



GOVERNANCE &
MINISTRIES
ANNUAL REPORT

2024

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Hello friends,

What a year 2024 was for all of you! Talk about a time of change. And you did it. You continued the work of settling into a brand-new building with the inevitable deficiencies popping up, and everyone having to adjust to the new (and less) space. You worshipped without a regular minister or musician for 11 months. You adopted a new governance model. I imagine more than a few of you will be filing the whole thing under "interesting experience we don't need to repeat."

I hope as you read through this report you will take time to celebrate. To give thanks for the sense of purpose, commitment, and vision that is needed for a congregation to do what you did. Thanks for all who hung in and for all those who did the heavy lifting. Thanks for God's presence in the midst of it all – even in those moments when you may not have felt it.

And then, in the second half of the year, you had to break in the new guy. I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received. I've talked to a few folks who are newer to the congregation who have all spoken of how welcome they have felt. I know what they mean. You have been patient as I learned names and faces and history and procedures. I can honestly say I am grateful to be with you and looking forward to seeing what kind of a ruckus we can create together in 2025 – God being our helper, of course! Holy trouble is the best kind to be in.

Please take some time, if you haven't already, to recognise and give thanks (to God, one another, and yourselves) for how far you have come together as you read this report. And then let's carry on together, seeking to follow in the Way of Jesus.

Here's a graphic from the national church's website that offers a way to think about what following in the Way of Jesus entails. Think about how many petals there are on your flower and how healthy they are. What's one area you could ask for the grace to grow in this year?

Grace and peace to all you beautiful trouble-makers.

Discipleship Flower – Key Spiritual Practices



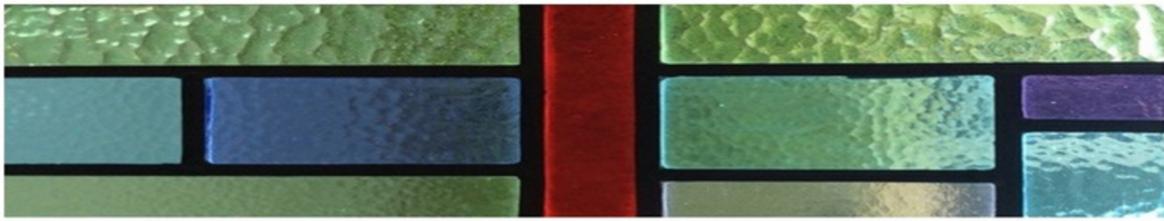
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BLESSING

As we begin this new church year, we look back with gratitude on your efforts and accomplishments of the year past. May God's grace continue to guide and strengthen us. May His wisdom lead us in every step, and may we continue to grow together in faith, love and service.



COMO LAKE UNITED CHURCH PURPOSE, VISION, VALUES, AND APPROACH TO MINISTRY

Background for Annual Vision for Ministry

Our Purpose

We are Christ's caring community,
connecting people with God and with one another,
answering God's call and making a difference.

Our Vision

We are joy-filled people
connected to our purpose
committed to one another
growing in faith and discipleship.

2023 Mission Statement

Como Lake United Church
Tending the Sacred
Restless for Justice
and Guided by Love

Our Core Values, rooted in Love

Faith – We live, grow and share faith in God as revealed in Jesus Christ:
faith that feeds the heart and soul.

Connecting – We joyfully connect with God, one another and community in ways that nurture
belonging, communion and a sense of purpose.

Caring – We lovingly care for one another and the community spiritually, physically, and relationally.

Generosity – We generously give energy, time, talent and treasure for the good of others out of
gratitude for God's gifts.

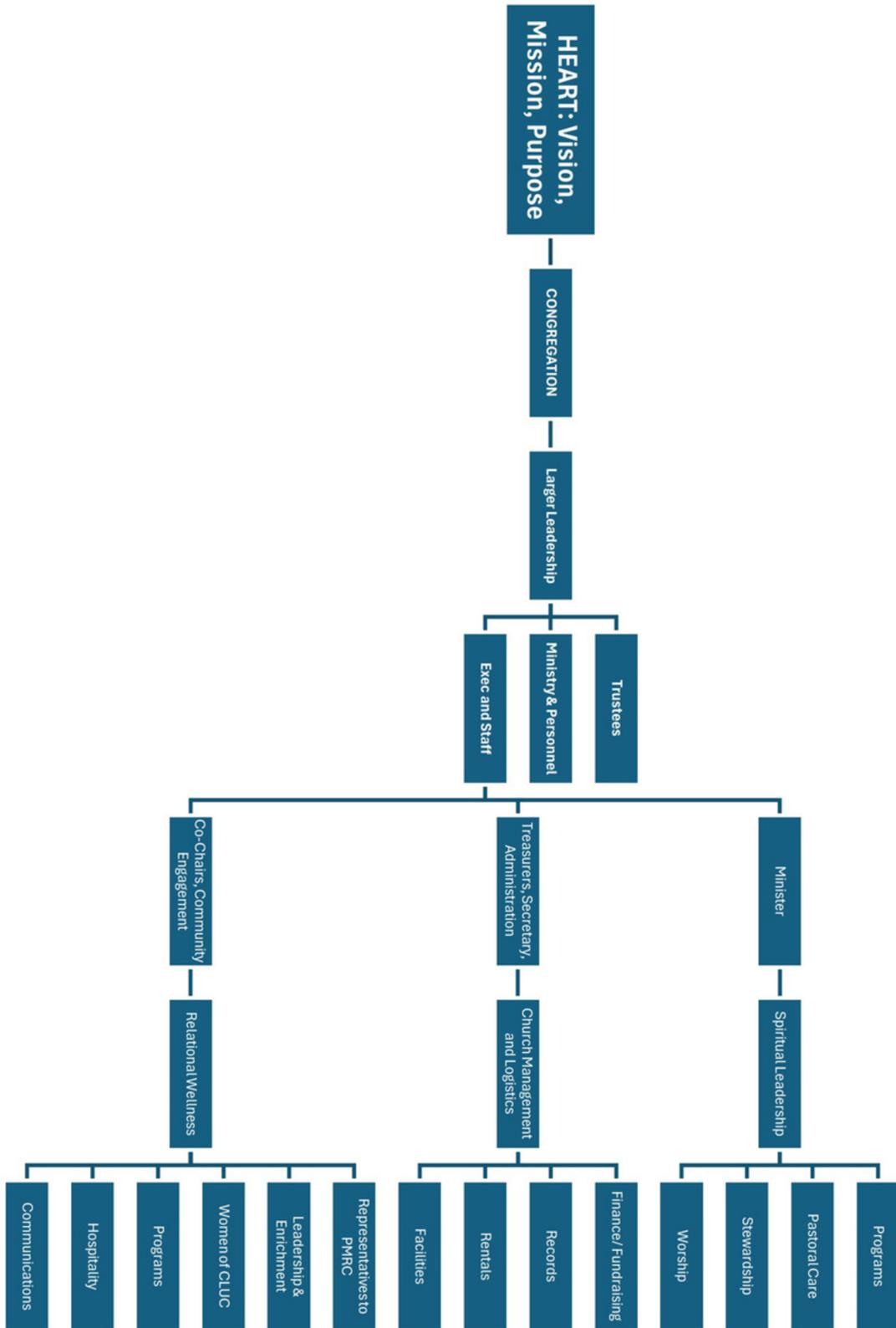
Respect – We respect God, humanity and all creation in ways that embrace unity in diversity.

