8th. During that time Shelagh will be exploring two themes: 1) Best practices regarding post amalgamation pastoral care and transition and 2) Retirement: best practices for self and congregation. More about this will be in the April newsletter but we wanted to give you a heads up now. We wish her renewal and insight during this sabbatical time.

Booking Space at BVU

If your small group, ministry team or any other BVU activity is looking to be in the church building, it will be important to phone or email Janiena at the reception desk to book a time and space. We will be opening up the building to external renters beginning in March. BVU groups and activities have priority but to avoid overbooking the spaces we need to know who is interested when. Ongoing groups are already booked into the calendar and those groups don't need to contact the front desk.

Also, if your group is scheduled to be in outside of normal church opening hours, you will need to obtain a door code and alarm code along with instructions for access.

International Pancake Supper

What an amazing night was had a Broad View this year as we celebrated the beginning of Lent through an intercultural lens. Over 175 people shared in international pancake dinner, good conversations and the followed with a glitter Ash Wed service. Pancakes traditions included Japan, Korea, France, Mexico, as well as traditional Canadian pancakes and Latkes. Two delicious gluten free and vegan options were also offered.

There is a very long list of people to be thanked. Those who cooked in the kitchen for many hours that afternoon, those who set up tables, created centerpieces, children's corner, those who served and made beverages, took tickets and were runners between the various kitchens keeping steam tables filled and last but not least those who stayed to clean up, do dishes and put things away. WOW. What a wonderful community of folks who pulled it all together. Thank you so much. Words are not enough.



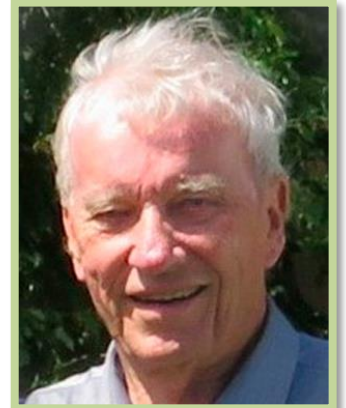
Reconciliation Art Update

Rande Cook has completed his work on the Reconciliation Art piece and we can't wait to share it with you. The installation will happen on the first week of March and then we will have a blessing and unveiling ceremony involving Rande, Elders and members of the BVU community. More details will be provided in the upcoming weeks. There will be a number of protocols for us to engage and we are honoured to be hosting such an event.

Broad View United Thrift Store Updates

Store Donation Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 3pm.
Store Open Hours for March: Wednesday 10am - 6pm and Saturday 10am - 4pm.

It's been a sad month for the thrift store as we unexpectedly lost Tony Smith. Tony and Marilyn have been a part of the congregation for more than 50 years. Tony has played many roles over the years and brought cheer wherever he went. Marilyn and Tony have been involved in all iterations of the thrift store as well: from its origins as semi annual bizarre to it becoming the community thrift store it is today. Tony's enthusiasm and gentle smile will be missed. We gather in support of Marilyn through this transition with love. There will be a service held at Broad View United on March 9th, 2024 at 2 pm honouring his life and legacy. (Submitted by Sharon Parker)



Anton (Tony) Frederic

Order Your Broad View United Name Tag

Wearing one during Sunday mornings or at community events help 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. **Reminder to not choose a magnet if you have a pacemaker or IDC.**

There's also a change in the way we're ordering Broad View United Name Tags.

We are now ordering on **the first Sunday of each month** (upcoming date:

Sunday, Mar 3). You can pick up your name tag on the third Sunday, or afterwards, 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 \$8, through the offering/donation box or via e-transfer to 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!

Coldest Night of the Year 2024

On Saturday, February 24, about a dozen people from Broad View United participated in the Coldest Night of the Year walkathon in the downtown area to raise funds for Our Place Society. Others from the BVU team had chosen to walk on their own paths in Saanich earlier in February. Thanks to our generous donors, including pledges, the BVU team raised \$9,685.85, almost 97% of our \$10,000 goal. There is not too late to donate through cnoy.org, search for and donate to the "Broad View United" team.

The Coldest Night of the Year is a national event. In total, there were 40,399 walkers at 190 locations that raised \$13,470,085 for local charities that support the unhoused. There were two walks in Victoria. The BVU team was one of 70 teams for the walk that started and ended at Our Place on Pandora and that collectively raised \$122,402. Broad View United was second among Victoria teams in total funds raised. The other Victoria area walk was in the Westshore (Langford), and it raised \$57,580.

A huge thank you to all our donors and walkers!



Refugee Sponsorship Update

At long last, the Refugee project that First Met began several years ago is coming to fruition. Two or three years ago, we gave \$30,000 to ICA in trust to pay for the first year's sponsorship of a refugee to Canada. We donated the money, and a group headed by Robin Stevenson is looking after the practical aspects of the sponsorship. She found a refugee through the Rainbow Coalition. He is a medical professional in his thirties from Afghanistan, now living in Pakistan. He has finally received official acceptance to come to Canada and should be here in the spring or summer of this year.

