

# Won't You Be Our Neighbour?

The pandemic may make it impossible to gather in ways we are used to. We miss our church family very much. We at AVUC and CCC continue to Accept, Connect and Emerge through our Virtual Neighborhood now. It's not too late to find something new, fun or stimulating to participate in before things start to wind down for the summer.

For a full list of offerings, please go to:  
[www.courageouscommunitycenter.com](http://www.courageouscommunitycenter.com)

## **AVUC & CCC Offerings:**

Wild Church; Nature Walks, Macrame Class, Gentle and Chair Yoga, Watercolours, Meditation  
Sunday morning worship, weekly eblast, riverside sanctuary, outside prayer space

**Phase 1:** This newsletter is council's first of a 4 phase communication process.

**Phase 2:** Our next Congregational Information Session will be held on June 7 at 7pm. We will be going over the contents of this newsletter. The Zoom Meeting ID is: 250 723 8332. A click activated link will also be sent in the eblast on Friday June 4. Please sign up for the eblast if you are able.

**Phase 3:** Meeting Rev. Ed. Our teams and lay leadership will have already met with Rev. Ed but he would like to host Church Porch visits outside the Narthex under the overhang one day soon after June 7 (the day and process will be announced at our Zoom Informational Session).

**Phase 4:** Rev. Ed will host some more relaxed, lengthier, small group listening circles so people can share how they are feeling and doing.



*Alberni Valley*  
UNITED CHURCH

[www.facebook.com/albernivalleyuc](http://www.facebook.com/albernivalleyuc)

Mission: To be reconciling

Purpose: Make a life-giving difference

Values: Accepting, Connecting, Emerging

"A caring community where all people belong regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, differing abilities, ethnic background or social and economic circumstance."

AVUC Council continues to meet monthly (and more) to keep informed with the goings on of Ministry Teams. We do this with spoken or written reports from a representative from each team. We review financial reports, incoming communication, develop or refer new faith projects, and report out to the congregation through intentional communication. It is also important that Ministry Team representatives take back what is happening at council to their teams.

Sunday services continue to be mostly made up of joining Highlands through Livestream. Brenda West will be hosting the third Sunday per month for the next few months.

## WHAT'S NEW?

### A. Introducing Rev. Ed

Hi folks,

As you might have heard, I've recently been hired by your church for a four-month term to provide support to your amazing leadership team here at AVUC. What a privilege it is for me to come along side of you at this exciting moment in your history. I hope to bridge the gap till you find the right person to follow Minnie as your next minister.

Just a little background to help you get to know me. I was born and raised in Vancouver. That's where I met my wife Connie and studied at SFU and then VST at UBC for my Divinity degree. I was ordained in the United Church in 1986 and we were placed in the small interior town of Lillooet. We spent 14 years there, raised our three children there,



and loved every minute of our time with this incredible congregation.

We then felt God calling us to Metropolitan United Church in London Ontario. I became Minister of Outreach and was primarily responsible for helping to create and lead a contemporary worship service designed for younger generations. After 7 years we moved to Southwood United Church in Calgary for the final 12 years of my active ministry before retirement in 2019. We were blessed with a great ministry team and a wonderful church family in Calgary who helped us to reach out into the community and wider world with the love of Christ.

In retirement, we moved to Qualicum Beach where I found a new part time ministry position at Grace United in Coombs. Our famous next-door neighbour, Goats on the Roof Market gets way more visitors than we do, but we love our new church family and feel very blessed to serve with a group of dedicated volunteers.

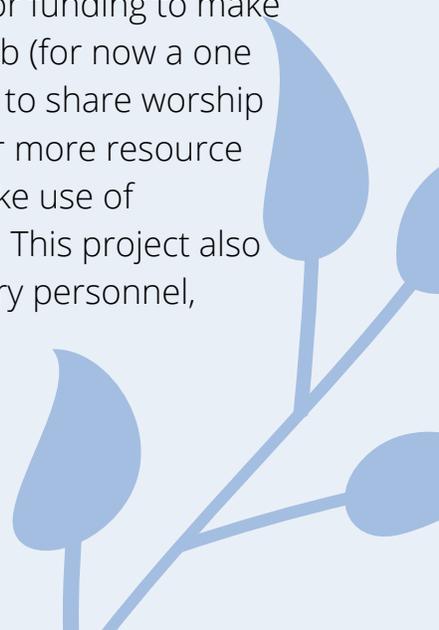
I'm happy to provide support during the transition and look forward to seeing many of you on zoom, or possibly even in person when it's safe to do so.

