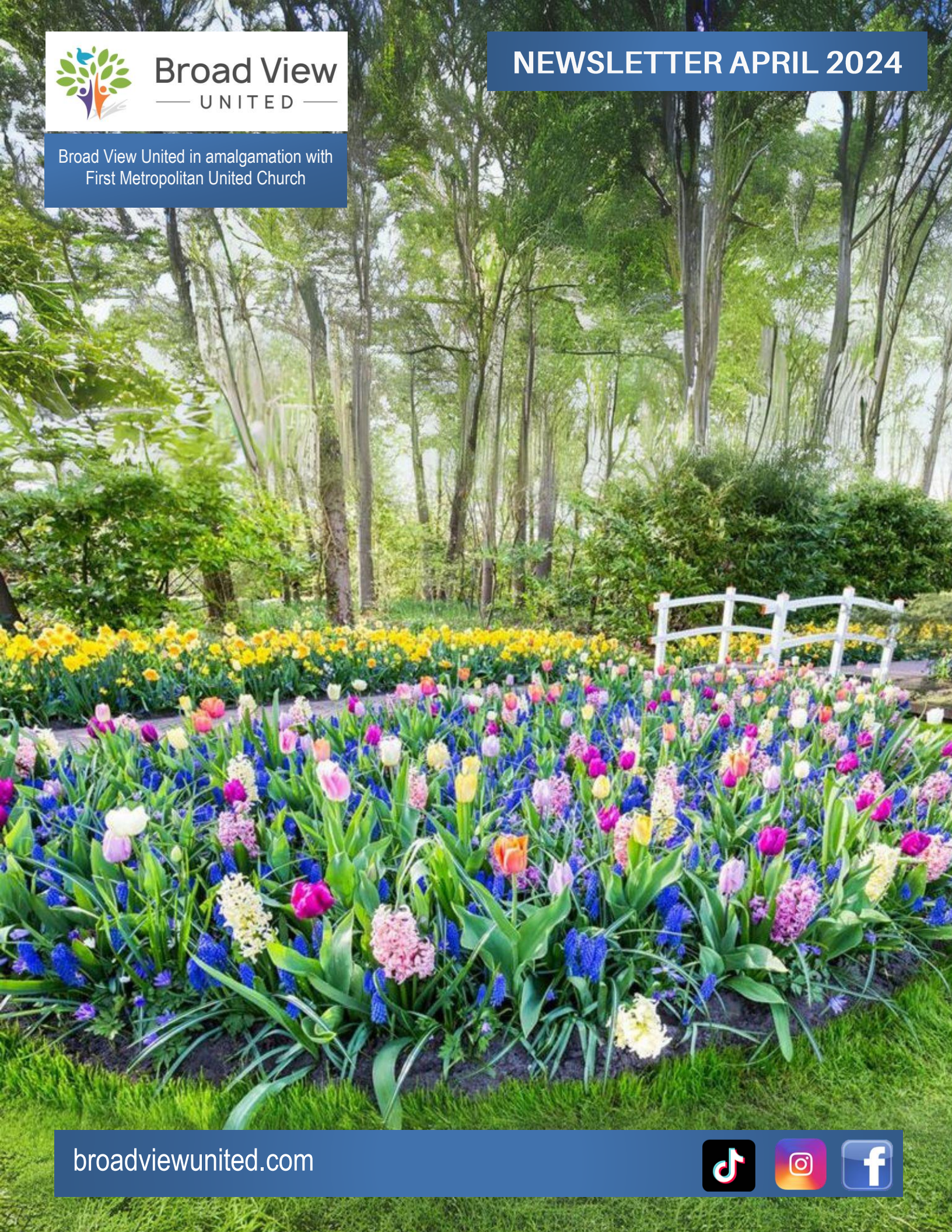




Broad View
— UNITED —

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

Broad View United in amalgamation with
First Metropolitan United Church



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Minister's Message

I recently encountered a beautiful invitation in one of Rumi's poems.

*Today like every other day,
We wake up empty and scared...*

I thought... That's an interesting way to start out and maybe it's true...
Then, he offers a bit of advice.

*Don't open the door of your study and begin reading.
Take down a musical instrument
closest at hand being right here*

In this part, I imagined the poet lightly tapping his chest with his hand.

*Let the beauty we love be what we do.
There are hundreds of ways
to kneel and kiss the earth.*

Living faith, mindfully, is one of the ways to acknowledge the beauty and the terror, the damage and the possibility, and hold it all in a way that lets the beauty we love be what we do. There's no one right way to do it. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the earth. But what's your way?

Let the **B**eauty you **l**o**V**e be what yo**U** do. I hope **B.V.U.** stands for what you truly are!

In April, at BVU, we embrace the theme of Caring for the Earth. There are hundreds of ways to do it, and yet, from the hearts of many at BVU who would like to live faith, mindfully, we express that our prayer is to care for creation.