At this point Robin's group is looking for an affordable (\$1500 a month, including utilities) one-bedroom suite. I know that is a big ask in Victoria's housing market, but perhaps you, or someone you know, might have something suitable. If you do know of any possibilities, please contact Edeana Malcolm, 250-412-7682 and she will pass that information to Robin. She will keep you informed of any future needs of this refugee, like furniture, etc.

Guys' "Water Into Wine" Night

Guys' "Water Into Wine" Night, Tuesday, March 12, 7 pm, at The Rack West Coast Bistro (formerly 1550's pub, Cedar Hill X Road near Shelbourne)

Join with men of all ages who simply want a chance to connect with other men in the congregation for a time for conversation, sharing of life stories and an exchange of ideas. Order a beverage of your choice (and a bite to eat if you wish), pull up chair and enjoy a time of fellowship and camaraderie. This is a drop-in group and no registration is required.



Flatlanders Walk

The Hands of Time – a series of bronze sculptures depicting Victoria's history and identity...throughout the Inner Harbour and City Centre

WHEN: Saturday, March 2nd, 2024

TIME: 1:00PM

MEETING PLACE: The Cenotaph – at the southwest corner of Belleville and Government Streets, in front of the Legislative buildings.

This walk will be about 1km in length and will include going up and down stairs to and from the Lower Causeway.



There are 12 sculptures; we would hope to discover 8 of them in this walk.

These sculptures can be found on buildings, lamp standards, rocks in landscaped areas, and on bedrock itself!

Wear comfortable shoes and weather appropriate apparel.

Brochures will be available for you to explore the remainder of the sculptures in your own time, at your own pace!

Possible coffee/tea-time could be at The CRAFT Beer Market (former Canoe Club on Swift Street near the Johnson Street Bridge) or Milestones -- to be decided by those attending.

If you'd like to attend, please contact Vicky.Attwell@outlook.com.

PLANET VS PLASTIC

A mini-film festival completely consumed with everything plastic- the fossil fuelled convenience product we hate to love but can't imagine living without...



April 20 at 7pm in the Sanctuary- they're duking it out!
Will Earth finally takedown this villain?

Only with our help...

all ages welcome NO COST refreshments

CARING FOR CREATION

SMALL
GROUP
MINISTRY

Visioning Process

We wish to invite all members of the BVU congregation to join in any or all of the 3 congregational visioning events planned for the next 9 weeks. Each event will stand on its own and at the same time be linked to the others as well. You are invited to join us as we discern together what will be our Ministry Goals and Priorities as we forge a pathway forward as we both settle into a new building and context and integrate our most recent amalgamation process.

Date	Time	Visioning Events
Sunday Mar 3 rd	9:30 and 11:00 am Service	Allison will be preaching to introduce the visioning process and theme
	2:00 – 4:30 pm	Congregational Gathering #1 Commons
Saturday April 6 th	9:30am – 12 pm	Congregational Gathering #2 Commons/Hub
Saturday May 4 th	9:30am – 12 pm	Congregational Gathering #3 Commons/Hub

In addition to the congregational events, Allison will also be meeting with a variety of other folks in small group to glean as much of a cross section of input as possible.

Virtual Vision group is also being offered online for those who cannot attend an in-person session. Please sign up [HERE](#) if you are interested in participating in such a group and we will choose a date and time that works for those expressing interest in such a gathering.

Allison Rennie is a gifted facilitator who has spent a lifetime working with various demographics of folks in the United Church. She brings wisdom, humour, insight and leadership gifts to help communities of faith articulate their passions and live into them. You can learn more about Allison by watching this short introductory video [HERE](#)



Honouring Lois Wilson: A lifetime dedicated to the common good

At 96 years of age, Lois Wilson has devoted virtually all of her lifetime to her community.

She's a United Church minister, a community organizer, the first female moderator of the United Church of Canada, a president of the World Council of Churches, a staunch human rights advocate who visited South Africa, South Korea, and Argentina — all in one year, and a former independent member of the Senate of Canada who found common cause with both left and right. Lois Wilson is an inspiration to everyone she meets. The book, *For the Sake of the Common Good: Essays in Honour of Lois Wilson*, is written by people who have worked with her.

CBC Radio hosts an excellent series called: **IDEAS**, which has been aired for several decades. Recently they hosted one on Lois. Lois has been a good friend to many, including First Met, as both she and Allan Saunders were in Ministry in Winnipeg for many years. This **IDEAS** program has a brief printed summary at the top and a more detailed overview of her life on the PODCAST. Both can be found by clicking the link, then the 'Podcast' button which is found on the link. Enjoy!

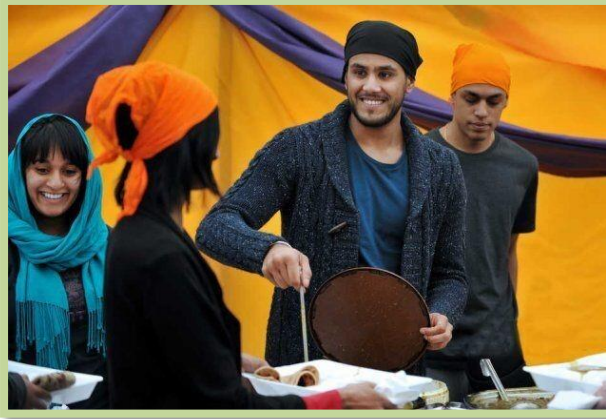
<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/lois-wilson-common-good-faith-community-1.7115539>

Lenten Sunday Services and Special Events on Holy Week

As we move through the season of Lent, you are invited to participate in both the regular Lenten Sunday services as well as the special events and services of Holy Week.

