



Gordon United Church Announcements

<http://www.gordonunitedchurch.ca> office@gordonunitedchurch.ca

Check us out on Facebook

935 Goldstream Avenue, Victoria BC, V9B 2Y2 - Phone 250.478.6632

- ❖ Please join us after the service in the CE Hall for refreshments. If you are new or visiting, you can fill out one of the cards in the pews and hand it to an usher or place it in the offering plate.
- ❖ Please speak to an Usher if you need large print bulletins or hearing assistance equipment.
- ❖ For the children, there are activity sheets and books available at the back of the church & in the upstairs loft.
 - ❖ If you do not receive our emails, we would love to add you to our weekly email distribution list.
- ❖ Whether you are new or visiting, or have been a congregation member for many years, please feel free to send your contact information to the Office (contact information above, in **GREEN**). We would be happy to add you to our weekly email distribution list and/or update our church directory.
 - ❖ Gordon United Church strives to be fragrance free.

WELCOME!

Offering hospitality to the stranger encourages us to see everyone as God's chosen.

**Sunday services begin
at 10:15 am**

Worship services are back in the sanctuary today. Isn't it wonderful? If you prefer to remain in your car in the parking lot, you can still hear the service. Tune your car radio to 87.9 FM.

Today, Sunday, September 12th

Service of Lament and Thanksgiving for experiences during the pandemic. If someone you love passed away during the pandemic or you were unable to hold a service due to COVID restrictions, you are invited to bring a favourite candle and a small picture to place at the front of the worship space. If there was a birth, marriage, or other significant celebration in your family during the pandemic that you didn't get to celebrate as you would have liked, please bring a picture and perhaps a small vase with a flower to place as well.



Want a name tag? Fill out a request form or call the office! Got a new phone number or other contact info? Fill out a bookmark to share this information or call the office!

Rose... (250) 478-6632

Choir News

Choir is back! We meet **7:30 pm on Wednesdays** in the church sanctuary. Things are a little different, though, and subject to adjustment as we return to singing and being together indoors.

- 🎵 Masks must be worn while singing (and are strongly recommended from arrival through departure, too).
- 🎵 We will be spacing singers out.
- 🎵 We will be limiting our rehearsal time to 45 minutes, maximum.
- 🎵 Attendance and contact info will be taken.
- 🎵 Hand sanitization and self-symptom checks will be required upon arrival.

If you can't remember all this, that's okay — we'll remind you! We all look forward to seeing — and hearing! — everyone again. If you've never joined the choir before, you're welcome, too... there's no audition and no pressure, as is our Gordon United Church way!

From Rev. Heidi

A reminder that Gordon United Church strongly encourages and requests that all eligible people become fully vaccinated as soon as possible. This is the only way to ensure the maximum safety for all of us to worship and work together, including those not yet eligible for vaccination or who have allergies to vaccine ingredients.

HELP NEEDED

Nothing makes you feel you belong more than getting really involved! Here are some opportunities, with training and mentorship available:

Reading Scripture on Sundays: pointers are available- children welcome! If you have mobility issues, you can still read from where you are.

Children's Ministry: we are looking for 2 more adult leaders to share in leading our Sunday morning program. A multi-age curriculum is provided, and police record checks are required for everyone's safety (free with a letter from the church). Ideally we would have enough leaders to offer both an elementary school group and a teens/tweens group. No experience necessary. Rev. Heidi will go through curriculum and United Church ethos with you to help you feel comfortable.

Nursery care: volunteers willing to look after little ones too small for Sunday School so their parents can stay in worship. The "cry room" is above the sanctuary and you can still hear the service. Police record checks required.

Coffee servers: we can only have refreshments after church if we have volunteers to serve them! Please sign up on the list outside Rev. Heidi's study.

Ushers: hand out bulletins, assist folk in finding seats, count attendance, find volunteer to light the Christ Candle (often a child), etc. You may be asked to check immunization status.

Greeters: extend a warm welcome to folk entering the church building for worship services, and assist those who need help on the stairs or ramp. You may be asked to check immunization status.

Council positions: Communications Liaison, Spiritual Care Liaison, Stewardship Chair

Pastoral Care: visiting, phoning, cards or letters to those experiencing hard times in the congregation.

Choir – see Tim's notice on pg. 1

From Rev. Heidi (cont.)