**Rev. Ha Na Park
Co-Lead Minister**

This month, we invite you to look for new ways to kneel and kiss the earth. For example, among the countless possible ways, BVU's small group, Caring for Creation welcomes you to join the Earth Day Film Fest ("Planet VS Plastic", this year's focus). Creating for Creation hosts it on Sat, April 20, 7 pm in the sanctuary. You can engage with the group at Justice Fair, after services on Sun, April 14th, to find more ways to kneel and kiss the earth. Did Rumi mention, "Take down a musical instrument?" Sing, Shine a Light with BVU Community Choir on Sun, April 16th, 3 pm. Last but not least, we will be able to explore many ways to kneel and kiss the earth as we gather for the BVU Visioning Process. Especially mark your calendars for the congregational conversations: April 6 and May 4, 9:30-12 noon, with Allison Rennie!

BROAD VIEW UNITED UPDATES

2024 BVU AGM

The **Annual General Meeting** has been scheduled for **April 28th at 2pm**. This meeting will be by zoom and a link will be sent out several times during the weekend prior to the meeting. You will be able to access this via phone or computer. A copy of the annual report will be distributed electronically about 10 days prior to the meeting. We encourage you to read this report digitally to save trees but if you need a paper copy, please email reception at info@broadviewunited.com and one will be printed and labelled for you.

Rentals update

We are now slowly accepting some of the applications made for rental requests at BVU. We are a busy church with lots of internal activities and needs for space, so we are being very careful not to pack our calendar with rentals. The board has been working on both a philosophical and theological policy for what rental/lease partnerships we will engage in as we move forward. Also, rental rates, rental policies, application forms and tracking programs have been put into place. We are taking it slow as we interface with those groups making requests. Thank you for your ongoing patience as we navigate in the new building and finding our way forward in sharing the space. As you can see, it's an involved task to oversee.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers at BVU

The Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers in the BVU parking lot are now operational. Charging sessions can be activated by those with a **Flo** account using a **Flo** card (not the App). The cost to use the chargers is currently set at 60 cents per hour which is approximately our marginal cost of electricity.

The EV chargers were installed as part of the recent renovations and are part of our commitment to support and encourage environmentally sustainable living.

These EV chargers operate as part of the **Flo** brand charging network, however, as they are intended for the use of people using the church facilities, they are not set to be visible to the general public on the **Flo** or other EV Charging Apps such as **PlugShare**.



Membership Transfer

If you have moved to BVU from another congregation and would like to transfer your membership to BVU, please contact the office by phone or email and we can initiate the transfer. On Sunday April 21st, we will be having a membership Sunday and both those who have been in the classes as well as those wishing to transfer their membership will be received that day. If you have expressed your interest, Ha Na will reach out to you soon to assist with the process.

Sabbatical for Shelagh

For the first time since my ordination, I am going to experience Sabbatical! I will explore two themes: promising practices for retirement planning and promising practices for transitional pastoral care after an amalgamation. I will explore several tools for self-care and journaling as I reflect and prepare! I have chosen this part of one of St Brendan's prayers to be a spiritual touchstone:

"Help me journey beyond the familiar
And into the unknown.
Give me the faith to leave old ways
And break fresh ground with You."

Many heartfelt thanks to the Broad View United Board and my wonderful colleagues for their support. I am so grateful that Margaret Harper and the spiritual care and wellness volunteers are more than capable of holding the pastoral care needs of the community if faith. I do believe that while this sojourn of spiritual, mental and physical refreshment will be such a blessing, I will also miss seeing you! I return, Deo volente, July 8. – *Shelagh*

From the Board: Our prayers, love and support are with Rev. Shelagh MacKinnon.

Visioning process

Our Vision Process continues in April and May with Allison Rennie (click [HERE](#) for an introduction to Allison) facilitating 2 more congregational conversations on both April 6th and May 4th from 9:30 – 12:00 noon. Each of these gatherings is independent and while the content and questions for each are different and we would be delighted if you could attend all three, even just your attendance at one of the events is appreciated. We want to hear as many voices as possible as we discern our ministry goals and priorities.

All the voices in our congregation are important and welcomed into the process. A few additional gatherings have been organized so that some of the under represented voices might find a place. If you fall into any of these focus groups, we invite you to join us at these times as well:

Friday April 5

- 7pm Jr Youth

Saturday April 6th

- 9:30 am Congregation wide general gathering
- 12:30 BVU Board

Sunday April 7th

- Am – older Sunday school children
- 12:30 - Young Adults
- 2 pm: Gen X and Millennials (30s and 40s): A session to explore the distinct experiences of those in their 30s and 40s related to belonging, faith, leadership, and beyond. Childcare provided.
- 7 pm: Pride (with wine and cheese): Exclusive gathering for Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ individuals.



Allison Rennie

We are also working to create an online focus group that will happen mid-month in April. You can sign up for that [HERE](#). Future focus groups for May include Sunday School's parents, disability justice, small group facilitators. For more information contact Ha Na Park or Mark Green.