Date	Time	Leaders	Theme
Lent 3 Sunday, Mar 3	9:00 am Chapel Service	Shelagh Mackinnon	Jesus clears the Temple
	9:30 am Bridge Service	Allison Rennie	Baptism of Jesus and Introduction to Visioning process
	11:00 am ConXion Service	Allison Rennie	
Lent 4 Sunday, Mar 10	9:00 am Chapel Service	Shelagh Mackinnon	Psalm 23
	9:30 am Bridge Service	Ha Na Park	Baptism of Jesus and Polarization theme
	11:00 am ConXion Service	Ha Na Park	
Lent 5 Sunday, Mar 17	9:00 am Chapel Service	Shelagh Mackinnon	Dinner at Bethany
	9:30 am Bridge Service	Mark Green	Jesus in the Desert Polarization theme
	11:00 am ConXion Service	Mark Green	
Lent 6 (Palm Sunday) Sunday, Mar 24	9:00 am Chapel Service	Shelagh Mackinnon	Jesus Entry to Jerusalem
	9:30 am Bridge Service	Ha Na Park	Palm Sunday Celebration and the wisdom of non-resistance
	11:00 am ConXion Service	Ha Na Park	
Maundy Thursday Mar 28	6:00 pm	International Communities/ Ha Na Park	The Commandment to Love – including handwashing
Good Friday Mar 29	10:30 am	Shelagh MacKinnon	A re-imagined Sacred Stations of the Cross ending in Silent Communion
	7:00 pm Jazz Vesper	Mark Green and Jazz Quartet (Louise, Jeff, Cheryl and Joey)	
Easter Sunday Mar 31	7:00 am Sunrise Service	Shelagh Mackinnon	Mt Tolmie site Easter Celebration at BVU
	9:30 am Bridge Service	Mark Green	
	11:00 am ConXion Service	Mark Green	

Maundy Thursday



*He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”
Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.
Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” (John 13)*

Join us on **Maundy Thursday, March 28th, at 6 pm**, for honoring the traditions with the local Sikh faith community, Gurudwara in Victoria, BC — the seder meal and the Langar (Punjabi: ਲੰਗਰ, pronunciation: [lɑŋgər], ‘kitchen’). Guru Nanak, the first Sikh guru, started the tradition of ‘Langar’ of sharing and caring. It is a process where Sikhs share their honest earnings to provide food and care for everyone — it was designed to uphold the principle of equality between all people regardless of religion, caste, color, creed, age, gender, or social status. In addition to the ideals of equality, the tradition of Langar expresses the ethics of sharing, community, inclusiveness, and the oneness of all humankind... The light of God is in all hearts.

In the Christian tradition, Maundy Thursday is a day “defined by love,” grounding our faith in the story of the Last Supper. Maundy, derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, means “mandate” or “commandment.” During the Last Supper, Jesus washed the disciples’ feet and gave a new commandment to love one another, just as Christ loves us. *Each table and the floor where we eat together will be the communion table... the place of the Last Supper.*

This year, the Sikh members will share their culture and generosity with their traditional foods. Broad View United will receive, welcome, and honor the generosity of the Sikh community, honoring intercultural relationships and spiritual traditions. Following the meal, we will participate in a simple handwashing ritual and engage in intercultural conversation.

Please RSVP and register [HERE](#). Admissions are by donations. Last year, the BVU Community was recipient to the generosity within the Palestinian culture through food and the presence of two friends, both named Amal. One identified as being from Gaza. The situation for her nuclear family in Gaza is heart-breaking. Four siblings and their families had to flee to Rafah (25 in total). Two young nephews have serious health issues requiring medical assistance. In December her parents were sent to hospitals in Spain. Their visas have expired. All donations will contribute to helping with their complex needs.

Good Friday: Reimagining the Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross is an historic pilgrimage through the routes of Jesus' final hours. We have imagined a de-constructed and re-imagined Stations of the Cross. We will gather in the Sanctuary and use the full areas of the church and the Labyrinth site to physically be engaged in the ways Good Friday is happening today. Building on the pattern of Jesus' last day, parallels for 2024 include Nature, those betrayed & arrested today and the crucified people of history. We will end with a Silent Communion. On March 29, Good Friday morning at 10:30 a.m.,

The Good Friday Jazz Vesper

The Good Friday Jazz Vesper is a reflection on the themes of Good Friday through the lens of music and the profound words that give voice to such. Our talent music team of Louise Rose (Piano & Vocals) Jeff Poynter (Sax and Clarinet) and Cheryl Dennet (drums/percussion) are joined by Joey Smith on Bass for an evening program of both listening and singing along at times. The service is divided into sections with some scripture and short reflections offered by Mark as well.