Approach to Ministry

We invite people to enter into and deepen their relationship with God as disciples of Jesus Christ in the context of a vibrant, healthy community of faith. We nurture individuals as they grow in their relationship with God and one another within a small group ministry and through the discipleship practices of regular prayer, worship, scripture reading/study, service, spiritual friendships, and giving. In this we embody the spectrum of the 5 marks of the church: worship, teaching and learning, sharing our faith, building loving relationships, and service.

GOVERNANCE MODEL

Mission Team Governance Model 2025



EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

Highlights of the Year 2024

- Oversaw agreements with Pacific Mountain Region re: Staff agreement and deed transfer of the Air Space Parcel to Como Lake
- Brought forward for acceptance the Como Lake Vision for Ministry and Position Description template for a new minister as well as the Como Lake Faith Story
- Studied and voted YES with regards to Remit 1- Establishing an Autonomous National Indigenous Organization within the United Church of Canada
- Active analysis, modification, implementation and rollout of the Mission Team Model of Governance
- Approval of Governance and Ministry Report outlining CLUC Purpose, Vision, Values, Approach to Ministry & 3 Expressions of Leadership and Leadership Teams: 1) Spiritual Leadership,-the Stewardship of Gospel & Faith, 2) Church Logistics and Management,- the Stewardship of Resources and Facility 3) Relational Wellness,- Stewardship of Relationships

The Executive Council is entrusted with the oversight of the church's mission, governance and strategic direction. This report highlights the key achievements, initiatives, and challenges of this past year along with our goals for the future as we continue to grow in faith and serve our church as well as broader community.

The current Executive of Anne Carson (Secretary), Sharie Ford & Angela Neville (Co-Chairs) actively assumed their roles for 2024 at a Congregational meeting on January 28, 2024. Wendy Pavilonis (Co-Treasurer) joined in March 24, Paul Thompson (Co-Treasurer) joined in May 26 and Scott Swanson (Minister) joined in June & joined in a Covenanting relationship with the Congregation on Oct 6, 2024.

This year, the Executive Council has primarily focused on strengthening the Mission Team Governance model which the Congregation approved the previous year. We worked on strengthening our leadership structure and ensuring that we are fulfilling our mission in a way that is both effective and faithful to our vision. To do so we have met regularly with discussions centering on Spiritual and operational leadership (relief ministers, HVAC), strengthening our relationships with the wider community (rentals), and ensuring transparency and accountability in all church activities (finances, Ministry and Personnel, Zoho,). In order to do so we had more than 18 meetings (7 Executive, 5 Congregational, 2 Larger Leadership & Conversation Cafe's, 3 Team meetings & 1 Covenanting Service), and created 4 quarterly newsletters.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

we are grateful to:

- Our ***caring congregation***
- our ***stalwart circle volunteers*** who wear many hats and never hesitate to step up when the needs arise
- ***Rev. Jenn Swanson***, the Pastoral Charge Supervisor who so graciously supported us until June
- The ***AV Team*** for their availability and technical skills
- ***Valerie Simpson*** for shadowing, and supporting us in the understanding of this Governance model
- ***Circle Representatives*** who attend each meeting
- ***Linda Hof*** who diligently has been working on our HVAC problems
- ***Michelle Andersen*** who has worked so tirelessly on launching and administering to our blossoming rentals as well as her expertise in so many other areas

On behalf of the Executive Council, we thank all volunteers for their dedication and commitment.

We look forward to another year of growth, service, and community as we continue to follow Christ's call.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharie Ford and Angie Neville
Co-Chairs Como Lake United Church

Highlights of the Year 2024 cont...

- Trial and implementation of the paperless Bulletin for Sundays
- Modified open hours for the summer and later through the year
- Facilitated a guest speaker - Cecelia Cashore Reekie for Truth and Reconciliation week
- Authorizing the hiring of unbudgeted part time staff for AV, administration, and lock up.
- Introduction and recommendation of the new Planned Legacy Giving Policy
- Helped congregation to establish new goals for 2025 to focus on 1) being a broad welcoming and affirming congregation, 2) learning and implementing more on Creation Care and 3) growing in knowledge and wisdom on Truth and Reconciliation
- Throughout the year we welcomed new members to the Trustees and created a full complement for Ministry and Personnel. We said a grateful farewell to the previous Vision and Council Chair Valerie Simpson and Treasurer Susan Kennedy, as well as Angie Neville and Sharie Ford for temporarily filling the roles on Ministry and Personnel.

TRUSTEES AND MINISTRY & PERSONNEL

All property in The United Church of Canada is owned by Regional Councils and held in trust by local Communities of Faith such as Como Lake. The role of the Board of Trustees is to ensure that property is properly looked after. There were some changes in the makeup of the Board in 2024. We began the year with John Alandi, Sharie Ford, Ralph Johnson, Mindy Lane, and Dave McCutcheon, as well as our Pastoral Charge Supervisor at the time, the Rev. Jennifer Swanson from Inlet United. By the end of the year, we had said goodbye to Sharie, Mindy and welcomed Lionel Durante, Jim Robinson and Valerie Simpson. Jenn's time with the Board of Trustees ended when the Rev. Scott Swanson was called on June 1. Our thanks to Sharie, Mindy and Jenn for all their work during a challenging time of transition.

The main functions of the Board of Trustees in 2024 were focussed on 1) transfer of the Title back to the Trustees of Como Lake; and 2) clarifying Como Lake's insurance between 2 carriers – one for the building and the other for contents and liability. As of the end of the year, both of these tasks are complete. We also updated the terms of the Leadership and Enrichment Fund (now Leadership, Education and Enrichment) in order to make the fund both more sustainable and accessible. We owe a big thank you to Michelle Andersen and a large team of volunteers for completing an inventory of church property, which helped us to make sure we have sufficient insurance coverage for contents.

Respectfully submitted by **Scott Swanson**

The Ministry and Personnel Committee's responsibility is to be a caring, consultative and supportive body for the Minister and for the Paid Staff, while supporting the relationship between Minister, Staff and Congregation.

For much of 2024 the Committee Members were Angie Neville and Sharie Ford. They capably dealt with a multiplicity of issues related to welcoming a new minister to our church.

Starting in the fall of 2024, the new membership in the Ministry and Personnel Committee was confirmed to be: Ron Warneboldt (Chair), Joanne Spence (secretary) and Elsie Manley-Casimir.

