

October
2021

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Be Kind
Always and
Spread Love
Everywhere!!

Minister:

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We encourage
building use by
community Groups.

We host community
events, concerts and
activities as fun &
fund-raising
opportunities.

"In a year where we could not 'go to church,' it was also a powerful opportunity to remind ourselves what it truly means to be the church and to give ourselves to love"

The great protestant reformer, John Calvin, once said that too much Christian preaching (particularly, perhaps, on Stewardship Sunday) is like holding up an ostrich egg to a flock of bantam hens and saying, "Well, do you best."

Stewardship is doing what we can with what we have where we are.

Gift Cards ~ Grocery/Walmart cards sell out quickly. If you are looking to purchase gift cards for **Christmas presents** please let Michele know ASAP as the orders will have to be in by early December to be here in time for Christmas.



2021 Stewardship

Jan's Thoughts for the Fall Stewardship Newsletter 2021.

This a year to talk about Financial Stewardship frankly. Covid continues; the prairies have been hit with drought; businesses are closing; connection to friends, family, colleagues, rituals, grief and/or sense of purpose is frayed; and I – along with many of our neighbouring ministers – am retiring soon.

The church *as a building* has needs that are costly. Certainly, for the church *as a people* the same needs to be said.

As people of faith, we've been here before. Tests, trials, transitions aren't new, and sometimes we learn truths we can trust from what we share across generations and geography. Esther comes to mind. ¹⁴ *For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"*

It seems to me that 'such a time as this' has come to the fore in discovering our online options for conversation, worship, and inviting donations.

It's happened in drive-by chili dinners and hosting hybrid events (some people here in person and others join online). *It's happened* in having memorial services that are also webcast and alternate means for pastoral visits when in-person was too risky. In discerning what's essential and what needs prioritizing -- needs vs wants.

Esther might have thought her being the new Queen was her only role and all was good in her world. Mordecai (her uncle/mentor) reminded her she was a person within a community of faith. Self-made didn't hold a candle to being made for God's greater good.

Thank you for the many ways you've done great good. For the ways you shared in Stettler United Church adapting and investing in the future of our community of faith and beyond.
Thanks & Blessings, Jan Richardson

Financials ~ September 30, 2021

September Bank Balances ~ \$2935.83

Manulife Savings 48,320.43

UCC Bridge Loan Repayment ~ PAID IN FULL ~ **Thank You** to everyone who specifically contributed to this.

CEBA (Federal Government Loan) ~ We were approved for the \$60,000.00 interest free loan in June 2021. \$40,000.00 (we do NOT want to have to use this) will be paid back by December of 2022, and \$20,000.00 will be forgiven ~ meaning we get to keep \$20,000.00. **If you have questions about this, please speak to a board member. Thanks*

Year to Date Revenue

Total Revenue \$122,332.90 (does not include memorial or \$\$ received for bridge loan repayment)

Average Monthly Revenue \$13,592.55 (based on 9 months)

Memorial Fund ~ \$8941.31

Year to Date Expenses

Total Expenses ~ \$142,596.51

Average Monthly Expenses ~ \$15,844.06 (based on 9 months)

Mission & Service ~ \$3390.00

Thank you for Paying it Forward ~ Paying it Differently!!

Some people have sent donations recognizing what would have been given to the church through groups like UCW, or Men's Breakfast, or serving Rotary, etc. Where, normally they would have given their time, talent, goods, and services, they've instead monetized what would have gone into a pie, breakfast, or the cost of a meal at our fall supper, and shared it knowing the church still had bills and staff to pay.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

There are big changes coming for Stettler United Church as we look toward July 2022 when Jan retires. As a community of faith, we must consider what steps we need to take in light of our mission and vision for the future.

Over the spring, summer and fall of 2021, a committee made up of Sylvia Peters, Connie Jackson, Charlotte Chase, Wendy Staal and Barbara-Lynn Goodwin has been in discussion with Chinook Winds Region staff, Joel Den Hann and Stephen Harper, and representatives from Big Valley United Church and Erskine United Church to develop a Memorandum of Understanding among our three communities of faith. This collaborative group is meeting every two weeks via Zoom to discuss ways we can work together, while we each retain our unique identity.

Our discussions will focus ways we can work together on faith formation, community engagement, outreach projects and justice issues in our respective communities. As well, we are discussing the fiscal advantage of sharing ministry personnel and administrative staff. This is important, exciting and hopeful work for our communities of faith.

If you have any questions regarding this work or want to discuss this process, please contact any of the above committee members.

Rentals had picked up once the restrictions were removed. Unfortunately, once restrictions were outlined by AHS these rentals were cancelled by the organization hosting them. Stettler Learning was able to hold their Spanish Class in the CE wing as it is big enough for 1/3 capacity and social distancing. Hopefully once the restrictions are lifted these organizations will rebook, and continue to rebook leading to an increase in rental revenue

Artisan Market & Bake Sale ~ Saturday November 13th 10—2. The UCW ladies are looking for homemade baking for the bake tables. Please contact Heather Baird for drop off information. The tables are sold out so there is a variety of homemade items available for you to get your Christmas Shopping done. ALSO ~ the Grinch will be visiting and Kevin Sabo will be here to take pictures for your yearly Christmas Card. Please let everyone know as this will be the only in person appearance by the Grinch. And....UCW homemade fruit pies will be available.