A GLIMMERING
HOPE

✦ EVOLVING LENTEN
ART FORT ✦



We are creating a multi-media Lenten theme that will EVOLVE over the weeks of Lent. We invite you to participate by bringing or creating a small piece that illustrates what gives you a glimmer of hope in our polarized world. It could be a photograph, picture or an item that is collaged, sewn, knitted or otherwise assembled and can incorporate texture, sound, and smell.

Program Updates

Deep Dive into Death

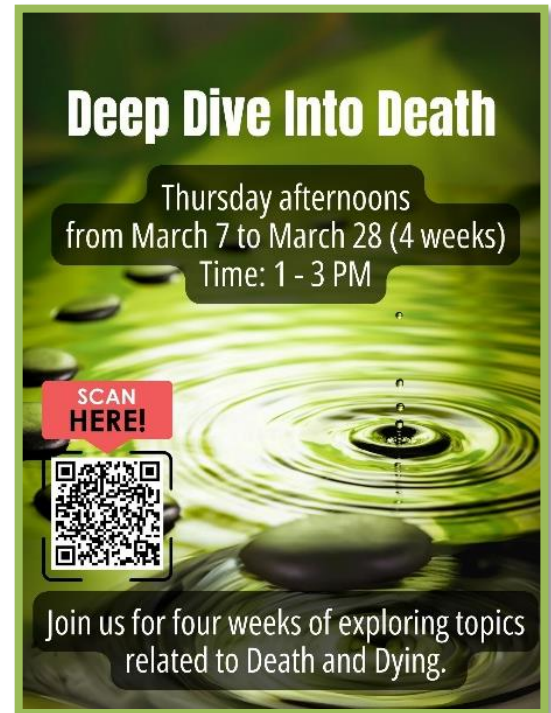
A four-part series in March. Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21 & 28 1:00-3:00 PM.

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.

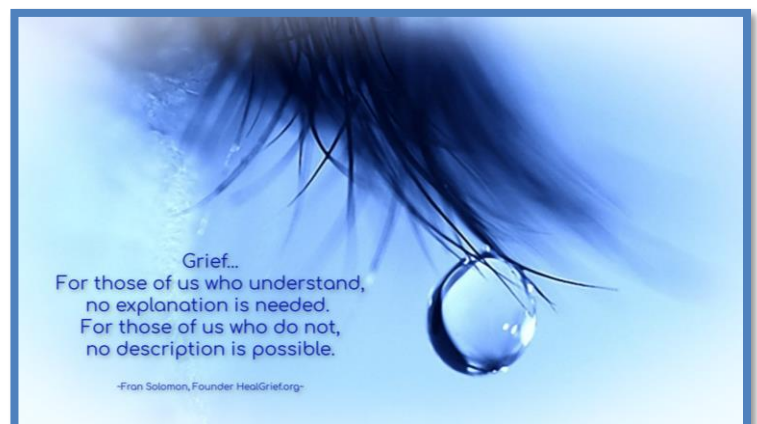


Registration is now open through Jotform by clicking [HERE](#). Questions can be directed to Margaret Harper margaret@broadviewunited.com

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

Movie Night

Movie night will be on Saturday March 23 at 7pm: This month movie will be **Manchester by the Sea**, a 2016 film starring Casey Affleck & Michelle Williams. The Story explores grief on many levels and polarization within family and community in relation to the grief and struggling with decision making. Snacks and beverages are provided, and discussion will follow the film. All are welcome and there is no cost. You can watch the trailer at <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt4034228/>

The Healing Pathway

In March, The Healing Pathway treatment times are as follows: **Monday, March 4th: 7:00pm, Monday, March 11th: 1:00pm, March 18: 1:00pm and Monday, March 25th: 1:00pm.** Practice session will be **Saturday, March 23 from 9:00 – 11:00am.** We will only offer 1 evening session as most people are asking for afternoon treatments and many of the healers do not want to come in the evening. Contact Eileen Campbell (ecchome@shaw.ca or 250 477-4221) if you would like to book a session for a treatment.

Becoming a Full Member of Broad View United

Baptism and Membership Celebration: Sunday, April 21st

Would you like to become a full member of Broad View United? Both by profession of faith and by membership transfer are welcome. A Baptism and Membership Celebration will be shared on Sunday, April 21st. Simply let us know you're interested: email HaNa@broadviewunited.com or talk to any staff.

Not a requirement, yet you are very welcome to take part in the Beloved and Belong Membership and Baptism Course for learning and sharing on how to discover (or rediscover) a life of faith, following Marcus Borg's book, The Heart of Christianity. The next scheduled dates are Saturdays, 3-5 pm, March 2, 16, 23.