Some congregants may be concerned about **registering for the BC Vaccine Card** just announced. If you do not have a smartphone, aren't sure how to register for your card, or need to print it out and don't have a computer or printer, Rev. Heidi would be glad to help once the process is in place. Just call the office or send an email to RevHeidi@gordonunitedchurch.ca Help is also available for those who want to learn how to use Zoom, Facebook, or YouTube more comfortably. (Rev. Heidi is not familiar with Apple products but can probably help you figure it out!) If others are willing to volunteer to help people with some training and troubleshooting of technology, please let Rev. Heidi know. Let's help each other out while we are able to sit down together safely!

From the Church Council & Safety Committee

Gordon United Church Council is very concerned about the rising number of cases tied to the Delta variant of COVID19. In order to comply with provincial safety regulations and still be able to offer ministry in-person and indoors, and to safeguard the well-being of the vulnerable among us as our faith demands, the following requirements were adopted by the Gordon United Church Council on September 7, 2021:

1. Masks are now required for all groups in the church including worship services, tenant groups, support groups, church groups, short-term renters, etc.
2. Proof of immunization is required for all adults and children Grade 4 and older as of Sunday morning, September 12th (vaccine records, and official vaccine cards ("passports") accepted when available.) Records will not be kept week to week in order to preserve privacy. Contact tracing records will be kept for 45 days, then destroyed.
3. Those medically exempt or under 12 will not require masks or proof of immunization, though masks are encouraged for children age 5 and up. For adults, proof of exemption will be requested.
4. "Support groups" (eg. 12 step groups) are required to mask while in the building, but

can decide for themselves whether they will require proof of immunization.

5. We ask that all groups spread themselves out in the available space in order to provide physical distancing.
6. All tenants and church groups are responsible for ensuring that folk cooperate with the new restrictions.
7. Assistance is offered to those in the congregation who may not have the technology to access or print vaccine cards.
8. Those unable to attend indoor worship services due to their vaccination status are able to attend outdoors/in their cars using the FM broadcast. They can also receive audio recordings and/or mailouts of the service as soon as we can get them out the following week. Emailed text copies can be sent in time for the Sunday service. For communion Sundays packaged communion cups will be available for pick-up outside the church.
9. For in-person communion services, communion will be served using bread served directly by servers and cups that will be spaced so that fingers will not touch more than one cup. The packaged communion cups will also be available.
10. For any food service: coffee after church, memorial receptions, community dinner, etc., food and drink will be served to individuals at stations using gloved hands and/or tongs to avoid too many people touching the food and the appliances. For example, a server will help someone to a sandwich on a buffet using tongs, and a server will stand by the coffee urn and pour the coffee. Individual servings are preferable to large platters when possible. People will be required to mask except while consuming food and drink. Food Safe practices will be followed.
11. Sanitizing procedures for high touch areas will remain in place. Training in sanitizing is available to all groups.

We recognize that this will add another layer to the work of ushers, hospitality folk, greeters, group leaders, etc.

We will need folk to step up and take part. We would especially like to hear from individuals who are comfortable asking for the health info and who would be ready to interact with any folk who may be distressed or angered by the restrictions.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation, Gordon United Church Council



Creative Community begins **Wednesday, September 15 from noon to 3:00pm in the CE Hall.**

This is an exciting new group, a

“Community of Art & Spiritual Care”.

For more information, contact Jane:

Artist / Leader: Jane Palliser (250) 213-1982
Email: lifespiritart@gmail.com

Jane writes, “We are a ‘Creative Community’ of Art makers who love to paint, draw, create & meet together weekly. Our day begins by getting a warm drink, settling ourselves at our tables, listening to inspirational music, a prayer/ meditation, a poem, conversation/ checking in, or small group creative activity . We then move into individual self-directed work or group activity. Each Artist is responsible for set up & clean up. We provide a friendly, safe studio space, where confidentiality, respect for our differences & respectful conversation are valued. Coffee, tea, is available & we take turns bringing a snack in to share, as needed. Bring a lunch and your own supplies.”

♥♥♥ **Pastoral Care** ♥♥♥

We invite anyone who needs Pastoral support to contact one of us by phone, or email pastoralcare@gordonunitedchurch.ca

Adele Morley - (250) 590-2507
Betty Pellaers - (778) 430-3073
Deanna Robb - (250) 294-6737
Dianne Wilson McDougall - (250) 391-7550 (home) or (250) 415-9461 (cell)
Ruth Kelbough - (250) 478-5450