We look forward to continuing to be available for support to our minister and to the paid staff in 2025. In addition to meeting every two months, the committee will monitor relationships, review working conditions, clarify job descriptions, monitor salaries, ensure educational leaves are taken, perform performance reviews, confirm vacation plans, ensure confidential storage of records, and make recommendations as necessary to the executive council.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Warneboldt

PROFILE AND SEARCH

The members of the Profile and Search Team consist of Anne Carson, Ann Ryder, Ron Warneboldt, Nancy Lilley, Mindy Lane, Marta Taylor and Angie Neville.

The requirements of the team were to produce a Como Lake United Church Profile. The profile consisted of a Living Faith Document, a Position Description for a Lead Minister and a Financial Review. This part was completed through 2023, and we presented the Living Faith document to the congregation for approval on February 26th, 2024. After some question and answers, the document was approved. The next part of our task was the Search. At this point, due to other demands Marta and Ann Ryder had to step down from the team, with many thanks for their work.

Once the position was posted on-line, we eventually received eight applications for the position. After reviewing the applicants, five were found to be not suitable, one had to withdraw, and we then set up interviews with the remaining two. It was a challenging task as both candidates had strong skills and gifts to offer. The team interviewed both candidates and we prayerfully discerned who we thought was able to address the needs of Como Lake United that we'd identified in our Living Faith Document.

The team came to an agreement on the candidate and advised the Pacific Mountain Regional office of our decision. They approved the decision and at the May 26th Como Lake Congregational meeting we made a recommendation to the congregation that we offer Rev. Scott Swanson the position of Lead Minister. The recommendation was accepted.

Rev. Scott accepted our offer of the position. Much work was done in the background to set him up to begin the position on June 1, 2024. The next step was to formalize his call to Como Lake United at a Covenanting Service which was held on October 6th, 2024. Invited guests from the Pacific Mountain Regional Office and Ministerial Personnel from neighbouring United Churches were in attendance. Members of our congregation were included in the service of welcome.

Once the Covenanting Service was completed, the team members of the Profile and Search team were discharged.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Neville



SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Worship Enhancement (Previously Sacred Service)

Purpose of the Ministry

- To participate in enhancing the experience of worship,
- To connect and deepen relationships within the congregation,
- To promote a higher rate of active participation in the worship enhancement ministry,
- To contribute to the life and ministry of the congregation,
- To provide occasions where newcomers can become more involved in the life of the community,
- To allow participants within a team the opportunity to do a variety of jobs and to work together.

Worship Enhancement are teams of three or four people who take on supportive tasks associated with the Sunday worship services. We have four teams, led by Valerie Simpson, Wendy Pavilonis, Barb Mendt and Angie Neville. The Teams work on rotation, and we are on duty two consecutive weeks out of an 8-week rotation.

The supportive tasks are greeting and ushering congregants as they arrive, preparing for the coffee fellowship time, lighting the Christ candle, collecting the offering and maintaining the candle racks, tidying up the sanctuary before and after the service. Once a month we set up the communion table, prepare the communion elements and assist the minister in serving communion.

Respectfully submitted,
Angie Neville

Pulpit Supply

The first half of 2024 the church was still without a Lead Minister and continued to need Pulpit Supply Ministers to lead our Sunday Worship services.

There is a large pool of Pulpit Supply Minister available for leadership. We invited our own Rev. Charles Ahn, a congregational member, to lead for some weeks. Then we added Rev. Scott and Rev. Sally McShane as regular Worship leaders for rest of the year until Rev. Scott accepted our offer of Lead Minister at Como Lake United.

The diversity of preaching styles from Ministry Personnel, who have lead worship at Como Lake United, has given us an opportunity to discover other ways to deepen our experience of Worship. It has been a rewarding experience.

We also thank the many talented musicians who have accompanied us on piano over the year.

Respectfully submitted, **Angie Neville**



SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Liturgical Arts



The purpose of the Liturgical Arts team is to support worship in our multipurpose room, where we strive to make it feel more like a church sanctuary for all our church services. . We are in tune with the Seasons of the Christian year and work at changing the colours by hanging banners and adding seasonal symbols in our Sanctuary space. Check out the Seasons of the Spirit poster on the kitchen door.

The liturgical seasons intentionally put the church calendar out of sync with the secular calendar. Reminding us that as Christians we are challenged to order our lives differently, in response to the life and gospel of Jesus. Changing colours for changing seasons is like thread woven to tell a story or a good rhythm that provides a framework.

Beginning with Advent, the changing seasons unify Christians throughout the world with its profound constancy. Then we work our way through Christmas; Season after Epiphany; Lent; Easter; Pentecost Sunday and the Season after Pentecost. We try to find ways to highlight a variety of other days, such as Trinity and Palm Sunday; All Saints or Reign of Christ are a few that have become widely accepted and observed at common times. All the seasons and the lectionary helps remind us that God is with us not only at the great celebratory moments of our lives but in the ordinary, everyday moments as well.

Team members, Carol Parker, Betty Inglis, Cynthia Carre and Valerie Simpson meet regularly to plan the next colour change. Sorting, ironing, repairing, embellishing and dreaming of new and different ways to enhance our worship environment. We are grateful to Phil Hall, Blaire Simpson and John Alandi for sharing their ladder climbing and banner hanging skills in support of our goal to provide diverse possibilities for variation and harmony. Recognizing this simple pattern of the liturgical seasons, basically unchanged for 1500 years, serves its purpose and we are invited into the rhythm and the ebb and flow experience.

(Some phrases from a Sunday school doc, 'Seasons of the Spirit')

Valerie Simpson for the team.

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Joyful Voices

We have now completed our first full year of the choir sharing music with you. Our greatest vocal challenge to date was last March when we sang The Prayer/Lead Me Lord. Fortunately, we were blessed at the time to have extra voices join us, amongst these were Jonah and Sara Lin and their choir.

Merle Rector was our piano accompanist until June. Even though she has stepped back she still is the one who keeps us connected. She sends monthly reminders about our presentations and information for home practice. In September Shelley Vattoy agreed to take over on the piano and we are so grateful and happy to have her.

This fall we chose familiar music that allowed us to have the congregation join in the music. We have enjoyed this and hope you did as well.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf
of the Choir

Kathy Danbert and Elsie Wrightman



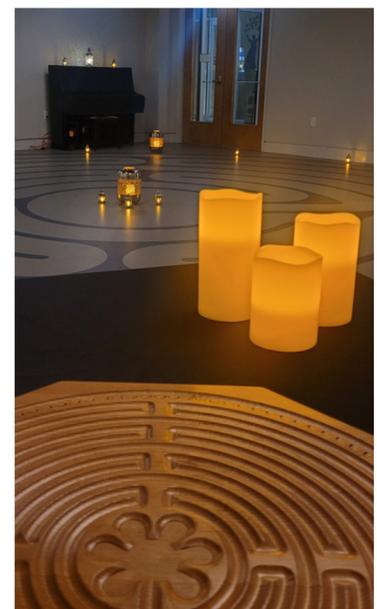
Labyrinth and Prayer Circle

Labyrinth & Prayer Circle: Como Lake Contemplative Practice

"In Christianity, the labyrinth's symbolic meaning is that the journey is challenging, filled with highs and lows, ups and downs and when one feels lost along their path, God's salvation is at the center of life." unspokenelements.com

Tuesday mornings at 9:30am, a dedicated group meets in the Reflection Room. Our session begins with a themed devotional; then to the Labyrinth room for a meditative walk. There is also the option of using a wooden finger labyrinth. We return to the Reflection Room for community prayers and a blessing.