**BROAD VIEW IS QUILTING
COME JOIN THE FUN!**

At Broad View United, we are making quilts and gifting them to Survivors of the Residential School System through the **QUILTS FOR SURVIVORS Project** (<https://www.quiltforsurvivors.ca>)

**All are welcome - no experience necessary!
We all learn together as we have fun creating...**

Drop-in workshops are held in the Cedar Room on:
Mondays - 10:00AM-1:00PM (drop in to pick up fabric; cut; sew and share ideas)
Fridays - 12:00PM-2:00PM (drop in to pick up fabric; cut; sew and share ideas)

**THE MONTHLY SEW AND SOCIAL WILL BE HELD AT BROAD VIEW UNITED ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 16 FROM 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

For information, contact:
Jacqueline Green jacgreen@telus.net
Vivian Skinner vivianskinner@shaw.ca



Handbell Choir

Date: **Sundays**

Time: **12 noon**

Place: **Sanctuary**

Leadership: **Cheryl Dennett**



Passionate about music? Enjoy creating it! Our inclusive handbell choir welcomes everyone interested in handbell ringing, regardless of music-reading abilities. Essential skills will be taught during the sessions. Join director and percussionist Cheryl Dennett in crafting beautiful bell melodies. This group will have chances to showcase their music within the broader Broadview Community through various avenues. Please register [HERE](#).

Kids' Community Choir

Thursdays 3:15pm - 4:30pm elementary school aged children 5-10yrs are invited to participate in our Kids' Community Choir. This is a free choir for children to come as they are and to experience a musical space where we will have fun, sing, move, and play. We gather at 3:15pm for a 15-minute snack time and music time starts at 3:30pm. There will be opportunities for the choir to share their music with the greater Broad View United faith community during Sunday worship services. Spring Session will run from April 4th - May 30th.

Broad View Knitters

Broad View Knitters meets every second Tuesday of the month and will be getting together **on March 12th, from 1 pm to 3 pm in the Cedar room!** A selection of yarn, knitting needles and advice will be available to you.



Circle CHAT

Will meet **Wednesday, March 13th 1:30-3:00 pm**. This is a drop-in gathering for senior women who enjoy engaging in conversations with one another. During each session, there will be opportunities to share our stories, provide mutual support, share laughter, socialize and of course enjoy refreshments.

Inter-View: Inter-Spiritual and Queering

Zoom Meeting March 13th at 7pm

Meeting ID: 941 532 2272

Every Second Wednesday

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.



March's Inter-View topic: The journey with mental health and meditation. Have you ever experienced burnout? How did it manifest, and what led you to exhaustion? Has meditation helped you in your journey?

This month, let's explore "Mountain Meditation" (Jon Kabat-Zinn's) and discover how meditation can be a glittering hope in our journey! Everyone, welcome.

Youth Confirmation/Faith Exploration Celebration: Sunday April 14th

The first session of Youth Faith Exploration was a creative, bubbly, energy bomb! Each youth is very thoughtful and knows how to offer grace to one another. Everyone was quite talented, committed, excited, and caring. In a nutshell, at the first session, one thing that the leaders highly valued about all of our youth is their embrace of individuality and their zeal about their uniqueness. That positivity is unbelievable. The leaders were greatly inspired by their positivity and how they were able to care for themselves and others.

The youth engaged in lively discussions and started the first part of their art labyrinth, drawing inspiration from the course's central bible verse Matthew 13:44-46 as well as their own lives, video games, and abstract ideas, using paint and decorative paper on canvas as their medium. Watching how each youth approached the project differently showed the many ways a task can be successfully undertaken, and the leaders are looking forward to seeing their art projects unfold over the next two sessions.

As a congregation and a community, we are so blessed to grow alongside these youth as we continue to evolve as Broad View United and a people of faith. We look forward to welcoming and journeying with the youth in the next two Sunday's mornings, March 3rd and 17th, and are thinking of having a Youth Confirmation/Faith Exploration celebration on Sunday, April 14th. We hope that each youth and their leaders will create the worship together, making it a beautiful milestone filled with blessings from families, friends, and the community. Please keep all youth members at Broad View United in your heart and prayers!

Sarah Porter and Ha Na Park

The Margaret Cameron Trust Fund

The Margaret Cameron Trust Fund is a historic fund from Metropolitan United Church. First Metropolitan is named as one of four recipients of this registered fund. Others include UVic and the Victoria School District. As a Fernwood area school teacher and community volunteer, we believe this donation follows Margaret Cameron's intent to support vulnerable people in our community.

We are aware that difficulties accessing emergency and preventative care for poor oral health can lead to many other serious complex health issues, thereby decreasing a person's overall wellbeing.

Following Margaret Cameron's original wishes, Broadview United church is donating \$2500 to The Cool Aid Dental Clinic. This amount will be matched by a community donor at Cool Aid. The Cool Aid Dental Clinic provides dental services to anyone, including those on social assistance, with disabilities, on a fixed or low income, with refugee status, with First Nations status, and those on parole services. The Clinic provides a safe and friendly environment with a dedicated group of individuals that take pride in making a difference in the dental health of people who may have faced barriers to accessing services in the past.