Volunteers Opportunities

On both a regular and semi-regular basis, BVU requires volunteers to help in various areas of ministry. If you are interested in helping in any of the following areas, please email Janiena at info@broadviewunited.com to let her know and a staff member or team coordinator will be in touch.

- **Gardening:** We have 2 people able to help during the week for some light weeding of the front gardens. It would be great to have about 2 more people. The total number of hours per week is likely less than 2.
- **Hospitality team:** We are currently pulling together folks willing to serve on the hospitality team. This is a coordinating function, and the team will meet to discern volunteers and oversight needed regarding kitchen and hospitality needs.
- **Property team:** We are in the midst of pulling together a team of 6 people to serve on the Property team that will have oversight in the day-to-day emerging maintenance or repairs for the building. This team will meet about 3 times a year and work on small projects as needed.
- **PRIDE parade and celebration:** We have historically had a good showing at the pride parade from all the various congregations that have come together as BVU. We are looking to pull together a small group (4-6) of people to help us co-ordinate both BVU and help communicate and co-ordinate with other UC congregations in the CRD. There is also a desire to restart the queer film festival that is also hosted during Pride week. Let us know if either or both of these events are of interest to you to help coordinate.
- **Communion servers:** We serve communion about 10x per year and each Sunday we do so, we require about 20 volunteers to help make this happen. If are interested in being asked for one or more Sundays during the year, please let us know.
- **Host a meal for newcomers to Canada as part of Taste of Home:** Many newcomers face social barriers, including language barriers and cultural differences, in their daily lives. We aim to break down these barriers by fostering meaningful connections beyond our comfort zones. To achieve this, we encourage participants of Taste of Home to pair up with volunteers from our congregation for home-cooked meals. If you are interested in hosting a meal, please contact Min-Goo at min-goo@broadviewunited.com. Your meal doesn't have to be fancy; A simple dish that you typically enjoy with your family would be perfect. The dates and the group size based on your availability and the needs of program participants. (Please see the Intercultural section for more details.)



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RECONCILIATION ARTWORK

On Wednesday March 13th about 80 people gathered for the unveiling of the Reconciliation Artwork created by Indigenous artist Rande Cook. Members of his extended family and elders joined folks from BVU as we listened to Rande speak about the process, the vision of the artwork and words from elders/family members about their past and their hopes for the future. The Artwork is entitled **"FOR THE LOVE OF CHILDREN"**.

These are Rande's words:

"In this piece, I delve into the profound and often painful histories that shadow over Canada's Indigenous peoples, drawing upon the somber narratives of residential schools, the forced relocations to reserves, and the aggressive extraction of natural resources from lands that have been home to these communities for millennia. Through my work, I aim not only to confront and acknowledge these injustices but also to illuminate the enduring strength, resilience, and unity of Indigenous peoples as they navigate the process of healing and reconciliation.

The art serves as a bridge between the past's dark chapters and the hopeful, determined stride towards a future where such histories are not repeated but remembered as lessons for preserving dignity, rights, and safe environments for all Indigenous communities. It is with a deep sense of responsibility and reverence that I present this piece, hoping to contribute to the ongoing dialogue around reconciliation, healing, and the collective effort in paving a way towards a just and equitable future for the coming generations.

As viewers engage with the artwork, I invite them to reflect on the themes of resilience, unity, and healing, recognizing the significance of these processes not only for Indigenous communities but for society as a whole. It is through understanding, empathy, and shared commitments to justice that we can all contribute to the healing journey, making strides together towards creating a future that upholds the dignity and safety of every individual."

Thank you to Rande for sharing his artistic talents; to his extended family and elders for gracing us with their words and presence; for those who helped with hospitality; for the quilters, their gifts of quilts that we also blessed that evening; for those who have made a cash gift to support the creation of this work and for all those who attended the event on March 13th.



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Just Like Family Update

As many of you know, BVU purchased the franchise for a home care company called Just like Family (JLF) in 2019 that opened in January of 2020. We navigated many changes throughout COVID while learning the ropes of starting a business. We bought the second franchise a year later which gave us the whole island as our territory. Through the last 4 years we have learned a lot about homecare and have changed the landscape of what quality compassionate and relational based homecare could look like. Since that time, we have divided the franchise into 5 parts to make the territories more manageable so that the quality of care could be sustainable as the business grew.



This social enterprise business has grown from 0 income and clients in Jan of 2020 to over 50 clients and caregivers and a gross operating budget of 1.2M toward the end of 2023. It's now grown to a place where we needed to make some hard decisions. The BVU Just like family board has decided together with the CEO and ministry staff that it was time to sell this venture as the time and energy commitment has outpaced what is practical for us. 3 of the 5 territories have been sold as of March 1st, 2024, and the remaining are in process. The return to BVU from the sale of these has been 10-fold of its initial investment. Funds from the sale will continue to support the work of BVU in the years to come and provide seed money for our next social enterprise venture. Many thanks to the board for their faithful work and especially to Sarah Bowder, our founding CEO for all the hard work she put into making this venture such a successful one.