Prior to Sunday worship there is now another opportunity to walk the Labyrinth or use the finger labyrinths in the Reflection Room.



Respectfully submitted by **Linda Hof**

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care provides emotional, social, and spirit care of the church community.

Team members were Leigh Krischuk, Marilyn McCutcheon, Elsie Wrightman and Vicki Stacey. They made phone contacts to members who were ill or who had special concerns.

Vicki Stacey sent Birthday cards to those seventy years and older, as well as "Get Well", "Thinking of You", and the first year of anniversary of the death of significant family members. The weekly report was compiled by Leigh Krischuk and distributed to Rev. Scott and team members. Through Caring Connection we reminded the congregation to phone in concerns to Marilyn McCutcheon.

Through our Tuesday calls in conversation we were listening and expressing our prayers for them. Members who were reached often expressed thankfulness for these supportive, caring, happy connections.

Our Visiting Team includes Leigh Krischuk, Marilyn McCutcheon, and Elsie Wrightman. These team members kept in touch through Tuesday Connection Team calls and in-person connections as appropriate. Emergent concerns were communicated with Rev. Jenn. We also thank Rev. Charles Ahn, Pastor Kevin Hegseth, and our Rev. Scott Swansen for being available as needed.

Respectfully submitted, **Marilyn McCutcheon**

After serving for 49 years, Marilyn McCutcheon is stepping down from Pastoral Care. We thank her for her long-standing service to Pastoral Care and the Como Lake United Church congregation and community.

Wednesday Night Walking Group

In late May or early June the Wednesday Study Group changes their focus and location.

We begin a Summer evening walk at LaFarge Lake. About 8 of us gathered this year each week.

We met at the Rocky Point Ice Cream stand. This year we started our walks with a Devotion from a daily source and a question from that Devotional to discuss as we stroll around the lake.

When we get back to the Ice Cream stand we make our selections and spend an hour or so in more conversation as the sun sets! Look for the announcements this year and join us!

Respectfully submitted by **Anne Carson**



SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

Wednesday Night Study Group

Generative Aging

Como Lake got a kick start to 2024 by engaging in the five week Generative Aging, Let Go and Begin Anew course, created by and lead by Rev. Don Robertson. The course was shared via Zoom, on Wednesday evenings. Approximately 20 people participated in this resource that “invites older adults to experience aging as a liminal, creative, spiritual and generative time”.

Pacific Mountain Regional Council defines ‘Generative aging is our capacity to define ourselves as growing, developing human beings...’ and the course and full resource guide are available on the Pacific Mountain Region website.

Special thanks to Rev. Don Robertson for his insights, experiences, time and support in creating and leading us in this growth experience. Special thanks also to Kees Hof who facilitated the technical aspects of this workshop.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharie Ford

Lenten Study – Act Fast

A parallel in-person study took place on Thursday afternoons in the sanctuary.

The Zoom meeting was led by Alice Fleming with the kind encouragement of the participants and the much appreciated technical support of Kees Hof and Michelle Andersen.

Participants numbered between 5-10 on any given night.

The Lenten Study focused on a book titled Act Fast with the header, Spiritual Practices for a Climate in Crisis, edited by Alydia Smith and published by the United Church Publishing House.

The goal of this book is to foster a deeper awareness of our connection with the world that we share and more importantly to encourage us to act as disciples of God in caring for his Creation.

Act Fast gives many meaningful exercises, practices and prayers to build on our spiritual growth through prayer, reflection and action.

In my opinion, this Lenten study was fruitful as it promoted discussion on the challenges Mother Earth is experiencing and on alerting us to how even small acts can have a positive impact in looking after Our Father’s World.

In Alydia’s words in the foreword to Act Fast, Page VI “No matter where you are in your spiritual journey and no matter what your relationship with Creation is, I pray that this book will expand your love for Christ, deepen your connection to Creation, and strengthen your hope for God’s dream realized.”

May we act/fast for a better world.

Report Submitted by **Alice Fleming**

CHURCH LOGISTICS

Property and HVAC

My sincere gratitude to Phil Hall, Dave Mccutcheon, Rom Pavilonis, and Ted Sarginson for their willingness to tackle the various additions and repairs necessary to keep our Como Lake space functional. Cupboards, shelving, and a pulley controlled storage unit for Sanctuary banners are among the recent improvements. A special thanks to Lionel Durante for recrafting our Como Lake cross.

Our HVAC system was not designed to meet the building's cooling requirements. A committee made up of Michelle Andersen, myself, Phil Hall, Dave McCutcheon, Alice Fleming, Kim Andersen and Paul Thompson are working through the process of identifying funding options and examining quotes.

Respectfully submitted by **Linda Hof**



Reception

Our 2024 volunteer Reception Team includes Anne C., Linda H., Maria T., Karen L., Cynthia C., Debbie T. and Leigh., with support from Barb, Debbie H, and Angie (who is joining us for 2025).

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the reception volunteers at Como Lake United Church. Your warm welcome, kind assistance, and dedication create a space of hospitality and support for our congregation and community. Whether greeting visitors, answering inquiries, or offering a reassuring presence, your efforts help strengthen our church family. Your generosity of time and spirit does not go unnoticed, and we deeply appreciate the impact you make in fostering connection and care.

Thank you for your commitment and kindness—your service is a true blessing to all who walk through our doors. We are grateful for you and celebrate the difference you make every day.

Respectfully submitted by **Michelle Andersen**

CHURCH LOGISTICS

Hospitality and Kitchen

We have 17 members on the committee. Anne Carson, Linda Hof, Betty Inglis, Gina Monahan, Karen Luckhart, Janet Blair, Debbie Hall, Mindy Lane, Cynthia Carre, Barb Mendt, Nita Williamson, Grace Best, Julie Hamilton, Sharon Easton, Carol Parker, Hazel Smythe, Mary Anne Bruce, with support from Michelle Andersen.

Hospitality Events

JANUARY

- A hospitality meeting was held on January 25 to discuss what the team might be able to help with for events held at the church.

FEBRUARY

- In February there was a small group gathered for what we called a coffee experiment with the new coffee machine. Smaller paper baskets were purchased after that.
- Some members helped set up as well as man the reception desk for the Music Festival which ran for over a week.
- A pot luck pancake dinner was held for Shrove Tuesday, where we attended to coffee/tea and clean up.

MARCH

- In March there was a Spring Tea for the women of the church one afternoon. Some help was required for providing sweets as well as set up & clean up.

APRIL

- April was a busy month as we helped set up, made coffee & tea and looked after the catered sandwiches & sweets for two funerals one weekend for two of our long time members of Como Lake United who passed away. Sweets were also provided by some members.
- There was another piano recital the week of April 22nd. That required some help with set up and being at the reception desk as well.