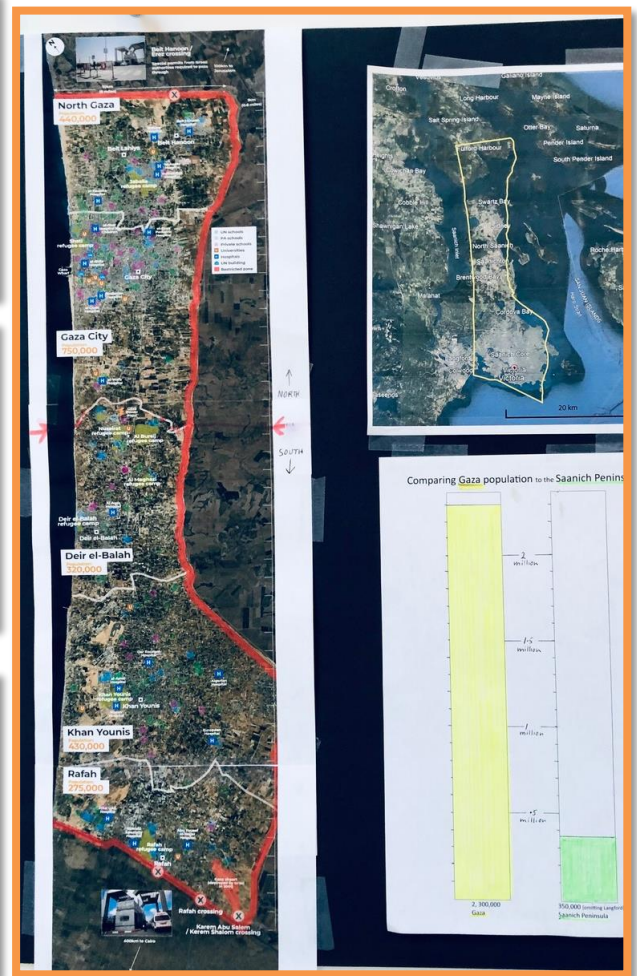
Justice Fair, Sunday, March 10

The BVU Justice Team looks forward to highlighting more of the ongoing and new justice and outreach initiatives with the various teams within BVU and community partners at this month's Justice Fair! Know that this is an opportunity to increase our awareness of different ways to build relationships within our community as we also reach out to the wider community and globally. Pick up a coffee or tea and join us in The Commons following both services.



This month we'll be featuring:

- Gaza CeaseFire Pilgrimage Walk
- GVAT (Greater Victoria Acting Together)
- Moose Hide Cards,
- Palestinian 'Trees for Life' and Dates
- Regenerate Cascadia – raising the awareness of Bowker Creek and the watershed where BVU is located.
- and Shelbourne Kitchen (with the director, Kim Cummins, both at ConXion worship and Justice Fair)



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 Mar 10).

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

Pilgrimage for Gaza, March 16

Greetings to Greater Victoria Communities of Faith,

We hope you and your community of faith received our first email of Feb 15th with an invitation to participate in a Peaceful Pilgrimage Walk for Gaza.

Saturday, March 16th, we are hosting a Pilgrimage around the city of Victoria. This will not be a rally! It will be a prayerful walk, and you are invited to walk whatever distance along the planned route that you are able to do, as a way to respond to the ongoing violence on the people in Gaza.

While the length of

Gaza is 41km, the circular route we are planning is 21.6 km (approx. 1/2 the length of Gaza). Some of you might be interested in walking the entire distance. Most people will be walking one or more of the sections of this walk. We are organizing 5 stopping points or places to register/receive hospitality and participate in a few moments of reflection at each point. See the link to the walking route below.

This is meant to be a spiritual walk of contemplation and prayer.

Can you see some people from your community join us? A few people to walk a section together, or in relay fashion? We welcome you to join us. Please register online here: <https://form.jotform.com/240515845361253>

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to send us an email, Susan graceful@shaw.ca. Or if you would like to volunteer email thegrays@shaw.ca

In organizing this Pilgrimage, we aspire to:

- 1) Keep the war in Gaza and the need for a ceasefire in front of us as we journey together
- 2) Encourage all Christians and people from other faith traditions as well as no faith traditions, to join with us in a prayerful walk for peace in the Holy Land.

And finally, our thanks in advance for all you can do to lift up the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage in your community and network.

In peace, shalom and salaam,

Rev. Barbara Hansen, Janet Gray, Susan Grace Draper

Co-sponsored by Broad View United and KAIROS Victoria,

COME, WALK WITH US ON MARCH 16

as we pray with our bodies for the people of Gaza.

Pilgrimage starts and ends at BVU.

Five entry points- you do not have to walk the entire route.

If you are unable to walk, you can still be a part of this pilgrimage by volunteering.
Email: thegrays@shaw.ca



#gcpilgrimageinVictoriaBC

Scan the QR code to register or visit KAIROS Victoria on FB.

on behalf of The Organizing Team for Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage Walk in Victoria, BC
Hosted by: Broad View United, a congregation of The United Church of Canada and KAIROS Victoria with leadership provided from faith communities in greater Victoria.