But there is more to this story.....

2 years ago, BVU was also presented with the opportunity to be a founding partner in the purchase of the entire JLF National enterprise with a number of other charities and private investors who saw an opportunity for social enterprise and acquisition that could change the conversation about capitalism and business practices and be both sustainable and compassionate. Carla Leon, formerly of the national church's EDGE program took on the position of CEO as we ventured into a new and dynamic possibility. A book about this whole process and more has just been published and is entitled *WIN WIN CAPITALISM: How social acquisitions will change the face of business.* BVU is featured prominently in this book and 150 copies will be coming soon for folks to be able to access and read.



Carla Leon

Carla will be joining us on the first weekend of May for two events. She will be preaching at the Bridge and ConXion services on May 5th where you can hear more insights and stories about how the gospel and social enterprise fit together. And we will be hosting a group for those interested in helping us dream about what our next social enterprise might be to answer emerging needs in the community.

If you are interested in being a part of the conversation about what's next or you have questions, please talk with Mark.

Broad View United Thrift Store Updates

The sun is shining, the cherry blossoms are out and it's hard not to have a little extra pep in your step as we spring into better weather. The Thrift Store is open on Wednesdays and Saturdays and people are able to drop off gently used items Monday through Thursday and on Saturdays. Our customers are finding the path to our doorway and sales have been steady as we find treasures to dust off and re-purpose with new owners. In fact, our sales for nine days in March were approximately \$13,600. Congratulations to all the volunteers that have committed their time and energy to the success of store and the church in general.

Our Spring direction includes a new (but well known) member to our board, Ann Harris. Ann will chair the fellowship committee for the store and will bring ideas that enhance the volunteer experience for all. Ann, along with Marilyn Smith, John Davoren, Dave and Gail Murdock, have worked tirelessly during the transition from construction to re-opening of the store and now will turn their attention to the fellowship of our group. Our circle gathering for volunteers just before the Easter weekend is an example of Ann's evolving role.

Did you know that there are about 18 different non-profit organizations and initiatives that benefit directly from the efforts of our volunteers. One of those entities is Victoria's SPCA. Sheets and blankets and that may not be suitable for human repurposing can be cut and shaped to provide bedding for our animal friends.

With the first of April just past us, we will start using our colour codes for price tickets. April is pink! Like the cherry blossoms! The colours help us know how long something has been on a shelf or rack and when it is time to let it go and replace it with the next treasure. Perhaps we will have to have some special solar eclipse pricing!

In the meantime, we continue our search for a new manager to help us in our retail endeavours. We have posted the job on our store website; WorkBC job site and at WorkinNonprofits.ca If you or your family know someone who would be perfect for the job let them know they can see the job description on our store website: broadviewthriftstore.com and then send me a note.

We are always interested in people who like the thrill of retail discoveries and the joy of seeing something given a new and extended life. Come volunteer!



Broad View United Thrift Store

Retail Hours

Wednesday 10 am - 6 pm
Saturday 10 am - 4 pm

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Justice Fair, Sunday, April 14th

The BVU Justice Team looks forward to showcasing the April's theme at BVU: Caring for the Earth. With ongoing and new justice and outreach initiatives involving various teams within BVU and community partners, we aim to make a difference. Please note that the Caring for Creation small group will host an Earth Day Film Fest on April 20th (6 pm) and would love to share about it along with other actions at the Justice Fair. The Trees for Life and Dates initiatives will continue. The Evolving Church team will highlight the North Park ministry, bringing it to the forefront of our attention. Grab a coffee or tea and join us in The Commons after both services.

Towards a Deeper Understanding of the Toxic Drug Crisis, May 15th 10am – 12pm

Have you been troubled and confused about the Fentanyl toxic drug poisoning that's killing many Victorian and others throughout our province.

Since BC called the Provincial Public Health Emergency, in 2016, over 14,000 British Columbians have lost their lives, seven people in BC are dying every day. It is the leading cause of death in our province, killing primarily young people between the ages of 19 to 45, and disproportionately impacting First Nations people.

This lost of lives has an immense impact on our community affecting families, friends and coworkers; leaving loved ones grieving, stigmatized and alone.

It is a complex issues, which raises many questions and demands our attention:

What is the opioid crisis?

Why is Fentanyl killing so many people?

Why do people start using drugs? Why can't they stop?

Is providing "safe drugs" giving up on people?

How can we solve this crisis?

How can we address this crisis with care, compassion, understanding and concrete actions?

What is our response as a community of faith?