MAY

- In May a big event for the Bell Ringers tea required many hours of setting up numerous tables, making scones and getting all the condiments prepared for each table.

JUNE

- In June we had another Hospitality meeting to go over some details of setting up for funerals and other events

CHURCH LOGISTICS

Hospitality and Kitchen

SEPTEMBER

- September we had another meeting to start off the Fall season.
- A Marketplace meeting was held to go over the different tables as well as the set up and signup sheets to be put at the reception counter
- A logistics meeting was held in September as well.

OCTOBER

- A logistics meeting was held in September as well. In October we had a guest speaker Cecelia Cashore Reekie telling us about her story as an indigenous child. She also spoke about the children being taken from their families and put into residential schools and the trauma this has caused so many people. Coffee & tea and sweets were served after the presentation.
- We welcomed Rev. Scott to our congregation with a covenanting service followed by coffee, tea and sweets. We did the setup, clean up, tea & coffee for another of our long time member's funeral. That also required help looking after the family and guests, making sure the food tables were attended to.
- Another logistics meeting was held October 15, and a hospitality meeting two days later.
- There was a Mountain Suites Pot Luck dinner on October 26, but we weren't in charge of the set up for that event. The Congregation was invited to attend.

NOVEMBER

- November saw a busy time for the whole church as we set up for the Marketplace November 13 -15 culminating with the Marketplace on November 16, where a group from Hospitality ran our famous Marketplace Tea Room.

DECEMBER

- A congregation Pot luck luncheon with the usual help required was held on December 14 to finish off the year.



Respectfully submitted by
Mary Anne Bruce

CHURCH LOGISTICS

Custodial

Over the past year, Custodial, as well as volunteers, at Como Lake United Church has been actively supporting a variety of services, programs and events. Weekly worship services and our congregational events remain a cornerstone of the church's activities. Custodial duties have included ensuring the sanctuary is clean and prepared before services. Post-service clean-up has been efficiently managed to maintain a welcoming environment for the rest of the week.

The church's commitment to community engagement is evident in its hosting of diverse events, such as workshops, support groups, and cultural activities. Custodial staff have facilitated smooth transitions between events by maintaining cleanliness and adaptability to the varied needs of community organizers.

Rentals at the church increased substantially from 2023. We continue renting to respectful and appreciative groups! Custodial responsibilities have included pre- and post-event cleaning, ensuring rental spaces are properly clean and set for pre-check. Feedback from renters has been positive, particularly regarding the cleanliness and organization of the spaces.

Thank you to those volunteers who have assisted with setup, take down, and cleaning help after our events and rentals! Thank you to Kim Andersen for continuing to care for our space, our community and renters.

Respectively submitted by **Michelle Andersen**

Como Lake United Church / FirstService Residential

Christian Dahl, Building Manager from FirstService Residential and Michelle Andersen continue to work well together, meeting regularly for check-ins to discuss concerns and updates around the building's common space areas, and any community engagement planning.

This year we held one combined potluck, one Mountain View Suites dinner with Church members invited, and our annual summer BBQ, all very successful! We also started the Suites Summer Market Table together, which is now ongoing.



We thank FirstService and Christian for their partnership with us.

Respectfully submitted by **Michelle Andersen**

CHURCH LOGISTICS

Audio Visual Team

The Audio-Visual (AV) team at Como Lake United Church has played a vital role in ensuring seamless worship services and events throughout the year. From managing sound quality to coordinating live streams, our dedicated team have worked behind the scenes to enhance worship, events, rental and celebrations of life experiences for both in-person and online attendees.

This year we trained new staff and expanded our technical capabilities. Challenges and troubleshooting were met with teamwork and dedication. Looking ahead, we aim to upgrade key components and continue developing our team.

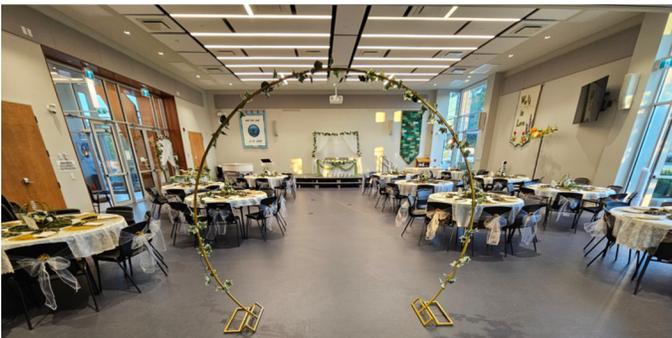
We extend our gratitude to our AV staff for their commitment and expertise. Your service enriches our church community in countless ways. We want to give a special thank you to Faith Alandi – Faith, you are missed, and we appreciate all your work on AV over the years. Also special thank you to Kees for his volunteer service in AV.

Respectfully submitted by **Michelle Andersen**

with the AV Team: Tamryn, Iván, Maria, Kees, Edward, and Anthony, (Nolan 2025)



Rentals



In 2024, we rented our Sanctuary space 86 times and Labyrinth 58 times. Some days Sanctuary and Labyrinth were rented together, but the leap from an average of 3.33 rentals a month in 2023 to approximately 12 rentals a month is quite extraordinary! We also quadrupled our proposed budget for 2024, bringing in over \$46,000.00.

We rented to our first two wedding receptions last summer, and further strengthened our community partnership rentals with Burke Mountain Naturalists, Anora Funeral Services, The members of our Ismaili Community, Harmony Choir, Vancouver Korean Choir, Coquitlam District Music Festival and North Fraser Music Festival.

Our rentals have created a bridge to our local community and we have loved every moment of meeting new people and sharing our space with those who continue to love and respect our church as much as we do!

We have been blessed to manage rentals through a team of the Coordinator, Audio Visual, Custodial, Security, Hospitality and Volunteers – we truly appreciate all the help of those who have supported our special event rentals that pertain to the Como Lake United Church family or close to.

Respectfully submitted by **Michelle Andersen**

CHURCH LOGISTICS

Financial - Narrative Budget 2025

This year we are testing a new way to talk about our finances called a “narrative budget.” A line-by-line budget is available to anyone who wants to see it. The purpose of this document is to tell the story about the financial resources entrusted to Como Lake – where they come from and what they are used for.

The story we tell about our finances is a way to talk about our identity and mission as a community of faith. It demonstrates our commitment as followers of Jesus to discipleship that includes generosity. It reminds us of what we do, and why we do it. The purpose we have articulated for ourselves has to do with being a caring Christian community that connects people with God and with one another. Our budget is one of the central ways we live out that purpose.

EXPENSES

Our current governance model divides the life and work of Como Lake United into three areas: Spiritual Development, Relational Wellness*, and Logistics and Facilities Management.



*The pie chart above and, the table at the end of this document, reflect Como Lake’s working budget used for accounting purposes, where all staff costs are included under Relational Wellness. That is why the budget for Relational Wellness is as large a proportion of the total budget as it is. In this narrative budget, we have distributed the staff costs according to the areas of ministry where staff time is allocated. This is the reason for the discrepancy between the Expenses pie chart and the table on the one hand, and the narrative portion on the other.

