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**St. Aidan’s is DREAMING BIG**

this Fall with spiritual practices
such as flying a kite!
**What is reVision?** You may notice a buzz in the air this Fall at St. Aidan’s as we embark on an exciting discernment process along with Cadboro Bay United Church. It’s a time for our churches to dream big about our ministries in this corner of the world. It is the goal of this program to integrate spiritual practice, spirituality and the heart into the head process of discernment and listening to the way God’s Spirit is calling to us at this juncture of our lives together.

**How does it work?** About 150 people have signed up for small groups of about 10 people that will meet about 7 times this Fall. They will read the book, *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass, receive daily devotional emails and journal on suggested topics. Worship will focus on this spiritual journey of discerning together. If you did not sign up for a small group, you can still participate by signing up for the daily devotional emails by contacting the church office.

**Convergence Summit @ St. Aidan’s**

Nov. 25th from 9:30 am – 4 pm

After 90 days of journeying together, our congregations will gather for the Convergence Summit. We’ll share what we have learned through this discernment process. It is a time to share our yearning, dreams, ideas and hopes for the future of our church communities. An outcome of this day will be the formation of Proposal Teams that will further explore summit ideas.

Participants from both churches are invited to the Summit regardless of whether you have been in a small group or not. **Don’t miss this important event. Your input is important!**
Welcome to the Church of St. Aidan’s Fall Program Guide

Aidan, the 7th Century Irish Monk after whom our community is named was a man who sought learning and understanding throughout his lifetime. He was a man of prayer and deep spirituality. He was a humble man who walked and talked equally with the rich and poor. He believed service to others was a way to serve God. He worked in Ireland, Scotland and England in culturally sensitive and bridge building ways.

The Church of St. Aidan is inspired by St. Aidan’s example. In this program guide you will find opportunities to deepen your prayer, meditation, worship and spiritual life. You will find programs that engage you in meeting people from all walks of life. There are opportunities to serve others and really make a difference in your own and other people’s lives. There are chances to work interculturally and to build bridges. And there are so many other ways to engage and to grow. And there is lots of opportunity for fun and laughter.

On your behalf I want to recognize and thank Kathryn Clinton in the office for her determination and grace in getting this guide into your hands. As you receive this in your in-box you will also be able to go to our webpage and find a copy of this guide. As changes and updates are made in the coming weeks you will find the webpage copy the most complete and current information.

With great anticipation of the fall ministry at St. Aidans, Cheryl Black, Minister

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Weekly Activities at St. Aidan’s

Sundays 9 -9:30 am Learn to Meditate Drop In  
10 am Sunday Service  
11:30 am Intercultural Social Events  
Mondays 10 am Caregiver & Tot Drop In  
10:30 am Discussion Group Drop In  
7 pm Sunday Band Practice (3rd Monday)  
Tuesdays 10 – 11:30 am ESL Class  
10:30 am Moira’s Christian Meditation  
Wednesdays 10am-2pm & 4-8 pm Thrift Shop  
2 pm Seniors Gathering  
5:30 pm Children’s Choir practice  
Thursdays 10 – 11:30 am ESL Class  
CHOIR Practices 4:00 pm Jubilate (Women) Choir  
5 - 6:30 pm Mirabile Choir (mixed)  
6:30 pm Ted Boulden Singers  
Saturday (last of the month) 10am – 2pm Thrift Shop

Dates to Remember

Sept. 30 10 am – 2pm POP UP SALE  
October 20 9:30 am Apple Pie Making Party  
Nov. 4 10 am – 3 pm Fall Bazaar  
Nov. 25 9:30 am-4 pm reVisioning Convergence Summit

This is only some of the dates to remember! Check our weekly Life & Work newsletter for updates and more information.
Worship is an ancient spiritual practice that is undertaken by people of all faiths and spiritual inclinations. Each faith community shapes their patterns of worship and then they are shaped by their pattern of worship. At St. Aidan’s our worship pattern is casual and gently structured as we sing, pray, interpret the scripture stories metaphorically, listen to a reflection of about 15 minutes, share our concerns and celebrations with one another. We begin with adults and children together and after a special story time and ‘Kids Band’ song the children go off to their age-appropriate programme with their university age teachers. Our service includes an offering given by participants to support the ministry of St. Aidan’s, although the passing plate often looks empty as many now give by Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR).