Come and bring your questions to a Coffee and Conversation morning in The Commons at Broadview United Church on **Wednesday, May 15th 10am – 12pm.**

Our resource person is Shane Calder, Coordinator of Outreach and Mobilization, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, Simon Fraser University

Evolving Church Team



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The Margaret Cameron Trust Fund donations to Victoria Cool Aid Society

Warm thank you to Broad View United for donating \$2,500 from the Margaret Cameron Fund towards dental care during Everyone Deserves to Smile Campaign.

Sharron Higgins, spiritual care volunteer (L) and Shelagh MacKinnon, pastoral care minister @, smile for a photo with Cool Aid's Community Engagement Manager, Tracey Robertson (M).



Evolving Church Team

The Evolving Church Team, with a financial contribution from the Spiritual Care and Wellness Team, provided 32 dozen eggs, egg painting kits and a bag of Easter treats to the families with children in the North Park Hamper program.

On Monday, April 22nd, we are planning a Spring Tea for seniors from Our Place at First Met. We have rented the Doreene McLeod Room, as it is within walking distance. We would like to ask you for donations of tea sandwiches, cookies, squares and/or fruit to serve. Please email Emily MacDonald at emilymacd@telus.net if you can provide any of these goodies. If you can bring them to Broadview on Sunday, April 21st, we can refrigerate them for the next day. Thank you so much in advance.



Earth Day Film Festival, April 20th at 7pm in BVU Sanctuary

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 take down this villain?

Only with our help...

all ages welcome NO COST refreshments



Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage Walk

What does “deep spirituality, bold discipleship and daring justice” look like?

Sometimes it looks like the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage Walk. On March 16th, almost 200 people were involved in the 21 km walk: they were walkers, volunteers, reflection leaders, and supporters who came out to the stopping points to lift up the cause that connected all of us. People of diverse ages and faiths were united in their longing for a sustained and enduring ceasefire in Gaza; the organizing team worked hard over a period of 8 weeks to make the day the success that it was for everyone. Below are some photos and personal reflections from members of the organizing team and other participants that capture some of the energy and emotion of the day. Enjoy!

People sometimes travel great distances these days to make a pilgrimage- this was an opportunity to make one in our own home town. Working with a team planning the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage and then walking it reminded me over and over again that I am here, I am alive and I have great privilege. With those privileges I feel I have a responsibility to stand up for the people of Gaza who don't have the freedoms I do and say 'I see you' - 'I know what is happening to you and it is wrong.' **Janet Gray**

From an organizer's point of view, it felt like we were on a roller-coaster ride at times. Because we hadn't worked together as a team, it was a journey of discovery too. The learning curve was steep at some points, having never organized a pilgrimage walk before. But all of us were determined to create a prayerful experience for United Churches to publicly witness their commitment to justice for the Palestinian people. And equally important to us was that this event offer the entire community a safe and accessible way to demonstrate their longing for peace. Without the support of the staff and ministry team at BVU as well as the leadership provided by Esquimalt, Fairfield, James Bay and Oak Bay United churches, this walk couldn't have happened. I am proud to have played a role in bringing it to life. May the seeds that were planted on March 16th, sprout and continue to grow here in Victoria as well as in Palestine/Israel. **Susan Draper**

The fact that we were participants along with more than 100 other cities/communities in 17 countries in the world, standing up for a beleaguered people, spoke volumes to me of the interconnectedness of humans and the common desire for peace. **Emily MacDonald**

Participating in the Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage gave me the opportunity to stand, walk and pray in solidarity with other pilgrims calling for peace and justice for Palestinians. This pilgrimage reminded me that we have not forgotten the plight of the Palestinian people and that we will be steadfast (sumud) in our calls for peace and justice. We are many all around the world, speaking with one prayerful voice, “Free Free Palestine”. **Robin Breckon**

I visited the West Bank a few years ago as a peace observer. As a settler occupying and living on the unceded lands of the Ləkʷəŋən, I witnessed an ongoing story of settler colonialism that echoes our own history here. Reconciliation with our own settler past is hard work. I grieve the present day genocide of Palestinians. I fervently hope my actions here will bring about a permanent ceasefire and a future for the people whose history and attachment to their ancestral land is reminiscent of indigenous people of Turtle Island. **Barbara Hansen**

I walked with a person who identified as a grandparent, for whom walking was not easy and who acknowledged they had never been involved in a walk for justice previously yet felt this one was important.

As the banner came into view, a visitor gave a thumbs up and said "I support that!" and had his girlfriend take a picture of him helping to hold the banner.

Thank you for your gifts and helping move us through paralysis to the next step.

Thanks so much for organizing such a meaningful day.

It was a privilege to be part of this event.

You Folks Rock!! Thanks for putting this Gaza solidarity march together at Broad View! It was a very meaningful event and the Victoria community responded well! The potential to unite progressive Church folks was realized!!

On the Pilgrimage we were people just walking, praying and talking with each other. We were sharing our grief about what's taking place in Gaza, sharing our witness about Gaza to those that passed us by, being together - we were not alone - and our grief was held by the many who honked their horns, waved, gave thumbs up, and said thank you.