Financial - Narrative Budget 2025 cont...

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

\$118,325

Worship is the primary purpose of the body of Christ and the primary reason for the community gathering. It encompasses nearly all of what is listed in the Spiritual Development budget and more. Many people who think of church think of what happens on Sunday morning. Worship includes all the staff time and monetary resources that go into planning and leading weekly worship, music and copyright resources, sanctuary décor, special worship opportunities, and livestreaming our services to our on-line community.

Spiritual development also includes faith formation opportunities, which also have a significant staff component. The focus here is on the work of building up the body of Christ at Como Lake by helping all of us to grow in our Christian faith. The work of Christian nurture and formation teaches people the broader Christian story and helps them to draw connections between that story and their own lives.

RELATIONAL WELLNESS

\$50,272

As our purpose statement reminds us, connecting is a core part of what Como Lake United is about – connection with God and one another. In addition to the ways we do that through worship and spiritual development opportunities, this part of the budget includes community engagement, promotions and special events, pastoral care and outreach, and the associated staff time.

LOGISTICS AND CHURCH FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

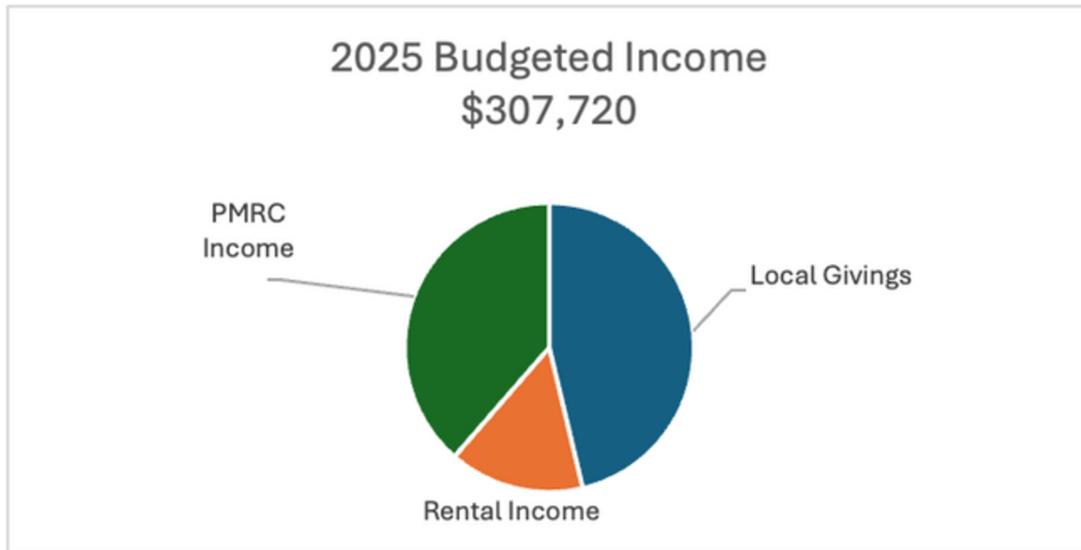
\$130,672

Much of the work that falls under this category is not particularly glamorous, but it is essential to Como Lake United functioning well. We are blessed with a beautiful facility for which there are numerous ongoing costs. From repairs and maintenance to cleaning and office supplies, from insurance and internet to the assessment we pay to the regional and national bodies of The United Church of Canada, from managing rental groups to insurance premiums, including the associated staffing costs, this part of the budget is what allows us to live out our mission and to keep doing what we're here to do.

Financial - Narrative Budget 2025 cont...

INCOME

Broadly speaking, we divide our income into three categories: local, PMRC, and rentals.



PACIFIC MOUNTAIN REGIONAL COUNCIL

\$118,800

In 2024, Como Lake signed an agreement with our regional council. Due to significant changes in our property redevelopment, we learned that the annuity we expected to receive along with the new building would not be forthcoming. In lieu of that, PMRC agreed to provide funding to pay for a minister. This agreement began in June 2024 and is for 5 years at full-time and a subsequent 2 years at half-time. We are very grateful to PMRC for this funding. We are also very aware that it is not something we can rely on. To continue to provide the ministry we do now, Como Lake has a short window of time to become self-sustaining.

RENTAL INCOME

\$46,520

Como Lake United is blessed to have a beautiful facility that other groups are eager to use. In 2024 we were pleased to realize quadruple the income we budgeted for. One of the leadership's goals for 2025 is to continue toward maximizing our rental income in ways that do not take away from Como Lake United's own use of the building.

Financial - Narrative Budget 2025 cont...

LOCAL GIVING

\$142,400

At the end of the day, it is the members and adherents of Como Lake United who continue to do the heavy lifting of funding our mission and ministry. Each person or household's financial commitment to Como Lake is an expression of how we live out our faith. We give thanks for your faithfulness to the life and work of this congregation – in your time, your participation, your money, and your prayer.

| | 2025 Budget | YTD Dec 29/24 | 2024 Budget |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Income | | | |
| Local Givings | 142400 | 132249 | 141240 |
| Rental Income | 46520 | 49327 | 10000 |
| PMRC Income | 118800 | 67000 | 67000 |
| Total Income | 307720 | 248576 | 218240 |
| Larger Work | | | |
| Total Larger Work | 6120 | 6146 | 12100 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Logistics/Facility Mgmt | 77972 | 71690 | 71745 |
| Relational Wellness | 202172 | 144436 | 105398 |
| Spiritual Development | 19125 | 16218 | 24122 |
| Total Expenses | 299269 | 232344 | 201265 |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | 8451 | 16232 | 16975 |

Our Finance team members are Debbie Hall, Barb Mendt, Susan Kennedy, Wendy Pavilionis and Paul Thompson.

It was a transitional year for our team as we continued to move away from the Power Church software, which we have used since the early 2000s, to Zoho books, which is much better suited for our electronic age. We also saw a change in leadership, as Susan Kennedy handed the treasurer's position over to co-treasurers Wendy Pavilionis and Paul Thompson.

Barb Mendt and Debbie Hall worked long hours during the year learning the new system while taking care of accounts payable and member contributions respectively. Susan Kennedy continued to process payroll, solve problems and provide training to Paul Thompson, who handled month end reconciliations. Wendy Pavilionis attended council meetings and handled congregational meetings. The team met formally five times during the year in addition to weekly work sessions.

For copies of the line item budgets for 2024 (actual) or 2025 (projected) please contact the office.

RELATIONAL WELLNESS

Leadership and Enrichment

LEADERSHIP AND ENRICHMENT

The objectives of the Leadership and Enrichment Operating Fund are:

- To provide financial assistance to interested people of the congregation who wish to partake in an opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills to further their own leadership development and growth so that they can contribute within the church community.
- To support the desire for continued Christian growth and learning.
- To enable groups and ministries with the church to bring qualified leaders to conduct workshops or seminars.

Contributions may be received to augment this fund.