St. Aidan’s seeks to be a community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to:

- Long time church people and those who are newcomers
- Believers, seekers and agnostics,
- Those of all sexual orientations and gender identities,
- Those of all cultures and languages
- Those of all classes and abilities;
- Those of all financial ability

We approach our sacred centering activities with OPEN MINDS, HEARTS & DOORS.

We have a hearing assist system, large print material, wheel chair accessible building, and a diversity of people. Everyone is welcome here.

There are 4 worship type gatherings every week: Sunday 9 -9:35 a.m. Meditation; 10 a.m. Gathering; Moira’s Meditation on Tuesdays, and the Wednesday Gathering at 1:30 – 3:00 pm. Check out all these diverse experiences.

**SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10 AM**

We gather weekly at 10:00 am on Sunday mornings for worship. Our children's program (page 6) happens at the same time. Communion is usually served on the 4th Sunday of the month. Plan to stay after service for coffee and an activity. As well, join the AfterWords group that meets to discuss the service’s message. (see Learning & Growing)

**LEARN TO MEDITATE DROP IN FROM 9 – 9:30 AM**

On Sundays, prior to the 10 am Service, St. Aidan’s offers a facilitated time of meditation in the Chapel. This time begins at 9 am with a Quiet reflection, a short reading followed by ½ hour of silent contemplation with quiet background music. We end in prayer. It is a time to just “be”, embraced by the Holy...

_Facilitated by Betty Anne Dempsey_ 250-208-4394

**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION**

**TUESDAYS FROM 10:30 11:30 AM**

Come and sit in sacred stillness. Christian meditation ([www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org)) is based on an old tradition dating back to the 4th century. Sit quietly, listen to music, hear a short recorded talk and then enter into 20 minutes of contemplative silence. This method of meditation involves repeating a word(s) in an attempt to draw us away from our own thoughts and concerns in an attempt to attain harmony of body, mind and spirit. All faiths are welcome. This is a drop-in program held in the chapel.

_Facilitated by Moira Wightman_ 250-477-7689
HAPPY HOUR  SENIOR’S GATHERING AT 2 PM

This midweek gathering is led by Cheryl Black or Betty Anne Dempsey and is designed to be interactive, educational and entertaining. The group meets in the chapel for an alternative worship experience including a brief opening, singing beloved old hymns and talking together or learning from a speaker. An offering is taken at this activity and if you have a St. Aidan’s offering envelope number be sure and use it. The offering supports the Taxi Ministry which allows people who don’t have transportation to still come and participate. There is time to visit with old friends and make new ones. Contact the office if you need a ride to this gathering.

SANCTUARY CHOIRS – JUBILATE & MIRABILE

Rehearse Thursday evenings In the Music Room/Sanctuary and lead Sunday Service on the first 2 Sundays of the month.

Mirabile Choir for Women’s voices practices on Thursdays from 4 pm – 5 pm.
Jubilate Choir is for mixed men’s/women’s voices and practices on Thursdays from 5 pm – 6:30 pm. Contact Nell Howard, Music Director (music@staidansunited.com)

TED BOULDEN SINGERS CHOIR

Rehearses Thursday evenings at 6:30 pm. Ted Boulden Singers (TBS) is a choir of all ages that sings contemporary Christian folk music in four-part harmony with guitar and/or piano accompaniment. We lead the music on the fourth Sunday Service of each month, as well as a number of occasions throughout the year. TBS Leader Kelly Orr-Loney at 250-658-4275