PROGRAM UPDATES

Flatlanders Walking group, Saturday, April 6, 1 pm

The Flatlanders walking group will stroll a portion of the Galloping Goose trail through the Railyards development, along the Gorge waterway in Vic West, with a short walk over the Selkirk trestle for those who wish. Return by the same route, stopping for refreshments at Café Fantastico on Harbour Road near the finish line. A gentle, flat walk with great view of the water.

Meet at the Save-on-Foods underground parking lot on Tye Road near Bay Street (Westside Village) at 1:00 pm.

For information and/or to say you're coming, email Edeana Malcolm at dnmclm3@gmail.com



Pride Parade and Queer film festival. June 27 – July 7th 2024

Our application to be a part of the PRIDE parade on July 7th has been accepted and we are looking to put a team of people together to coordinate our efforts and bring other United Churches on board to coordinate the United Church Presence. If you are interested in being a part of this small team, please let Mark know.

Also, we are also hoping to reinstitute the Queer Film Festival during pride week at BVU and are looking for folks who would like to be a part of that team as well. In the past we showed 3 films on successive nights with concession and discussion to follow. Films explored a wide variety of themes related to 2SLGBTQAI+ identity and celebration.

If you are interested in any of those PRIDE activities, let either Mark Green or Barry Cameron.

Inter-View: Inter-Spiritual and Queering

Zoom Meeting April 10th at 7pm (Every Second Wednesday of the month)
Meeting ID: 941 532 2272

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.

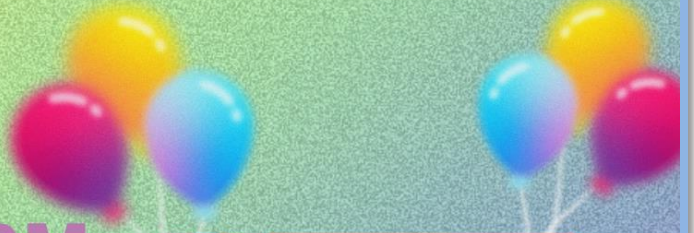
During April's Inter-View meeting, Ha Na will invite you to collaborate on "Write Your Own Prayer Poem" by Jessi-Alez Brandon (They/he). You don't need to come to the Inter-View after doing this prayer work in advance. Amid your busy schedule, just opening our hearts to the surprise of working on the prayer together and the mystery that might deeply touch our hearts is enough. "Write Your Own Prayer Poem" can be downloaded by clicking the following link: For Docx, click [HERE](#). For PDF, click [HERE](#).

MAY

11

10AM - 12PM

Saturday



The Affirm Team has invited an expert to lead an engaging workshop to explore some basics of gender diversity together. Scan the QR code to find **Ned Gallagher's Bio.**

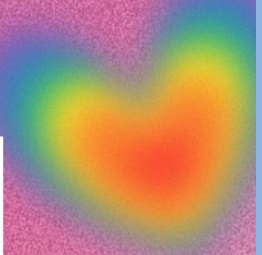
Exploring Gender Diversity Introduction

Let's talk about everything trans.

Please contact the BVU office (office@broadviewunited.com) or scan the QR code to reserve your spot.



<https://broadviewunited.com>



Youth Faith Exploration/Confirmation Celebration Service, Sun, April 14 (ConXion)

The energy and gifts that the youth bring to the church are incomparable. Sarah Porter, Ha Na Park, and Micia Kanstrup, who journeyed with some of our BVU youth through the recent Youth Faith Exploration/Confirmation sessions, are excited to announce that we invite you all to the celebration service to lift up and bless **Jamie Turner, Nolan John Ross Oliver, Sakshi Turnbull, Klara Elisabeth Schoeck**, during ConXion worship on Sunday, April 14th. These youth completed the three sessions focusing on life, faith, and community; guided by the anchor story from the Bible: finding the treasure hidden in the field, and joyfully offered hand and foot washing at the Maundy Thursday Supper. 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!



Writing Your Ethical Will

Date: Thursday, April 11th at 1:00 pm

Location: Cedar Room

An ethical will is a written document that includes stories and reflections from our lives that we can leave behind for our loved ones. We will base our writing sessions on the Book, *“For You When I am Gone: Twelve Essential Questions to Tell A Life Story”* by Steve Leder. The group plans to meet approximately once a month and may utilize a combination of in-person and zoom sessions.

If this sparks your interest, you are warmly invited to attend our introductory session on April 11th. Questions can be directed to Margaret Harper.

Small Group Ministry at Broad View United

NEWCOMERS: Are you wanting to get to know others within the BVU community?



In the last few years, we have been blessed with many new folks who are wanting to make Broad View United their faith home. Now that we are in our newly renovated church home AND with the AMALGAMATION of First+Metropolitan and BVU, joining a small group is the ideal way to begin to get to know others and make some new connections!

