

Connections Summer 2017



COMOX VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

725 Aspen Rd. Comox, BC V9M 4E9 250-339-2882

email: office@cvpc.ca

web: cvpc.ca

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A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Col. Chris Hadfield recently said in an interview with *Canadian Traveller* "The necessity to temper your understanding of the world through experience and through actual travel - to allow the solutions and history and reality of others give you a perspective that helps you make better decisions beyond your particular circle of direct experience-is so important." I couldn't agree more. Travel and exposure to other cultures helps us become more informed and less ignorant about "the other." I have been thinking about travel a lot as we make some plans for summer holidays and as I listen to my Father-in-law reminisce about his various postings and experiences (From Alert to Egypt and Germany to Bermuda). Now-a-days, at the time of writing this article, his travel is restricted to weekly trips to the Abbotsford Hospital. It is hard to acknowledge that his travelling days have come to an almost complete stop and yet I

know he is grateful for the experiences he has had. I know many of you have great travel stories and most of us have, at the very least, travelled to the Comox Valley to live here.

I have also begun to think of Scripture as "travel writing". Not only are most stories about people who travel from one destination to the next (think of stories like the Exodus, exile, Jesus' journey to Jerusalem or Paul's various travels to early churches in Mesopotamia) but it is also about travelling through life, experiencing the richness of this world and the challenges facing the human condition. In nearly every book of the Bible there is a story about travel. Even in the Book of Psalms it says things like, "You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do" (Psalm 139:3 NLT). Again, this travel does not necessarily mean physical travel to foreign places but also the

travelling through life, even when it seems to be coming to an end. Perhaps some of you loved to travel but now with the cost of insurance and physical ailments travel is less likely or often or trips are becoming increasingly restricted to visits to the doctors. Let me assure you that God travels with us no matter how mundane the trip. God sees us when we are exploring a new place and when we are reminiscing about days gone by. Later on in Psalm 139 it asks, where can I go from your spirit? (vs7) Even the darkness is not dark to you (vs 12). What this psalm tells me is that God is with us throughout our journey, even when we are in total darkness. The challenge is that sometimes when we are experiencing darkness it is difficult for us to experience the realities of God's blessings. I pray that this summer you will have opportunities to travel, be it in memories or in physical experience, be it a simple trip for coffee with a friend or in an all-inclusive resort and that in all of it you know that God travels with you.

Speaking of travel, we have a few important programs and dates to share with you and nearly all of them involve travel! October 31st, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the day Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses

on a door in Wittenberg, Germany which then started the protestant reformation. Without this one event the Presbyterian Church would not exist as it does today! Therefore on Tuesday May 23rd at 2pm everyone is invited to the first part of a two part celebration of the Reformation. This event will include a viewing of Rick Steves' 1 hr documentary entitled "Luther and the Reformation", German pretzels and Apfelkuchen (Apple Cake). The cost is a suggested donation of \$5. In the fall we will continue the celebration with a German supper and travelogue of Wittenberg (keep an eye on the bulletin for dates).

Again this July we will be sharing in joint services with the three United Churches in the Valley. July 2 will be at Comox United at 10am, July 9th we will be hosting at 10:30am, July 16th it is at St. George's at 10:30am and on July 23rd it will be at Cumberland United at 10am. Please mark your calendars. A sign-up sheet for rides will be made available. Enjoy travelling to other churches and be sure to allow the "solutions and history and realities of others" to help you to learn more about yourself and others. Enjoy your summer!

Rev. Jenn Geddes

Important Dates from the Minister:

May 21 Pulpit Exchange with the Rev. Chris Clarke from St. Andrew's Duncan. Join us in welcoming Rev. Chris and his family!
May 23 2pm Luther 500 Event
May 26 4:30pm Fourth Friday Taize Communion Service. Come participate in the last Taize style service for the season.
 May 29-June 13 Jenn on Holidays
June 15 THURSDAY Session
June 20 CVPC is hosting Presbytery

June 25 COMMUNION

Joint Services:

July 2 Comox United at 10am (250 Beach Dr)
July 9 Comox Valley Presbyterian at 10:30am
July 16 St. George's United at 10:30am (505 6th St)
July 23 Cumberland United at 10am (2688 Penrith St)
July 24-31 Jenn on Holidays
Sept. 11-18 Jenn on Holidays



WELL DONE! Thank you for your generous donations to Project Watershed over Lent. We raised, \$2668.24 for this local charity. We pray that it will assist in the various habitat rehabilitation projects going on in the Comox Valley watershed. The Mission Committee thanks you for your support and encouragement.



Church Breakfast, Sat. May 6.

Lloyd Kuhn chats with Edith Jones from Piercy's Funeral Home, who gave a talk on funeral Arrangements.