SUNDAY BAND

The Sunday Band and vocal leaders lead music at the third Sunday Gathering of the month. The Band generally rehearses the Monday prior to the service. All instrumentalists and singers are welcome and encouraged to join in on some fun and thoughtful music making. Upcoming practices and services are: Oct. 9 for Oct. 15 service, Nov. 13 for Nov. 19, Dec. 11 for Dec. 17. Band Leader: andre.clouthier@gmail.com

CHILDREN’S CHOIR

The children rehearse on Wednesdays at 5:30 pm, memorizing age appropriate songs of faith, and presenting that song at the 10 am. Gathering once a month. Children 4 years and up are welcome. Contact Children’s Choir Leader: Olivia Duffin: Oliviad.livs@gmail.com

MUSIC FOR ALL

Come join our music making!
Our regular musical style at the 10 a.m. Sunday Service is by piano/organ with a rehearsed choir anthem and a mix of modern and traditional hymns. On the third Sunday of the month music is provided by the Sunday Band with vocalists leading the singing of both sacred and secular songs. There is a choir or instrumental combo that is right for you!

ST. AIDAN’S CHOIRS

The invitation to sing is wide open. Our church choirs lead worship three Sundays of each month. If you like music and singing you will like the choral singing at St. Aidan’s. You will find a supportive community within a community where music is fun and the folk amazing. Also, there is nothing quite as wonderful (or important) as leading music in worship. Please come join us!
KID'S BAND
Children attending the 10 am Sunday Gathering are invited to take part in this impromptu band.

CHILDREN’S LIBRARY
St. Aidan’s Library is open to the community! We welcome parents and children, too. Our rocking chair and pillow corner are the perfect places to share a picture or board book. Our family room has a change table for your convenience.

SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAMS
We are excited about becoming a welcoming, intergenerational family of faith. We offer programming for children and youth that allows them:

- to experience God
- to freely explore all their child-wise questions
- to have fun and make friends

We welcome all ages and stages. If you want to find a quiet place, our Family Room, located at the front of the sanctuary, has a change table, washroom and play area.

On Sunday mornings, children ages 2 and up meet at the children’s table in the sanctuary. Following Children’s Time during the service, our Children and Youth Leaders will gather them up for Sunday School in the church hall.

There is a Children’s Choir and an impromptu Kid’s Band on Sunday mornings (see Music).
Contact: Megan Steffens
Meganlsteffens@gmail.com

CAREGIVER & TOT DROP IN
We are pleased to offer a drop in program for children under 5 years and their caregivers on Mondays (except for stat. holidays) from 10 am – 12 pm. Contact: Maisie
maisie.brenner@gmail.com

Youth
St. Aidan's Youth Program focuses on fostering relationships between youth and young adult through monthly gatherings which include lunches, outings to local attractions, holiday festivities and social justice initiatives. Through these activities we will learn about our local community while discussing what it means to be a youth in the church. An important part of our youth program also involves taking part in wider church activities such as all-ages games nights and “Sunday Sundaes”. In this way we hope to engage youth both with people their age, as well as with the wider St. Aidan’s community.

In order to fund these activities and other youth retreats in Victoria and throughout the province, the youth group will also be holding some fundraisers which will be planned throughout the year with help from leaders and youth.

For more information about Youth and Young Adult programs at St. Aidan’s, please contact Megan Steffens, Youth Leader, by email at meganlsteffens@gmail.com to be added to our email list (our main form of correspondence) and watch for updates in the weekly news.
Learning & Growing

CHURCH LIBRARY

Our church library is a ministry to the congregation and to the wider community, supporting the congregation’s core values. We have a large collection of material for leisure, learning and healing of the soul. We also carry resource materials for the various study groups and sessions held at St. Aidans, such as truth and reconciliation, science and religion, death and grief, and much more. You can search the collection on our website and place holds, or go into the church and browse the shelves, sit in the rocking chair and read, or borrow books or magazines to take home. St. Aidan’s library welcomes visitors Monday to Friday from 9:30 am to 9 pm, or whenever our doors are open. Feel free to browse, or self-register at the counter to borrow a book. With a cozy corner and rocking chair, stroller-friendly entrance, nursing room and change table, we’re ready for babies and toddlers, too. Make us part of your stroller route.