Small Groups are made up of between 6 and 10 people (approx.) who gather approx. once a month for friendship, support, spiritual practices, and conversations that matter! Oh, and FUN AND LAUGHTER! Small Groups provide a home base where you can get to know one another in a way this is not always possible within a larger setting. Each group shares leadership and helps set the tone and process for how you wish to be together.

The small group ministry was launched at the onset of the pandemic in 2020. Many folks who had joined a small group found their group to be a godsend during the pandemic, as it decreased isolation and provided immense personal support—a spiritual bubble if you will!

We are actively recruiting folks with the hope of launching some new groups. We would love to have your presence and help you begin to make some connections at BVU.

Are you CURIOUS? Would you like to KNOW MORE? If so, please reach out to one of us!

With deep gratitude, Your Small Group Core Team

Margaret Harper
Val Bauld
Betty Doherty
Adele Heise

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Turkey & Greece Journey Experience

For more info, please click photo

TURKEY & GREECE JOURNEY EXPERIENCE

*In the Footsteps of Paul, The Early Church &
The Seven Churches of the Book of Revelation*

20 October – 04 November 2024

*Led by Rev. Scott Swanson, Rev. Jennifer Swanson and
Rev. Graham Brownmiller*



Istanbul (Constantinople)



Ephesus



Laodicea



Athens

Broad View United

Summer

FAMILY CAMP

at Goldstream Provincial Park



Come for any combination of days within any of the weeks listed above. Cost for the campsite is covered by BVU. You are responsible to supply your own camping gear and breakfast/lunch foods. Evening meal will be a joint venture shared among participants. Other meals will be independent as per family preference. Daytime participation is also an option if you prefer to sleep at home in your own bed.

Families of all configurations are invited to join us at the group campsite we've booked for a relaxed time of games, nature walks, crafts, storytelling, community conversation, and roasting marshmallows.

JULY 2024

JULY 15 (MONDAY) - JULY 18 (THURSDAY)

JULY 28 (SUNDAY) - JULY 30 (TUESDAY)

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER ONLINE:

<https://broadviewunited.com>

SCAN TO REGISTER



Broad View United SUMMERQUEST CHILDREN'S DAY CAMP

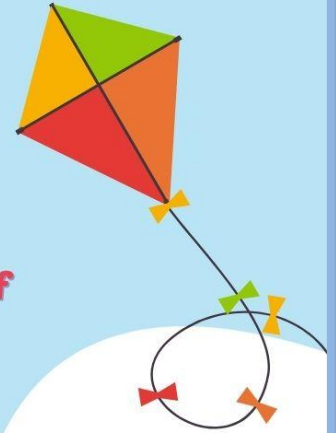
JULY 22
TO
JULY 26



AUGUST 12
TO
AUGUST 16

(from 8:30am - 3:30pm)

Cultivate your curiosity as together we journey on a quest of self discovery. Explore what is unique about you and experiment with things you perhaps haven't had the opportunity to try.



Admission

\$150

Snacks included

Ages

5 - 12

Enjoy these offerings for this week-long adventure:

- Games
- Activities
- Sports
- Crafts
- Nature Hikes
- Water Games
- Friends
- Fun
- ...and many more!

REGISTER NOW



**SCAN
ME**

<https://broadviewunited.org>



Exploring Grief and Loss

If you are grieving a death loss, please consider attending the BVU Grief Group which will begin towards the end of April. People have found this confidential group very helpful as they gather with others to process the many feelings and realities that come with grieving the loss of someone they love. Dates and times will be chosen very soon. Please reach out to Margaret Harper to express your interest. Email: margaret@broadviewunited.com

Guys' "Water into Wine" pub night, Tuesday, April 9, 7 pm: The Rack West Coast bistro, 1550 Cedar Hill X Road (note new name)

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 a chair and enjoy a time of fellowship and camaraderie.

Broad View Knitters

Broad View Knitters meets every second Tuesday of the month and will be getting together **on April 9th, from 1 pm to 3 pm in the Cedar room!** A selection of yarn, knitting needles and advice will be available to you.

Movie Night Saturday April 27th at 7pm

April's movie is Hector and the search for Happiness. Disillusioned psychiatrist Hector confesses to his girlfriend that he feels like a fraud for dispensing recommendations to patients who never seemed to improve or get happier. Summoning up courage and breaking out of his own routine, he searches the globe to find the secret of happiness and the right formula to bring him joy and vitality.

Pringle Handbell Choir

Leadership: Cheryl Dennett, every Sundays, 12 noon at Sanctuary

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

Spring Session will run from April 4th - May 30th, every 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.