Blessings,  
Ed Lewis

**B. "God is Holding Your Life"** is the worship series Brenda will present. It comes from the Worship Design Studio and though it was designed for 2021 new year, it offers assurance for us now in a time of transition and transformation. If you have a prayer request, feel free to write it on a piece of paper and give it to Sarah or email it to Sarah for printing. They will be placed in the hands on the communion table for the service and then Ed will include them in his prayers later that week.

### **C. Ministry Partnership Hub**

We have been sharing our services online for many years so when the pandemic took effect, we were poised to move fully online. We have now applied for funding to make AVUC the facilitator of a pilot project called Ministry Partnership Hub (for now a one year commitment). This will give smaller congregations opportunity to share worship services in innovative, faith growing ways. Partnership with larger or more resource rich congregations may also happen because they might like to make use of connections and work we do at AVUC that is not available for them. This project also has the potential to allow partnering congregations to share ministry personnel, reduce duplication and increase efficiency.





## D. Entry Beautification Project

AVUC has had a bookshelf in our entry hallway for many years. Now that bookshelf is growing into a bookstore. The Courageous Community Centre is looking to offer new and used books as the second stage for their social enterprise project. AVUC would like to offer a fresh space for the bookstore. Since it will be located in the entry hallway, the first iteration of this facelift was to resurface the blue floor. The cost for that was covered by donations from congregation members with passion for books. The work is going to be done by congregation with energy for volunteering. Further conversations revealed an appetite to resurface the floor in the lounge and to paint the hallways and the lounge. Wouldn't it be exciting to re enter at the beginning of post pandemic times, to a beautiful entry. Fresh face for a fresh start.

Another donor has come forward willing to match new donations up to \$6000 toward this project. If you would like to make an outright donation over and above your regular givings, please mark it Beautification Project and bring it to the church. If you would like to join the team to paint or resurface the floor, please let Sarah know. The proceeds from the Paper Crane Fundraiser will also be included in the match donation fund. See details below.

## E. Virtual Choir:

Stay tuned to Highlands and AVUC lay leader hosted worship for glimpses of our choir as they are starting to experiment with virtual choir! Let Mike or Linda know if you want to lay a track down!



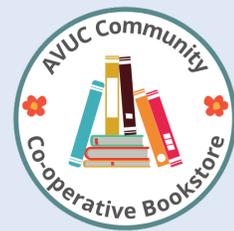
**COURAGEOUS**  
COMMUNITY CENTER

Mission: Sustaining hope and connection.  
Purpose: To be a reconciling presence.



The CCC Visioning Team continues to meet monthly to create clarity over vision and plan next steps. Our visioning team consists of an indigenous business consultant, Alberni Pride & ADAPS representative, Buddhist practitioner, Tseshaht council person and 4 AVUC/CCC representatives. It is important for us to work with community members at large to develop our center to be relevant and engaging. The work we do is centred in our current mission and purpose as we clarify our vision

## WHAT'S NEW!

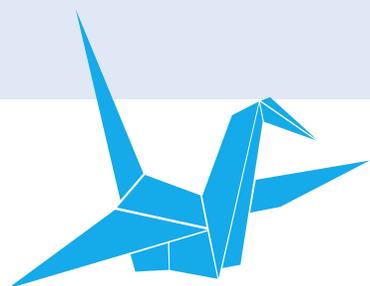


**A. Art of Hosting II: a focus on Equity Fall 2021** - Hybrid or online with a pre session capacity building youth event: focus on graphic recording

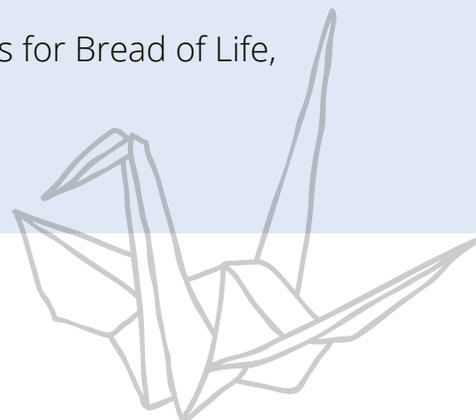
**B. Bookstore** (social enterprise pilot Part 2 as a follow up to Creative Connections)