Last fall we launched an addiction Recovery Resource Library for the community. This is a great resource for anyone dealing with addictions (drugs, alcohol, food, shopping, internet, etc.) and their families and friends. Look for it in the Lounge to the left of the entrance. Questions? Contact our Librarian, Louise Booth at staidans.library@gmail.com

Ongoing Groups to Join

Monday Morning Discussion Group
This ongoing discussion group led by Cheryl Black on Mondays from 10:30 – 11:30 am is for you if you...
• want to help with the Sunday reflection?
• are interested in the ancient stories of scripture?
All are welcome to attend this small group of 10-14 people. The group does not meet on holiday Mondays.

Bookworms Book Club
St. Aidan’s Bookworms is a small group that reads and discusses two or three books a year, exploring spirituality and contemporary religious concepts. We meet twice monthly at 1:30; the 1st Wednesday is at members’ homes and the 3rd Wednesday is at the church.

Book study for this fall is ‘Through the Narrow Gate’ by Karen Armstrong; 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 1:30 p.m. starting Sept 21.

We welcome new members or visitors who would like to drop in. Please contact Janis Evans 250-383-1956 or rjevans1@telus.net

Bus Trip Ministry
Betty Anne Dempsey leads this program that organizes field trips for friends of St. Aidan’s. This is a wonderful opportunity to have fun, make new
friends and explore beyond the traditional walls of church.

*The next trip planned is to Chemainus for Lunch and Theatre on Dec. 2, 2017. Sign up in the library in the next few weeks.*

The Bus Trip Ministry is open to everyone in our community. Invite your friends & family. Questions? Trip ideas? Call Betty Anne @ 778 432-3776

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**Reaching Out**

Reaching Out is one of the core values of St. Aidan’s and there are many opportunities for people whose call is to go into all the world and create a holy trust and share a generous compassion. In following Jesus ministry St. Aidan’s walks bravely in the world – working with others, feeding the hungry and walking with those whom society doesn’t value. Is Reaching Out your call? Consider these opportunities:

**FAIR TRADE COFFEE**

St. Aidan’s is committed to providing fair trade coffee at church events and on Sundays. Certified fair trade coffee guarantees a price for cooperatives of small farmers, which in turn allows them to grow quality coffee and improve the quality of their lives. We sell fair trade **Level Ground Coffee** on Sundays and in the church office. Cost is $13 for 454 gram bag or 2 bags for $25. Contact: Roger Davidson 250-477-8515

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**FALL MARKET BAZAAR – NOV. 4, 2017**

A bazaar the size of ours does not happen overnight. It takes weeks of preparation. A lot of the conveners have been collecting items already. We need your help. There are jobs year round. The toys need to be cleaned and sorted, the jewelry and books need to be priced and sorted and on and on. Shirley and Joyce will be gathering anyone who knits or crochets in January to talk about new patterns and distribute yarn that has been donated. Sylvia will be gathering anyone who likes to sew at her home in the new year to discuss new ideas and also distribute fabric. There is a new Craft and Hobby Supply stall this year. Check out the Bazaar page on [http://www.staidansunited.ca/events/annual-bazaar/](http://www.staidansunited.ca/events/annual-bazaar/) . We need new ideas so please join in.

