**Jan’s Journal**

 Wasn’t it wonderful to have refreshments and fellowship following worship last Sunday? Thank you to the members of the Ladies Workshop for providing refreshments and starting, what we hope will be a monthly event. Which group or Committee will be the hosts/hostesses on March 5th?

The news this week has been particularly troubling. As we focus on scriptures that encourage us to follow the ways of God and “choose life,” it is difficult to think of small children who did not have that opportunity. I am thinking of children in Laval, Québec and children in Turkey. How can we reconcile such devastation with our faith in God who creates life?

Lectionary readings for this Sunday include:

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 Psalm 119: 1-8 1 Corinthians 3: 1-9 Matthew 5: 21-37

Next Sunday, we will mark Baden-Powell Sunday with the 7th Aldershot cubs and scouts. It is also Transfiguration Sunday, the final Sunday in the season of Epiphany.

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22nd. We will mark the beginning of Lent with a joint Ash Wednesday service with West Plains United Church. The service will be held here at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22nd. Thank you to the Support Group for providing the refreshments following the service. We will mark the first Sunday of Lent on February 26th with Communion.

The Coffee and Conversation Group will begin a Lenten series discussion on Tuesday February 21st. The discussion will follow a book titled: *Give Us This Day… Lenten reflections on baking bread and discipleship* by Christopher Levan. He is a minister and author and previous Principal of St. Stephen’s College in Edmonton. If you are interested in joining this discussion, please come to the Campbell Room at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings, beginning on February 21st. the Lunch and Lectionary Group will continue to follow the lectionary passages each week. This will, of course, include scripture passages pertaining to Lent. Please join us on Zoom on Thursday at 12:30 p.m. beginning on February 23rd. Please let me know that you are interested so that I can email you the Zoom link.

You can reach me at: [revjanmcc@gmail.com](mailto:revjanmcc@gmail.com) or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings for the New Year,

Pastor Jan