**C. Nature Walk with Deb Maasuu** from Tla-o-qui-aht. Road to Reconciliation is on pause, as is Wild Church, Deb Maasuu expressed interest in guiding nature walks and introduce us to local Indigenous ways of visiting and caring for nature. Another beautiful transforming emergence of a direction CCC is leading us. AMEN

**D. Creative Connections:** Paper Crane Fundraiser, Craft Nights for Bread of Life, Alberni Aquarium & more.



### **The Paper Crane Fundraiser** Hosted by Creative Connections



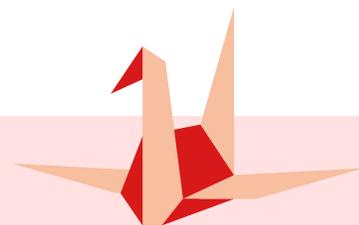
I choose hope. In a time when I see two choices; fear and hope, I welcome fear and choose to invest my energy in hope. It isn't easy and yet I do.

This fundraiser has three purposes:

- To allow each of us to name our fear and transform it into hope
- To add to the total raised for the match funding donation for the Beautification Project
- To create an art installation that will be ready to welcome us back when we are ready to come together in community again.

### **How to Participate:**

1. Find or request paper crane folding instructions (Sarah will send or print them).
2. Sit with a square piece of paper and welcome your fear...write it down.
3. Flip the paper and invite your fear to move on...if a hope emerges for you write that down.
4. Fold your fear into the crane.
5. When you are ready to release your fear, bring it to the church with a \$10 (suggested) donation.
6. When the next fear arises, feel free to participate once more.



## On the Road to Call:

AVUC Council has begun the process to prepare for a Call. The Congregational Profile Team: Tam Villette, Brenda West and Dana Walter have been consulting with Rev. Gail Miller from the Regional Church and are working on 3 parts:

- Living Faith story for AVUC
- The Demographics profile for AVUC
- A Position Description for the successful minister

Once completed, we will submit it to council for information, share it with you, our congregation, for conversation, and submit it to Gail for Regional approval. We will then host a congregational meeting for approval. Once it is approved by the congregation, it can upload it to a national United Church job website called Church Hub so that ministers who are searching will see we too are searching. We hope to have this done by the end of June.

Then, the Search team will take over. The Search Team consists of: Linda Cannon, Joanne LaPlante, Dewayne Parfitt, Katherine Lloyd, Alana W., Tam Villette, Dana Walter and Deb Maasuu. The team will commence search, vet applicants and conduct interviews. Once our search team feels comfortable with a candidate and are ready to make a recommendation, the council and congregation will be informed. A congregational meeting will be held to approve the recommendation. Then that recommendation needs regional approval for it to be official.

Along the way, we ask you to continue to pray for guidance and strength for the teams and that the person meant to find us, is readying themselves to do so.

### Important Reminder about Communication:

**Time of change and transition causes confusion, misunderstanding and excitement. Everyone experiences these in their own way. Please know that your lay leadership all has the best intention to help AVUC and CCC grow into the future beyond even our wildest dreams. We strive to keep everyone in the loop and yet we know we sometimes fall short. It will be helpful if something comes up for you to please go to the person with whom you can best find clarification or resolution. If you are unsure of who to go to, here are some suggestions.**

**For things related to AVUC contact Michael Villette (chair of Council) [michaelvillette1@gmail.com](mailto:michaelvillette1@gmail.com)**

**For things related to CCC contact Brenda West (chair of CCC Visioning Team) [bnbwest@shaw.ca](mailto:bnbwest@shaw.ca)**

**For general inquiries and faith support, contact Rev. Ed Lewis [reved@telus.net](mailto:reved@telus.net)**

**For details about programs or registration, contact Sarah [avunitedchurch@shaw.ca](mailto:avunitedchurch@shaw.ca) or 250 723 8332**

**For things related to the bookstore contact Mary Heatherington at [maryheatherington@hotmail.com](mailto:maryheatherington@hotmail.com)**

**Direct, healthy communication will lead us through our transition together, stronger and feeling better understood.**