



St. Andrews United Church

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September 2020

Minister: Rev. Tim Bowman

Music Director: Deborah Handley
Custodian: Rick Frier

Musician: Jacob Greenan
Church Administrator: Jeanette Chassie

BOARD MEMBERS

Chair – Judith Ray
Vice-Chairperson – Beate Pothmann
Secretary – Cherie Dobson
Treasurer – Dennis Larson

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Trustees – Bernice Chalmers
M & P Rep – Cherie Dobson
Pastoral Care – Linda Bouchir
Cluster Rep – Myrna McGregor
Property – Lyle Treleaven
Worship – Barb Treleaven

MEMBERS OF JOINT COMMITTEES WITH GLADWIN HEIGHTS

Joint Board: Judith Ray, Beate Pothmann, Deborah Handley
Joint M & P: Cherie Dobson, Lyle Treleaven
Joint Worship: Linda Bouchir, Beate Pothmann, Deborah Handley

The Season of Creation, Year A: The Spirit Series (Year of Matthew)

This series concentrates on those texts where the Spirit is breathing life into creation, suffering with creation and renewing all creation.

SEPTEMBER LECTORY

Land Sunday September 13

Genesis 3:14-19; 4:8-16

Psalm 139:7-12

Romans 5:12-17

Matthew 12:38-40



Outback/Wilderness Sunday September 20

Joel 1:8-10, 17-20

Psalm 18:6-19

Romans 8:18-27

Matthew 3:13 - 4:2 or Mark 1:9-13,

Forest Sunday September 27

Genesis 2:4b-22

Psalm 139:13-16

Acts 17:22-28

John 3:1-16

River Sunday October 4

Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17

Psalm 104:27-33

Revelation 22:1-5

Matthew 28:1-10

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shirley Eder – September 3

Karen Heisler – September 21

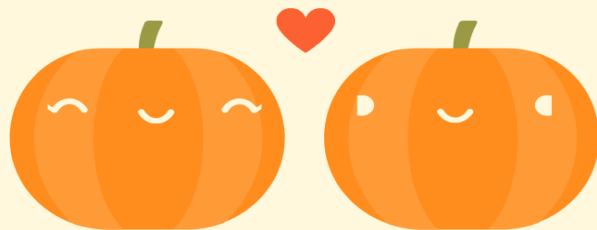
Margaret Mitchell – September 5

Joshua Bouchir – September 24

Jaden Galbiati – September 16

Doris Kirkness – September 25

Happy Birthday!



Minister's Message

There are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

- 1 Corinthians 12:20b-26.

Siblings in Christ,

Many of you have begun to ask and wonder about returning to regular worship as Gladwin Heights or Saint Andrew's United Church. As we consider this possibility, Paul's words give us much to ponder.

Paul's reminder of our unity in Christ underlies our desire to come together, worshiping face to face with each other and in the patterns that we have evolved in our congregations. Worshiping with our siblings in our Cluster congregations - Trinity Memorial, Mount Lehman and Aldergrove United Churches - also makes visible our unity in Christ, shares the workload among staff and enables all to benefit from the unique gifts present in each congregation. It is a faithful engagement with our identified Cluster goal of increasing collaboration and interdependence. It also involves compromises that may feel unsatisfying.

Paul also reminds us that unity means that all members are equally valued, which entails taking special care for the most vulnerable among us: if one suffers, we all suffer. During a pandemic, in-person worship creates special health risks that fall disproportionately on the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions.

Returning to worship in our own buildings is possible, should we as a congregation and our Boards decide. However, we need to have a realistic view of what that entails.

As the body of Christ, we are responsible to gather safely. As the body of Christ, we have responsibility and accountability to our Region. In consultation with public health experts, our Regional Council is recommending that we remain virtual at this time. Should we decide to return to in-person worship, we will need to develop a plan to do so orderly and safely and to submit it to the Region for approval. This will take a significant amount of time.

We also have responsibilities to our Cluster churches, with whom we have already made plans to worship at least until mid-October.

Until we find and distribute a Coronavirus vaccine, worship in our buildings will look and feel different. Masks may be required, touching, singing and capacity will all be limited, and pre-registration may be required. We will likely livestream our worship on the Internet for those who cannot safely attend. We will not quickly attain the quality of our current Sunday morning broadcast, which is the product of many people's musical and technical skills, and the result of four months of trial and error.

The status quo is a faithful response; returning to a form of in-person worship is a faithful response. Your Board and I are committed to working with you as the body of Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Tim