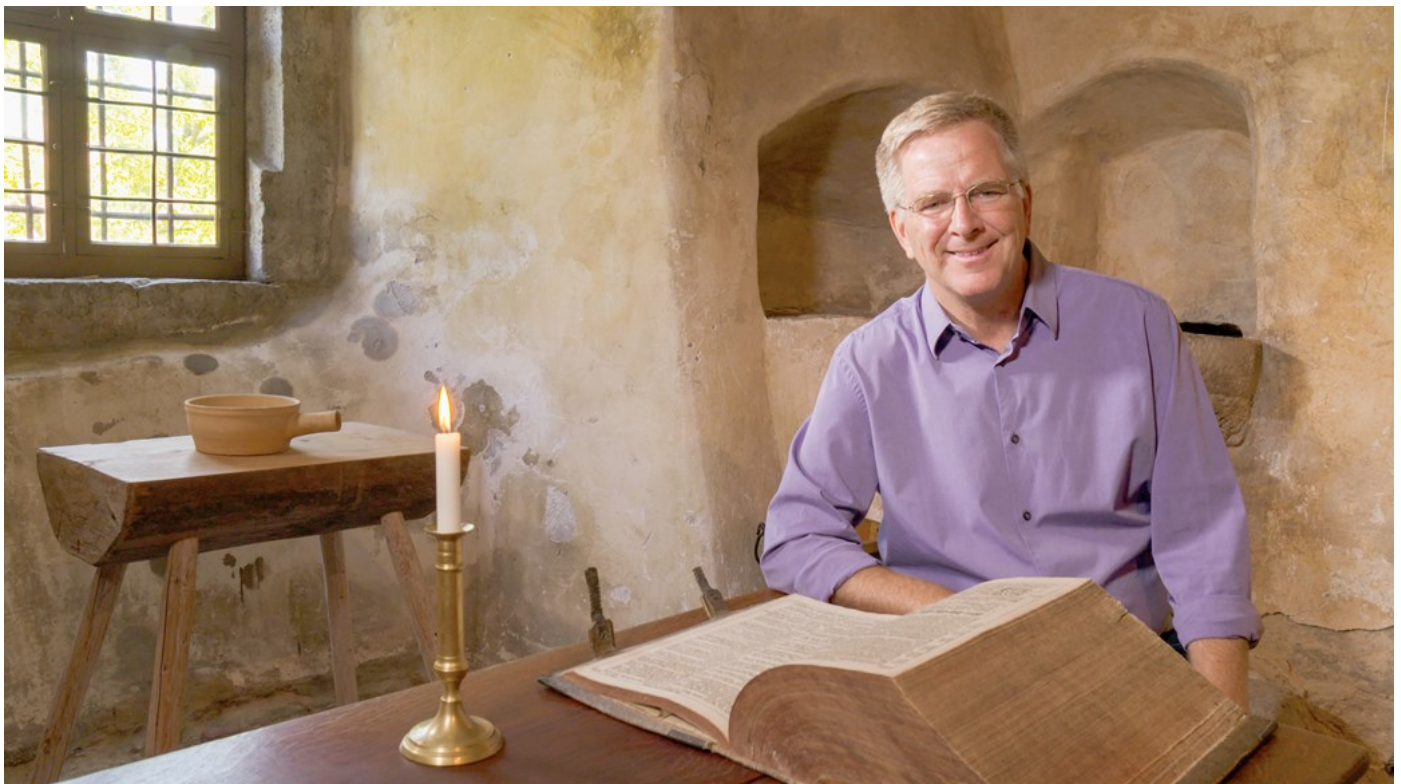


Luther 500!

Come help us celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by attending a viewing of Rick Steves' "Luther and the Reformation"

Enjoy this 1 hour documentary and time of fellowship with pretzels, Apfelkuchen, tea and coffee

**May 23rd at 2 pm
Comox Valley Presbyterian Church
Please sign up on the bulletin board
Suggested Donation of \$5**





Weekend Escape— July 6 (3:00 pm) to July 10 2017 (11:00 am) French Beach Provincial Park

Come to the wild west coast and experience the pacific ocean and lush green forests at French Beach. This camp site has shade areas; a large, communal shelter (with running water); a fire pit and out-houses (no flush toilets or showers). Space for cars and RV's is limited. Weather can be unpredictable so check the forecast and bring your rain jacket (just in case!). Over the weekend, there will be speakers sharing a faith related message for all campers. On Sunday, campers are invited to Knox, Sooke.

Rate for the entire camp:

\$110.00

Rate per night:

\$30.00

Register online at vipresbytery.net

Rates based on camping units of a maximum of 2 adults and 2 children. Additional adults in your camping unit will require an additional \$5.00 per night and additional children are \$2 per night.

Registration and payment deadline is June 15, 2017.

Please send a cheque to:

Camp V I P c/o 2408 Glenayr Drive, Nanaimo, B.C. V9S 3R7

Fees must be sent at the time of registration



Weekend Escape— July 19 (3:00 pm) to July 24 2017 (11:00 am) Rathtrevor Beach Provincial Park

Swim in the warm ocean, take a walk to the nature house, build sandcastles and enjoy activities. This site is on gravel (bring a thick groundsheet if you are camping in a tent) but it is very close to an amazing, sandy beach. There are flush toilets and showers in the park. Over the weekend, there will be speakers sharing a faith related message for all campers. On Sunday, campers are invited to worship at St. Columba's.

Rate for the entire camp:

\$140.00

Rate per night:

\$30.00

Register online at vipresbytery.net

Rates based on camping units of a maximum of 2 adults and 2 children. Additional adults in your camping unit will require an additional \$5.00 per night and additional children are \$2 per night.

Registration and payment deadline is June 15, 2017.

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**Weekend Escape— Aug1 (3:00 pm) to Aug 7 2017 (11:00 am)
Miracle Beach Provincial Park**

Come Camping on the August long weekend. The beach is beautiful and feature tide pools to explore. There are trails and a playground and of course there will be Camp VIP activities for campers of all ages! The group site has partial shade and is quite private. There are outhouses in the group site and flush toilets and showers in the park. Over the weekend, there will be speakers sharing a faith related message for all campers. On Sunday, campers are invited to worship at Trinity, Campbell River.

Rate for the entire camp:

\$170.00

Rate per night:

\$30.00

Register online at vipresbytery.net

Rates based on camping units of a maximum of 2 adults and 2 children. Additional adults in your camping unit will require an additional \$5.00 per night and additional children are \$2 per night.

Registration and payment deadline is June 15, 2017.

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