WELCOME TO MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH Peace Sunday October 23, 2022

* please stand as able

Prelude

Welcome

Candle Lighting

Life & Work of the Community

* Hymn Lead On O Cloud of Presence

#421VU

Unison Responsive Reading: #390 VU [Pastor, v.1, All, v.2, etc.]

Prayer of Confession & Absolution

* Hymn: Precious Lord (remain seated(

#670VU

Minute for Mission

Children's Story

Scripture Readings: 2 Timo

2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

Psalm 84:1-6

800 VU

Luke 18:9-14

Sermon: Looking in the mirror

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

Offering Anthem

Offertory Prayer

* Hymn God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness #260 VU

Commissioning and Benediction

*Sending Forth Go Now in Peace

"This service has now ended. Our service now begins."

Thanks to The Rev. Dr. Larry Siebrands for conducting today's service. Rev. Debbie will be leading the service next week.

Announcements

Quiet Prayer: Almighty God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Today's hymns were chosen with the Gospel [Luke 18:9-14] in mind. #421 VU Lead On O Cloud of Presence was chosen to highlight "struggle and delay" as we grow spiritually; it doesn't happen all at once.

VU #670 , Precious Lord is a favourite that accents walking with the Lord, hand in hand, as we grow in love.

#260 VU God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness concludes our service with the reminder that we do well to see God in all the goodness that comes our way.

Next Sunday's appointed readings: Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm 32:1-8; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10. Take a few moments to read one or more of these lessons before next Sunday's service.

Interesting reading? On the table by the nursery, we have denominational magazines, Broadview/Observer, that have articles about United Churches in action. Take one home, give it a read, and return it when finished. Here's a recent article: The United Church has voted to take the first steps to look into uniting with other denominations. On July 23, the church's General Council approved a motion to "direct the general secretary to draw upon the wisdom of global ecumenical partners and denominations" that are in union with other churches like the Anglicans and Lutherans to further a United Church effort to pursue church union in Canada. The discussion would be part of a dialogue with other mainline Protestant churches in Canada to talk about the possibility of uniting. In its recommendation to affirm the proposal, the General Council facilitation team told delegates that there was "general support for exploring what church union looks like in the 21st century." Rev. Bethe Benjamin-Cameron, a commissioner from O'Leary West Cape Pastoral Charge in Prince Edward Island, said she was pleased that the motion carried. "To me, this goes to our motto 'that all may be one," she said. – copied from Broadview, July 2022

At the October 9 Board meeting after church, manse committee chair, Vera, informed us that the roof to the manse needed attention. Between the age of the shingles and the recent hurricane, it was recommended that a new roof was needed, in this case a metal roof. The cost would be in the neighborhood of \$10,000. By a show of hands, the motion to approve this expenditure was unanimous.

From our October 11 Session meeting: Committee Chair, Donna, provided the members with new Elder's lists, identifying 9-10 church members under care of each Session member, as well as updated addresses. Other topics included comments about the upcoming senior's meals, a rescheduling of the tree dedication, acknowledging the first responders, a future concert date, planning for Remembrance Day in November, and the date for our annual Blessing of the Pets. Rev. Debbie has plans to use 3 Wednesdays to offer a study on Psalms, hymns, and songs starting October 26. Communion will be celebrated the first Sunday in Advent, Errol and Delite assisting, November 27. The Christmas Eve service will start at 6:30 p.m.; there will be no church service on Sunday, Christmas Day. The meeting started at 7 p.m. and finished at 7:35 p.m. The next meeting will be November 16 at 7 p.m. Via Zoom. Delite will chair the meeting and Vera will offer devotions.

Did you know that donations continue to decline as demand for services grows? 19% of tax filers claimed donations in 2019 versus 25% in 2006, demonstrating a steady decline. Donors aged 55+ increased their giving by 3.9% while those aged 40 and younger decreased their giving. Your giving makes all the difference in the life of our church. Thank you for your growing stewardship.

Book recommendation – This fall/winter, consider a new book by Emma Donoghue, Haven. It's a book of spiritual discovery, which is grueling but a rewarding journey. It's the story of three monks who populate a mountainous island off the coast of Ireland and how they struggle for survival on the island's inhospitable peaks. The monks spiritual ups and downs, leaning on one another and on God, provide good reading. This book would be a good Christmas present for someone on your list! It's available at Indigo.

You are invited to choir practice, Thursday at 1:30 p.m.

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