**Communicate**

Help us spread the word about this wonderful sale day. Let your family, co-workers, friends, and neighbours know that it’s a great place to donate a myriad of items and an even better place to find wonderful bargains for themselves or gift-giving. **Contact one of our Coordinators if you can help or would like more information:**

- Marilyn Smith 250-479-5676 tony.f.smith@shaw.ca
- Hieke Miller 250-477-526 hmiller323@hotmail.com
HEALING PATHWAY

What is Healing Pathway? It is a ministry of the United Church of Canada developed to train and mentor people who wish to develop the gift and skill of healing hands within the Christian tradition. Christian healing is described as a gift freely given to all responding to Jesus’ call to carry forward in His service.

What do we do? Working individually or with two or more trained persons we treat you either by passing hands over the body or by lightly touching you.

What do you do? Relax! Either lie quietly, fully-clothed on your back or stomach on our comfortable massage table, or sit in a chair. We can come to your home if necessary. You may share any concerns or needs that you feel comfortable expressing.

What do we say? We say a prayer for you, meeting your highest good. We find this a wonderful way to pray for you. We are simply a conduit through which God’s grace can flow to those in need. God is the source.

What do you say? You may wish to tell us the story of your injury or whatever is hurting you or you may remain silent – your choice entirely.

This is a FREE, confidential service. However, donations can be made to St. Aidan’s, Healing Pathway if you wish.

Trained volunteers offer Healing Touch at no charge by appointment on Monday mornings and Fridays from 10-3 pm. Appointments can be made by phoning Elizabeth Thorburn-Korolus at 250 298-0747 or the church office.

Contacts for more information on using the service or to train in Healing Touch: Val Bauld 250-721-5962 or Diane Kendall 250-477-6157.

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRY

St. Aidan’s began a new initiative last year. The Intercultural Ministry welcomes newcomers to Canada, Victoria and to St. Aidan’s; as well as educating the church community on intercultural issues. Here’s what we have for you:

English classes every Tuesday and Thursday morning 10:00–11:30 am with Mari Nattress, a certified English Language Arts Teacher and TESOL instructor:

- Practice English: vocabulary, pronunciation, conversation skills
- Learn and adapt to urban life in Victoria – cultural and social skills

Newcomers are introduced to Christian faith by participating in a church community and growing in their faith in God:

- Get some helpful volunteer experiences that will aid you in building a career in Victoria
- Make new friends with Canadians and people from all over the world who make Victoria their home
- Welcoming, inclusive church service every Sunday at 10 a.m. followed by a variety of activities: (Approx. 11:30 am-1 pm)

Newcomers and the congregation are invited to participate in:

- Deepening Understanding of Intercultural Ministry Mini-Workshops hosted by Julie Ng and Mari Nattress for newcomers and congregation members: Next workshop is Oct. 29 after church
- Conversation Circle for all newcomers and congregation members on the fourth Sunday of each month where people are given an opportunity to share their views on all issues
- Lunch with Intercultural friends on the first Sunday of the month
- Impromptu gatherings and Tea

Contact St. Aidan’s Intercultural Coordinator, Mari Nattress at marinattress55@gmail.com
4TH MONDAY SUPPER AND CONVERSATION FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Dates: First Monday of the month
Time: 5-7 pm
Place: Home of Mary Kennedy
Having been a university student and away from home many times in my life, I always appreciated it if I was invited to someone’s house for a home-cooked meal. A similar practice started at St Aidan’s last year when I invited some students who were new to Victoria and St. Aidan’s to my home for a meal. I cooked, students got to get a night off from cooking or cafeteria fare, and we all got to know each other. No one has to commit to coming each month, but just to letting me know ahead of time if they are coming so that I know how many to expect. If you would like to join this informal gathering, please contact me and I’ll put you on the supper and conversation list.
RSVP: (the week before, please) makenn@uvic.ca OR cell/text: 250-532-1480
Next supper is Oct. 2, 2017 Hope to see you there!
Dr. Mary Kennedy, Associate Professor Emeritus
School of Music -University of Victoria

LIKE COOKING? HELP WITH A MEDITATION DINNER
Twice a year, a small group of volunteers provides a dinner of soup, bread, veggies and cookies for the UVic Meditation Group. The next dinner is Oct. 12, 2017. Contact: Maureen Koch 250-388-9896 or Vivian Skinner vivianskinner@shaw.ca

OUT OF THE RAIN SOUP PROGRAM
St. Aidan’s provides a meal of soup, veggies and cookies to homeless youth, who use the Out of the Rain Night Shelter. Food preparation usually happens the fourth Monday morning of the month from October to March (approx.). If you want to help, contact Doreen Lovely at 250-652-3641.