Links:

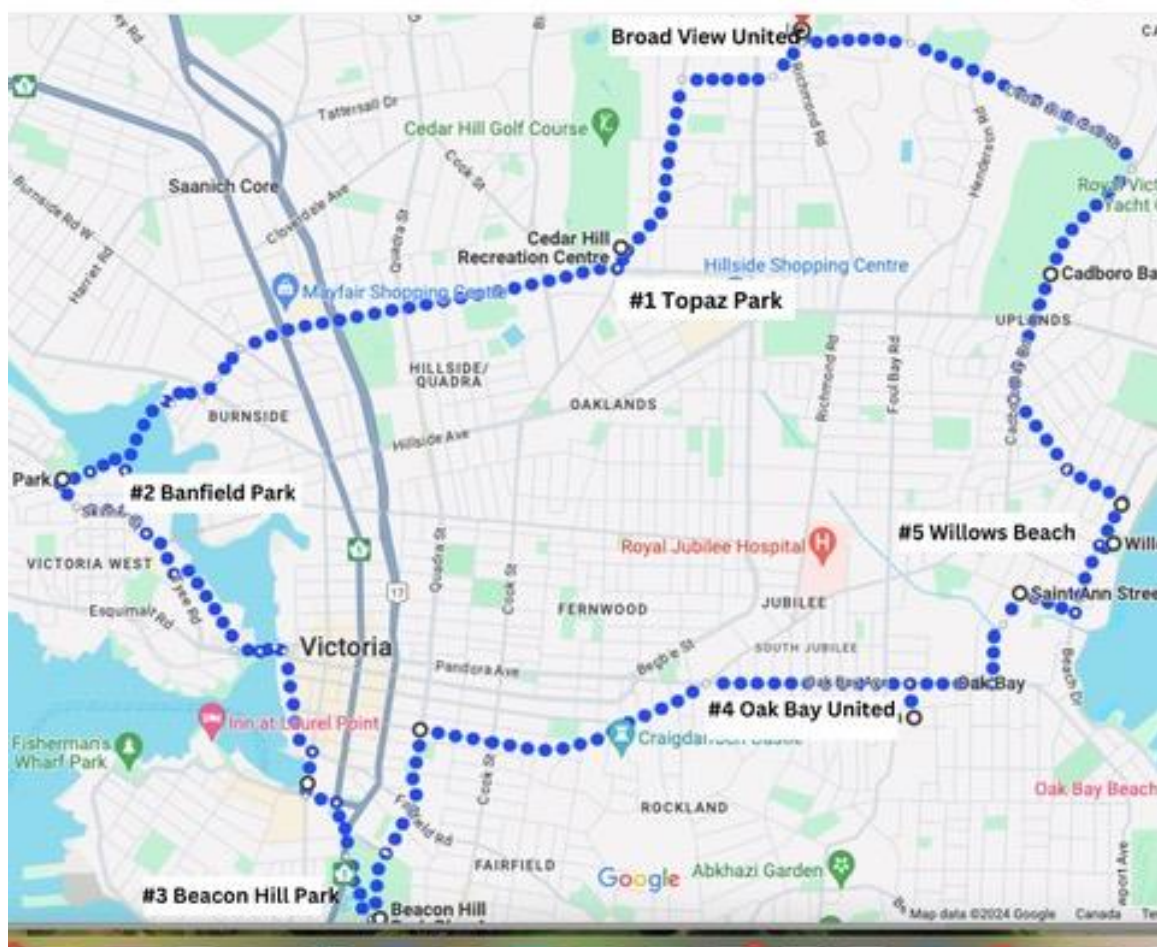
FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE: <https://bit.ly/3unrWpX>

TO REGISTER FOR THIS PILGRIMAGE, GO HERE: <https://form.jotform.com/240515845361253>

ROUTE MAP: <https://bit.ly/49DsXcw>

For more information about this global invitation to walk, please check out the website: <https://www.gazaceasefirepilgrimage.com/>

Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage Route



STOPPING POINTS: (or points to begin your walk)

Starting Point - Broad View United Church - 3703 St. Aidans Street (Register here: 8:15 - 9:30am)

#1: Topaz Park (North Gaza)- 3.8 km from BVU (Register here: 9:30-11:00am)

#2: Banfield Park (Gaza City)- 2.4 km from 1st stop (Register here: 10:30-12:00pm)

#3: Beacon Hill Park Play Area (Deir el-Balah)- 3.8 km from 2nd stop (Register here: 11:30-1pm)

#4: Oak Bay United (Khan Yunis)- 4.5 km from third stop (Register here: 12:30- 2:00pm)

#5: Willows Beach Park (Rafah)- 2.1 km from fourth stop (Register here: 1-2:30pm)

#6: Closing Gathering at BVU: 5.0 km from fifth stop (TOTAL DISTANCE: 21.6 KM) (Church open from 2:30-6:00pm)

Intercultural Programs

“Who is present, and who is not? Who is heard and listened to, and who is not? Whose leadership is respected, and whose is ignored? Who finds an easy place in our community, and who will pick up subtle signals that they don’t belong?”