Our unit members are Betty Inglis and Marilyn McCutcheon. We do need more members and our hope for 2025 is that we can have at least one more member join our fold.

Education for learning and skill development for congregants is a primary function of this fund. This past year there was one application to this unit, and we will be working on communication to gain members and to spread information about the fund.

The Church treasurer supplied the committee with a year-end financial statement.

Respectfully submitted

Marilyn McCutcheon

Knitting Ministry

KNITTING MINISTRY

This year has seen us at sixes and sevens working on Prayer shawls and blankets. Mostly as we been involved elsewhere in church life! We hope to soon get back to where we can have a larger supply of Prayer Shawls and Blankets for Pastoral Care or any Congregant to take and give to anyone who needs support during an illness or from the loss of someone or something in their lives. A few are available for anyone to take now. We were happy to be able to provide 4 shawls to Inlet for the blessing of their new mural in October.

We have expanded the group to include anyone who wants to do other hand-work projects they have on the go. Everyone is welcome to just pop by for support or a chat.

Respectfully submitted by **Anne Carson**

RELATIONAL WELLNESS

Women of Como Lake United Church



Como Lake United Church Women have five active units - Arbutus, Daisy, Magnolia, Maple and Willow. Unfortunately, our Cypress Unit had to fold in 2024 due to low membership.

We do not have a president at this time but Janet Blair has been our treasurer for many years and Janice Warneboldt continues on as secretary.

In March the UCW held a very successful Spring Tea hosted by the Daisies. There was a short business meeting where \$500 was given to the church, \$300 to M&S and \$200 to Share. At that time, \$1333.50 was also given for church lighting. After the business meeting, Ron Warneboldt gave a well received presentation on the Rotary Club of Coquitlam.

The UCW also hosted a fundraising pub night in April and many members participated in the successful church fair in November.

In conclusion, the Women of Como Lake United Church are looking forward to an active 2025!

Respectfully submitted by:
Janice Warneboldt

Como Lake United Church Women Financial Statement 2024

Opening Balance 5,937.62

Income

Pub Night 1,130.00
General Funds 71.35
Total **1,201.35**

Expenses

CLUC General Funds 600.00
M&S 300.00
SHARE Society 200.00
CLUC for moving light 1,333.50
Kitchen Items 76.14
Total **2509.64**

**Bank Balance as of Dec. 31, 2024
4629.33**

Respectfully submitted by
Janet Blair



RELATIONAL WELLNESS

Tea Tuesday and Birthday Club

TEA TUESDAY

We have grown a bit this year and regularly have about 30 folks join us each week. Some men also gathered to do projects and chat. The women chat and set the world to rights.

Tea Tuesday has also evolved into a monthly Celebration of our Birthdays. The last Tuesday of each month is set aside to Celebrate with those who have had a Birthday.

Respectfully submitted by **Anne Carson**



BIRTHDAY CLUB UPDATE

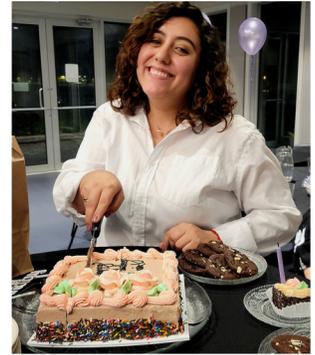
The last Tuesday of the month we celebrate the people that had/have a birthday in that month.

It is a fun and connecting event each month.

I take up a collection on the day we celebrate. The collection goes towards buying next month's cake and supplies when needed.

We raised \$187.50 last year.

Respectfully submitted by **Karen Luckhart**



Representatives to Pacific Mountain Regional Council

Representatives from Como Lake United Church - Marilyn McCutcheon and Mindy Lane Communication between churches and the PMRC happened weekly on line. Churches were encouraged to share information about events happening in their churches.

The 6th Annual General Meeting of the Pacific Mountain Regional Council (May 30, 2024 - June 2, 2024) was held both on line (Whova meeting platform) and in person at St. Andrew's Wesley United Church in Vancouver, BC. The keynote presenter, Patty Krawec engaged our theme 'Connecting, Collaborating, Cultivating'.

On June 2, 2024 during the Celebration of Ministry, Rev. Dr. Japheth Ndhlova was the special presider and guest. Three new members to the order of Ministry were ordained. Meeting also included: Proposals/Remit, Memorials and Service of Lament, meeting newcomers to the Region, Executive report, Naramata Centre update, and Indigenous Ministry update and report.

Submitted by **Mindy Lane**

RELATIONAL WELLNESS

Marketplace

MARKETPLACE 2024

The Marketplace is our largest fundraising event. In 2024 it took place on Nov 19.

Many volunteers participate and also donate time and goods. This year we operated 11 stations - baking, Christmas, crafts, door prizes, jams, jewellery, wood crafts, new and nearly new, silent auction, surprise packages and the ever popular tea room.

Besides earning funds, it promotes enthusiasm and camaraderie. We earned about \$9500.00 and look forward to next year's event.

2024 Coordinator

Wendy Pavilionis



Friday Walking Group

We began our Friday morning walks in the early fall 2024 to promote exercise and congregational interaction.

We begin from the church and walk around our local park area for around 45 min. Then we walk to a local coffee shop to chat.

We average 7 walkers and enjoy our time together. Others can join us at any time.

Coordinator

Roman Pavilionis

RELATIONAL WELLNESS

Adopt-A-Street

Como Lake United Church joined this City of Coquitlam community street cleaning project in June 2024. It is a renewable one year at a time commitment. Our route is Folsom/Smith/Porter.

It's great to be involved and we have an amazing team with lots of volunteers and spaces open for new folk as people come and go. Two of the team go out once a month on a revolving basis. The work takes no longer than two hours and our streets Folsom/Smith/Porter are pretty and well cared for. No incidents so far.

We have signs on Porter and Smith stating that "Como Lake United Church" is responsible for clean up. So far most of our team have managed action photos with the sign which have mostly appeared in our "Caring Connection."

Team & friends : Pam Durante, Anne Carson, Anne Sheriff, Barb Mendt, Janet Blair, Joanne Spence, Sharie Ford, Valerie Simpson, Cynthia Carre, Allison Pesch, Gaynor Hagyard, Melody Hainsworth, Kim, Michelle and Tasha

Respectfully Submitted by
Pam Durant



RELATIONAL WELLNESS

Community Engagement

Como Lake United Church: A Community of Care, Connection, and Celebration

At Como Lake United Church we are a thriving, caring, and connected community. Through our diverse programs, we walk alongside one another, offering support, learning, and moments of deep reflection. Whether through acts of service, creative expression, or shared meals, our church is a place where faith is lived out in action.

Caring for One Another. Programs of Support & Generosity

Our church is committed to serving and supporting one another through life's many seasons. Programs like Kevin's Angel Program, Relationship Support and It's Alright Grief Workshop provide compassionate care, ensuring that no one in our community is left behind. These workshops provided a sacred space for those processing loss, and offering companionship on the road to healing.