SHELBOURNE COMMUNITY KITCHEN
St. Aidan’s has worked in partnership with other community groups to establish the Kitchen in 2014. This Community Food Resource Centre, located at 3541 Shelbourne St., provides support to people lacking healthy food and is a place where people can cook and share meals. There are lots of opportunities to help with fundraising, gardening and kitchen programs.

Plan to attend our Fall Supper Fundraiser on Oct. 21st, 2017.
To volunteer or register for programs at the kitchen contact the Program Coordinator, Kim at (250) 590-0980 and on their website:
shelbournecommunitykitchen.ca

THrift SHOP
We call our Thrift Shop “The Friendly Octopus” because it reaches out to so many in our community. Our Thrift Shop supports care of the earth and works wisely to recycle, reuse, repair, and reduce. The Thrift Shop team is extremely proud of one its main roles: to provide clean, appropriate clothing and usable items to various groups in the City, including Our Place.

Open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. – 8 p.m. and on the fourth Saturday of the month from 10 am – 2 pm., we create a caring atmosphere for volunteers, donors and shoppers alike. If you would like to join the Thrift Shop team please contact:
Sylvia Campbell for the 10am – 2pm team and the Saturday Team; scampbell6@shaw.ca
Cheryl Black for the 4 – 8 pm team, cheryl.black@outlook.com

Thrift Shop donations can be dropped off in the hall by the office when the building is open. Call the office if you have a large volume of donations to drop off.
Pastoral Care involves connecting, healing, nurturing, sustaining, reconciling and being sensitive to each person’s spiritual needs.

Members of the Pastoral Care Team fulfill their responsibilities in consultation with our Minister, and in partnership with St. Aidan’s staff. As well, most everyone in the congregation is involved in caring, in some way or another, on a daily basis. As we all engage in this ministry, we’re helping to bring the resources of our faith into the lives of those around us, incarnating the love of God as we care for each other.

Some of the ways to become involved in the caring ministry are:

**Prayer**

Confidential prayer requests can be left in the prayer box by the office or by contacting our ministers; Cheryl and Betty Anne or the church office staff.

**A Casserole Caravan** to supply meals on a short-term basis during illness or time of special need. If you would like to donate a casserole please contact Val Bauld, 250-721-5962, valbauld@shaw.ca. If you would like to receive a casserole or recommend someone to receive a casserole contact Anne or Kathryn at the church office.

**Healing Pathways**, a healing ministry with ancient roots, focused on well-being; wholeness of mind, body and spirit; and honouring and accepting ourselves and others with unconditional love. (See page Reaching Out)

**A monthly church service at Mt. Tolmie Hospital**, providing personal outreach with our nearby neighbours occurs at **3 p.m. on the first Sunday** of every month. We invite you to come and sing, help turn pages for the residents, and join us for 45 minutes or so of worship in a different, but enriching, environment. You are free to drop in or contact Moira Wightman at 250-477-7689

**Next services are Oct. 1, Nov. 5 and Dec. 3 at 3 pm.**

A **Prayer Shawl Ministry**, which reaches out with love and warmth. To be part of this knitting/crocheting ministry contact Betty Anne Dempsey at 778-432-3776.