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

The questions above invite us to challenge our assumptions; just because we are a welcoming community, doesn’t automatically mean that we are an intercultural church. Becoming an intercultural church is a constant process of building relationships with those who are marginalized in our society, distributing power equally, and being transformed by those who are different from us. The intercultural space at Broad View United aims to be a place where mutual care and transformation can happen. I invite you to work together in becoming an intercultural church.

Taste of Home Season 2: will be held every other Saturday from 3-6 PM in the Commons, starting March 9. Our popular food program, Taste of Home, is returning with diverse menus and exciting new additions. Taste of Home is about honouring who we are and where we come from by cooking together and sharing our stories. ([A Photo-Documentary Cook Book from Taste of Home Season 1](#) is available.)

While this program is designed for those who just have arrived in Canada within the last 5 years, we warmly welcome all of you to join the Weeks of Connection and A Feast of Friendship.

- **Weeks of Connection:** During weeks without sessions, we encourage participants to pair up with volunteers from the congregation for home-cooked meals. The dates and the group size can be arranged, depending on the availability of volunteers and participants of the program.
- **A Feast of Friendship (May 11):** The program culminates in a vibrant “Taste of Home Potluck Supper,” open to the whole congregation. Everyone will be encouraged to bring a dish and a story that is related to the food.

If you’re interested in participating in the Weeks of Connection by hosting a meal, please contact Min-Goo know at 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.)



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 honest dialogues, uncovering hidden meanings across various cultures. 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. If you know anyone who might benefit from this conversation circle, please encourage them to sign up through our [online registration form](#).



Intercultural Saturday Social: every Saturday 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Did you know that our Saturday Social is so much more than playing ping pong or games? It offers a wonderful opportunity to connect with people across diverse cultures! The group is getting even more intercultural AND intergenerational, with some families attending as three generations. The 30-40 participants represent 7-10 different countries and languages!



Charlas Del Camino (Chats of the Way): We have recently started a series of workshops in Spanish, facilitated by our friend, Francisco Nieto. The workshop is to support Spanish-speaking people in our community, and to assist them in their process of integration. It takes place in Cedar Room in Commons once a month during our Saturday Social. 15 people (8 of them are Spanish speaking people) attended the first session with such enthusiasm. The next session will take place on Saturday, March 9 with the theme, Journeying with a purpose. Spread the word. Invite your Spanish-speaking neighbours to attend.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you wish to be part of this vibrant and transformative ministry. Together, we are on a journey to becoming an intercultural church.



Spiritual Care Team

Upcoming Memorial Services

Tony Smith: Broad View United, Saturday, March 9 at 2 pm.

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



We continue to uphold the families of Tony Smith and Louise Hudson in our love and prayers and give thanks for the legacy of their lives.

Birthday

Eileen Thurbide will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on Tuesday March 5th.

Asking for your assistance!

Are you feeling disconnected from your church family? **Do you know anyone who is missing and you think they may wish a call?**

Some of BVU's SPIRITUAL CARE TEAM met in February to set out its priorities and one aspect that was clear is that we want to reconnect with those who feel their connection with BVU has been lost - for whatever reason.

If this is you **or if you have someone in mind**, then please contact the church office at 250-590-3677 or info@broadviewunited.com and one of the Spiritual Care Team will get in touch. We are here because we care.

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; anne.sikstrom@gmail.com , via 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 March are Fridays, Mar. 1st and 15th 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, Mar 3rd then again on Mar. 17th. 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!



PIE Day 2024

PIE day is being celebrated on March 17th after worship.

This P.I.E. is filled with the courage of being Public, Intentional, and Explicit! March 14 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.



In her 2024 PIE Day statement Moderator the Very Rev Dr Carmen Lansdowne wrote: “National Affirming PIE Day, we are reminded of this commitment to being public, intentional, and explicit in our affirming work. This work matters! This year, we are focusing on the Public part of PIE. Our theme is “PIE in the Public Square.”

We’re encouraged to think about what it truly means to be public: We are historic marchers in the PRIDE Parade! Who are our neighbours and partners? This year, we will continue to look for ways to build relationships outside our community of faith, and truly show up in a public way in the broader community! Public allyship requires us to step out and truly show up in the public square.”

Can you help us Celebrate PIE Day at Broad View by bringing individual tarts for the Commons on St Patrick’s Day? Please let Shelagh know! Thanks so much.

A promotional poster for the Broad View Community Choir. The top half features a stylized piano keyboard background with a sunburst pattern in orange and yellow. The text "BROAD VIEW COMMUNITY CHOIR" is in large, bold, white letters, followed by "PRESENTS" in smaller letters, and "SHINE A LIGHT" in very large, bold, white letters. Below this, it says "SUNDAY, APRIL 14 | 3 PM" and "ADMISSION BY DONATION". On the left, there is a circular inset photo of a man, Brian Tate, clapping. On the right, there is a small illustration of a trumpet. At the bottom, there is a photo of the choir members singing. The bottom of the poster has a blue background with a mountain silhouette.

BROAD VIEW COMMUNITY CHOIR
PRESENTS
SHINE A LIGHT
SUNDAY, APRIL 14 | 3 PM
ADMISSION BY DONATION

Directed by Brian Tate

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