Circle CHAT

Will meet April 10 at 1:30 pm in the Cedar Room. Are you longing for friendly conversation with others? Consider joining this drop-in group of women elders. Come and meet some new friends! Refreshments and fun are included! If you need of a ride, please reach out to Margaret Harper. margaret@broadviewunited.com or 250-590-3677

SPIRITUAL CARE TEAM

In Memoriam

Mario Costanzo - March 23, 2024, husband of Judy Costanzo

John McEown - March 29, 2024, husband to the late Marvie Kennedy McEown



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.

Birthday

Rev. Blain Thierry will be celebrating his 94th birthday on Sunday April 7th.

100 Easter Cards and Greetings were sent out to members of the BVU community on behalf of the Spiritual Care Team. If you know someone who is missing their church connection, or is going through a challenging time, please be in touch with Margaret Harper.

Deep Dive Into Death series was attended by over 25 people in March. Special thanks to Gwen Anholt and Lynne Van Luven from Victoria Chapter of Dying with Dignity for their informative presentation on Medical Assistance in Dying.

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.

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.



**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: SECOND SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, IN THE HUB FROM 10:00AM TO 4:00PM.
BRING YOUR SEWING MACHINE AND WORK ON YOUR QUILT.**

INTERCULTURAL PROGRAMS

“We strive to become an intercultural church to deepen our understanding and experiences of God and of one another.”

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

Greetings from Broad View United’s intercultural space! Here, we embrace a sense of belonging, foster friendships, and encourage mutual transformation. We invite you to explore our intercultural programs as we continue to grow in community. Everyone is welcome, and all are encouraged to participate.

Taste of Home Season 2 is being held every other Saturday from 3-6 PM in the Commons. Our popular food ministry, Taste of Home, has returned with diverse menus and exciting new additions. This program 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.)

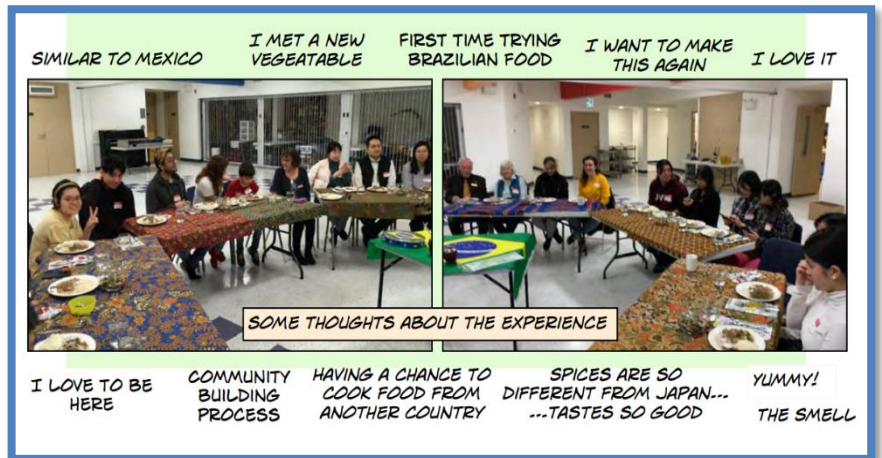


While this program is designed for those who just have arrived in Canada within the last 5 years, we warmly welcome all of you to join the Weeks of Connection and A Feast of Friendship.

- **Weeks of Connection:** During weeks without sessions, we encourage participants to pair up with volunteers from the congregation for home-cooked meals. It’s rare to be invited by someone we don’t know well. Many newcomers have told me they have never been invited to a Canadian home, not to mention the challenge to make friends with Canadians. So, this new addition provides opportunities to break down the social barriers many newcomers face.

Interested in hosting a meal? Please send your email to min-goo@broadviewunited.com.

It doesn’t have to be fancy. A simple meal that you usually share with your family would be great.



- **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. Please sign up through our [online registration form](#).

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 both in the Hub & Commons

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!

We are planning a series of workshops during the Saturday Social program.

A Free Tax Clinic for newcomers (Saturday, April 13 at 7 PM) with Liane Clark

Many newcomers are not familiar with how the Canadian tax system works. Liane Clark, an experienced volunteer at ICA (Intercultural Association of Greater Victoria) has kindly agreed to talk about why doing taxes is important and how to do your taxes. If you know any newcomers who might benefit from this, please spread the word. All are welcome. Please RSVP by April 10.

Learn to Create Comic Books (Saturday, April 27 at 7 PM) with Mike Emme

Making comic books is a great way to create a storybook with images. Are you one of the people who takes pictures with your phone? Would you like to tell your friends what happened yesterday? Chances are, you can become a storyteller by creating comic books. Mike Emme, an artist, and retired art educator with UVic, is going to show us where we can start. Here is an example of comic books from the recent Taste of Home. [A taste of home from Brazil](#). All are welcome. Please RSVP by April 24.

Please don't hesitate to contact me (min-goo@broadviewunited.com) if you wish to be part of this vibrant and transformative ministry. Together, we are on a journey to becoming an intercultural church.



BROAD VIEW COMMUNITY CHOIR

P R E S E N T S

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