We also recognized the importance of Alzheimer's Awareness in January 2024, offering a presentation and conversation to educate and uplift families facing this journey.

For practical support, Maria offered her Computer Help Services, ensuring that all members—no matter their level of tech knowledge—can stay connected in the digital world.

Embracing the Spiritual and the Creative

Faith is a journey of both stillness and movement, contemplation and expression. We are grateful for Morgan's Labyrinth Walks, which invited participants to slow down, reflect, and experience deep spiritual grounding. Adel's Spiritual Movement and Contemplative Movement provided another avenue for embodying faith through mindful motion.

Our community also embraces the power of sound and creativity. Sound Baths offered vibrational healing through music, while Intuitive Art workshops encouraged people to explore their spirituality through artistic expression. We are grateful to The Burke Mountain Naturalists, who welcomed community to The Enchantment of Crows by Rob Butler, bringing the magic of nature and storytelling into our space.

Music & Worship: Lifting Voices in Harmony

Music has always been at the heart of our faith, and we are blessed by the many musicians who bring joy to our services and events. Beyond our regular worship, we opened our doors for the Resilience Bell Choir Concert Tea, Two Music Festivals, and performances that bring the broader community together in song and fellowship.

RELATIONAL WELLNESS

Community Engagement cont...

Gathering as a Community: Meals, Markets, and More

Nothing fosters connection quite like sharing a meal. We gather throughout the year for special moments of hospitality, including:

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – A beloved time of community
- Summer BBQ – A warm-weather tradition of food and fellowship
- Thanksgiving Potluck & Christmas Potluck – Celebrating gratitude and togetherness with shared meals (Thank you to 4HEADS Band and Tatiana and her students for your beautiful performances).
- In 2024, we implemented our Summer Market Table – which allows a community sharing of fresh foods and produce. Thank you to COBS Bread, Safeway and all those who contribute to this table, which is now year-round.
- Beyond our tables, we also connect through our Marketplace, a space where community members can enjoy the Tea Room, share goods, crafts, and meaningful interactions.

Serving the Wider Community: Outreach & Social Justice

We believe faith calls us to action, and Como Lake United Church has a long tradition of caring for the greater community. Our food security initiatives include: Food Drives for SHARE, Food Bank on Wheels and SFU Pantry Support.

We also honor and recognize important social justice movements. Red Dress Day holds a sacred space in our community, bringing awareness to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S).

Special Events & Seasonal Celebrations

Throughout the year, we create space for celebration, remembrance, and joy. Our Lantern Making Workshop was a highlight, bringing light into the winter months. The Shack Book Study with Pastor Kevin brought connection and a deeper look into our faith when facing grief.

During the holidays, we rallied in generosity through our Toy Drive for SHARE, ensuring that all children in our community experience the warmth of the season.

A Church That Thrives in Love & Service

At Como Lake United Church, we are deeply grateful for every person who contributes to our community. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our volunteers, AV volunteers, custodial team, coordinators, musicians, leadership and all who give their time and energy to make our church a place of welcome and care. Together, we continue to grow in faith, love, and action—offering not just a place of worship, but a true community of belonging.

Respectfully submitted by **Michelle Andersen**

RELATIONAL WELLNESS

Community Engagement Gallery



RELATIONAL WELLNESS

COMMUNICATIONS

Over the past year, Como Lake United Church has continued to strengthen and expand its communication efforts to keep our congregation informed, connected, and engaged. Through a combination of digital platforms, printed materials, and in-person discussions, we strive to ensure that everyone in our church community has access to the latest news, events, and opportunities for involvement.

Caring Connection – Weekly Email Update

The Caring Connection, our weekly email newsletter, has become an invaluable resource for members of our congregation. It provides updates on worship services, prayer requests, volunteer opportunities, and community initiatives. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to those who have sponsored the Caring Connection throughout the year. Your generosity has ensured that this vital communication tool remains accessible to all by subsidizing our printing costs.

Regular Meetings & Open Dialogue

Communication is a two-way street, and we are grateful for the opportunities to engage in regular meetings, including Zoom, with our church leadership, volunteers, and congregation members. These gatherings, whether in person or online, provide space for discussion, feedback, and collaboration. Your voices help shape the direction of our ministries and program efforts.

Live Streaming & Online Worship Growth

One of the most significant developments in our communications outreach has been the live streaming of



COMMUNICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS 2024

- Sent 53 Caring Connections to 202 email recipients.
- Sponsorship of Caring Connections total for 2024 - \$600.00
- In 2024 we had 20,118 visits to our website. In order of most viewed pages: Home page, Event Calendar, About Us, Rentals, Contact Us.
- Our Google profile has over 1,300 interactions since September 2024 (searching for directions, calling or clicking through to our website) and over 4,000 views of our Google Business profile - quadruple the interactions from 2023.
- We had 43 people join us on our Facebook page, and our content interaction was up by 12.5%.
- We started a focus on our Instagram page and have 144 followers.
- Started sharing event slides on Sundays before worship service - a fun and easy way to share information.
- The reception desk became "Sign Up Central" - it is wonderful to have so many happenings to sign up for.
- Addition of a guest book at the front for Sundays and events - helps us reach people who are interested in learning more about us and receiving information.

RELATIONAL WELLNESS

COMMUNICATIONS

our Sunday services on YouTube. This initiative has allowed us to reach members who are unable to attend in person, as well as extend our ministry beyond our local congregation.

We are pleased to report that viewership has increased, with more people tuning in weekly to participate in worship. Whether joining from home, on the go, or from different parts of the world, our online community continues to grow, reflecting the expanding reach of Como Lake United Church.

Website & Digital Presence

Our website www.ComoLakeUnited.ca serves as a central hub for information, providing updates on upcoming services, special events, community outreach programs, and ways to get involved. We are continually improving the site to enhance user experience and ensure it reflects the vibrant spirit of our church. We hope to push into a more story-feel for 2025 - with blogs, community contributions, and videos!

Our social media platforms have also played a key role in expanding our reach beyond our physical walls. Through Facebook and Instagram we share inspirational messages, event reminders, and community highlights. Engaging with our online audience has allowed us to foster a sense of connection even when we cannot be together in person.

In addition to expanding our digital outreach, Como Lake United Church has seen a notable increase in visibility through our Google Search profile. More people are discovering our church online, whether searching for service times, community events, or ways to get involved. Increased engagement with our Google profile—through searches, website visits, and map directions—indicates a growing interest in our church both from new visitors and returning members. This enhanced online presence allows us to better connect with those seeking a welcoming faith community, and we will continue to optimize our digital presence to reach more people.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, we remain committed to enhancing our communication strategies. We encourage everyone to stay connected by:

- ✓ Visiting the church website regularly
- ✓ Reading the weekly Caring Connection email
- ✓ Following us on social media
- ✓ Watching and sharing our live-streamed services on YouTube
- ✓ Attending meetings and offering feedback

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your engagement, feedback, and support ensure that Como Lake United Church remains a welcoming and connected community.

With gratitude, **Michelle Andersen**



Como Lake United Church

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