**Visiting**: Visits in homes, hospitals, and other types of residences for those in need of companionship or support. There is a process of discernment and orientation for those who wish to be involved in the Visiting Ministry including successful completion of a Vulnerable Sector Police Record Check, an interview with the Pastoral Care Minister and committee member(s). As you can appreciate the safety and comfort of those visited is a very high priority. Twice a year there is an educational and supportive workshop planned for visitors. So if you wish to explore this ministry come to the next gathering of the pastoral care visitors’ meeting will be Tues., Nov. 7 at 1:30pm in A/B.

**Please contact the office or our Minister of Pastoral Care, Betty Anne (778-432-3776) if you would like pastoral care or know someone in need of pastoral care.**

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**Congregational Life**

**THE CAMEO CLUB – COME AND MEET EACH OTHER**

This social group meets in the evening on the second Saturday of the month, most often at the church, for various activities. Everyone is warmly welcome! If you wish to attend, email Carol Sidhu at carolsidhu@shaw.ca or Val Barman at 250-721-3841.
FOURTH FRIDAY SUPPER CLUB

Strictly social, for any adult who enjoys a meal out with friendly people. Couples, singles, old-timers, newcomers are welcome. We plan a get-together about six times a year. There is no membership; the first 14 people to sign up are in, then it’s a waiting list. It’s usually supper at a restaurant; sometimes it’s a pot-luck at someone’s home. Phone Janis and Ray Evans @ 250 383 1956

BAPTISM CEREMONY FOR ALL PEOPLE

At St. Aidan’s we believe every person, from newborn infant to centurion, is precious and loved unconditionally by the Great Spirit we call God. We are born as a beautiful miracle and nothing can separate us from the great holy universal love in this world. As we grow and face all that is in our lives we can forget that we were born for love and in love in a community of love. Baptism is our ‘sacrament of belonging’.

Done in the midst of a loving, caring community our baptism ceremony reminds us of the most important truth of our lives: WE ARE BELOVED, WE ARE PRECIOUS. WE ARE BEAUTIFUL. WE ARE NOT ALONE. WHERE EVER WE GO OR WHATEVER WE DO, WE CAN ALWAYS COME HOME TO A COMPASSIONATE SPIRIT GOD.

Baptisms may be arranged by calling the church office (250-477-2089) or office@staidansunited.com

CHANGING NAME CEREMONY FOR TRANS PEOPLE

Changing one’s name can be one of the most meaningful steps for a trans or gender nonconforming person in expressing and validating who they are. St. Aidan’s is an affirming congregation and welcomes people from the trans and non-binary community to recognize this significant personal milestone in a sacred ceremony. Created in partnership with the minister, the Naming Ceremony can be tailored to fit individual circumstances while being celebrated within a loving community. Contact Rev. Cheryl Black for more discussion, cheryl.black@outlook.com

MEMORIAL SERVICES

The time of death for someone you love is a profound spiritual moment. On the one hand you are confronted by a flood of varied feelings, and on the other, by questions that reach to the very core of life: “Why did this happen? What happens next? And what can I learn from the experience of grief?”

St. Aidan’s has a lot of experience in accompanying families through a time of death, both in designing and leading funerals or memorial services, but also in assisting the grieving of survivors. We can help create a fitting Celebration of Life Service, coordinate a reception or provide space for a reception. Contact the church office or our minister, Cheryl Black to help with arrangements.

WEDDING CEREMONIES

Are you ready to celebrate your love and commitment in a more public and ceremonial way? St. Aidan’s is a beautiful, sacred space where you can pledge your love in simple or elaborate services. Our services are open to people of all orientations and gender identities who wish to pledge their love.

We have a wide variety of options:

• You can rent the church and the Minister for your service. We can supply a musician as well.
• You can enlist the services of the Minister for a wedding at an off-site location in Victoria
• If you are a participant in the life of the congregation you might wish to have your
wedding during a Sunday Gathering and invite your friends and the entire congregation to celebrate your wedding. Holding your wedding in the midst of a community is a lovely way to remember: We are not alone. We live and love in God’s world. Contact Cheryl Black (250-477-2089) if you wish to discuss options for your upcoming wedding.

**Church Council**

St. Aidan’s Council meets the third Wed of the month. Council will continue work to identify St Aidan’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and develop a 5 to 10 yr strategic plan. In addition to developing a strategic plan Council considers and monitors business and financial initiatives from teams, committees and congregation members. If you would like further information on Council activities contact Doug Koch dougkoch76@gmail.com or any member of Council.

**Need More Information?**

To find out more about our programs and events, please refer to our:

- Weekly newsletter, *The Life and Work* – Read it by email or printed copy at Sunday Service
- Quarterly Newsletter, *Reaching Out* – the next newsletter is scheduled for Nov. 23. All articles relating to St. Aidan’s mission, values or special events are welcome. Send submissions to Janis Evans rjevans1@telus.net
- Website [www.staidansunited.ca](http://www.staidansunited.ca)
- Bulletin Boards by the office & The Great Hall
- TV Screen in the Lobby area
- St. Aidan’s Facebook pages: To subscribe to our email distribution list: Email Kathryn Clinton at office@staidansunited.com

Don’t hesitate to ask our staff or volunteers if you have any questions. Financial support for our programs and events is available; please talk to one of our ministers, Cheryl or Betty Anne to request support.

**St. Aidan’s Council Members**

Top Row left to right: Cheryl Black (Minister), Helen Pinel, Maureen Koch, Mary Kennedy, Arlene Galloway Ford
Bottom row: Gordon Robinson, Doug Koch, Alan Curtis.
Not Present: Elizabeth Thornburn-Korolus, Carol Munro, Jean Margison, Mandy Wilson, Paul Malnarich, Pauline Curtis
Cheryl Black, Minister
250-477-2089
cheryl.black@outlook.com

Kathryn Clinton, Administrator
250-477-2089
office@staidansunited.com

André Clouthier, Sunday Band Leader
andre.clouthier@gmail.com

Betty Anne Dempsey, Minister of Pastoral Care
778-432-3776
Bettyanned@yahoo.com

Nell Howard, Music Director
250-477-208
music@staidansunited.com

Anne McDermott, Rental Coordinator
250-477-2089
rentals@staidansunited.com

Kelly Orr, Ted Boulden Choir Director
k2musiclaw@yahoCano.ca

Mari Nattress, Intercultural Ministry Coordinator
marinattress55@gmail.com
or 306-930-817

Sang Nguyen Custodian

Edgardo Esperanzo Custodian

Megan Steffens, Children and Youth Leader
Megansteffens@gmail.com
St. Aidan’s Fall 2017 Guide

St. Aidan’s United Church
Fall Market Bazaar
Saturday, Nov. 4th
10 am – 3 pm

21 STALLS
SILENT AUCTION
Thrift Shop OPEN

Coffee, Tea & Muffins
$5 Gourmet Hot Dog Lunch

FREE ADMISSION

3703 St. Aidan’s Street
(Victoria, BC)
V8P 2V7
250-477-2089

Meditation at St. Aidan’s
Sundays ~9:00 – 9:30 am
Tuesdays ~10:30-11:30 am
Meet in the chapel
All are welcome

St. Aidan’s “Bus Trip Ministry” presents
Lunch & Matinee
at Chemainus Theatre
Saturday, December 2nd

Caregivers & Tots Drop In Program
Mondays 10 am – Noon
St. Aidan’s invites children (5 years and under) and their caregivers to enjoy play and snack time together.

St. Aidan’s Church - 3703 St. Aidan’s St. (at Cedar Hill Rd Richmond)
(Reserved on Sept. 18, 2017 – Closed on Sat. – admission is free)

Cost: $110 includes bus, lunch & theatre
Trip limited to first 35 signed up. Drop off cheques payable to St. Aidan’s United Church by Nov. 12th
More info: Betty Anne Dempsey (778)432-3776