

# *“The Spirit”*

## *North Kildonan United Church*

September 2021

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The long hot summer is nearly over and our thoughts are to the change of seasons and what the future holds for us. Once again, we do not know what is ahead; are we going to be able to move freely in society or will we be fraught with restrictions when we are indoors again? Will we remember what it's like to be with other people; to smile and speak to others with kindness? And will we be able to sing again!



I say (optimistically) Yes! The majority of Manitobans have worked very hard following public health rules to get back to a basic way of life. The number of people vaccinated is wonderful and deadlines for re-opening came early because of this. Our hope is that all people (including children) will be able to be vaccinated, get back to work and school and for those of faith, come back to worship.

My hope is that we can continue to encourage one another in these uncertain times, to stay in the present, to find comfort in the Word of God; the Word experienced in the person of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. Psalm 118 says “this is the day God has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.”

We have much to rejoice especially in the wonderful summer worship services. Thank you Rev. Brenda Gibson, Gay, Betty and Peter for inspiring messages; to Michael for beautiful music and to Wilma and Heinz who keep everything working. We are truly blessed.

Grace and peace.

-S.M.

### **A Different Prayer ...**

A visiting pastor attended a men's breakfast in a rural farming area of the country. The group asked an older farmer to say grace for the morning breakfast.

“Lord, I hate buttermilk” the farmer began.

He continued “Lord, I hate lard.”

The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer with a little concern.

The farmer continued, “And Lord, you know I don't much care for white flour.”

By this time, everyone was peeking at the farmer with question.

Then the farmer added, “But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love warm fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard; when we don't understand what You're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen.”

Stay strong friends because our life is being mixed with lots of things we don't care for, especially right now! Relax and wait until the mixing is finished.

## We are open for worship...together again

It's been almost 18 months since the COVID 19 virus descended on us, bringing an abrupt end to our traditional Sunday worship together. Yes, there have been brief attempts at Sunday (and Thursday) "live" worship with attendance limited to a handful of attendees, but these in no way replaced the communal worship experience we took for granted for so many years. So much of what is special to us involves waiting. Waiting for Santa's arrival on Christmas Eve, waiting for a table at that unique restaurant that everyone's raving about, waiting for that vacation trip we've been planning for so long. Well our waiting for worship is finally at an end.

On Sunday, September 12, we will be welcoming one and all back to our worship service here at North Kildonan United Church. It won't be quite the "normal" we experienced back in March 2019, as mask-wearing will be mandatory and whether there will be hymn-singing led by the choir is yet to be determined. As it stands now, social distancing will still be required, which would limit our attendance to about 40 persons. We are hopeful that requirement may be relaxed somewhat when the revised Public Health Orders are issued in early September. But the important thing is that we will have the opportunity to worship together with no limitation on the number of people in the sanctuary. Even better, the young people of our faith community will be welcomed back, as Kid Konnection Sunday school will re-commence on that Sunday as well. Also, weather permitting; an outdoors "Welcome Back" luncheon is being planned.

Some may be wondering if attendees must be vaccinated. While we encourage vaccination for members of our faith community who are able, we do not want to exclude those who cannot be vaccinated. For that reason, continued mask-wearing in the church building will be particularly important. There may be those who still don't feel comfortable gathering in groups, and we understand that. While the recording of worship services on Thursday mornings will be discontinued, we are exploring the possibility of recording the Sunday services for viewing the following week.

This is the best news we have had at NKUC for many months now. Let us thank God for watching over us through this terrible pandemic and for now providing us with this joyous opportunity to worship Him in unison once again.

**On that note: NKUC Annual General Meeting for 2020 (which was postponed) will be held on Sunday, September 26 during the service. Copies of the annual report are available from the church office upon request.**



### *Message from Michael*

In January, I had the idea to apply for a writing grant so I could compose a large piece of music and have money to live on while doing so. In February, I applied to the Manitoba Arts Council for funding and after an anxious wait of over 3 months, I finally received word--I got the funding! So, for the rest of the year, I will be undertaking the massive and exciting project of writing an oratorio! For those that might not be familiar with the term, an oratorio is a very large piece of music for choir and orchestra that tells a story. (Think of Handel's "Messiah" or Mendelssohn's "Elijah"). My oratorio will be on the topic of the creation of the world (according to Genesis, chapter 1...and a few other sources as well). It's going to be a lot of fun and I think we can expect some epic music some time in 2022.

## News from the Pews.....



Terry Quinn  
Shelley Sinclair  
Jan Lipp's nephew, Mark  
Joan Knowles and Aaron  
Embree McDiarmid  
Shirley Davie  
Marion Molter

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with those struggling with loneliness or isolation, illness or stress. Reach out to your faith community with a phone call or email. We're here for you and for each other.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Nadine Sterling Wachal who passed away in June. Nadine was the daughter of Cliff and Una Sterling (passed), long time members of North Kildonan United.

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To the grads of 2021:



- Kara McMillan, Collège Miles Macdonell Collegiate
- Sadie Mazur, Collège Miles Macdonell Collegiate
- Evan Lutz, grandson of Jan Lipp, from mechanical engineering at U of M.
- Carla Lewicki, Post-Baccalaureate in Education
- Kara McMillan, recipient of a \$400 Credit Union Scholar athletic Award from the Manitoba High Schools Athletic Association and the North Kildonan Student Leader Scholarship of \$400 awarded by city councillor Jeff Browaty.

## Outreach News – Supplies for Senegal

Wow! How generous our people are! We received many items to donate to Fatimata Niang who works at West Broadway Community Ministry, to take with her as she visits her homeland in Senegal. Among the many items were: 34 tubes of toothpaste with 64 toothbrushes; 47 items of first aid; 36 toiletry items; 29 hand sanitizers; 60 items of school supplies; \$150.00 and a tambourine! Thank you all!

*Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Haiti as they struggle with the devastating effects of an earthquake, food insecurity and political unrest. Please support Mission & Service in their efforts to help.*





## From the Canadian Foodgrains Bank: 2020

Dear North Kildonan United Church:

How do you say thank you when words seem painfully inadequate? With mass protests and a global pandemic, this has been a time unlike any other. So it's with an immense amount of gratitude that I write to you, in thankfulness for your continued support for the fight against global hunger.

In spite of many challenges, all growing projects across Canada went ahead with their crops last year and have begun this year as well. All through this time of global strife, you continued to show up. You have made a difference in the lives of people you will likely never meet, and for that we are profoundly grateful.

Andy Harrington  
Executive Director, Canadian Foodgrains Bank

Note: Donations from NKUC

- 2020 January 1 - December 31 \$326.15
- 2021 January 1 - June 30, 2021 \$100.00

## From Mission and Service of the United Church of Canada: 2020

Thanks to your generosity, Mission & Service helps save and transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and build a better world in Canada and around the world. Every day.

1John 3:16-18 says, "We know love by this, that he laid down His life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees anyone in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love not in a world of speech, but in truth and action."

Mission & Service turns love into action. Thank you for all the ways you continue to take action in the world to live out God's call to love.

Sarah Charters, Acting Director of Philanthropy  
United Church of Canada

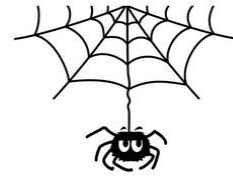
NOTE: Mission and Service donations from NKUC were over \$13,000 for 2020.



**N**orth Kildonan United Church has a new website.

Same address but updated with lots of additional information. The Communications committee

(Sheron, Aldo, Liz and Wilma) have worked on this site for almost a year and we are pleased with the results. Our thanks to Barry McKay Consulting for development and assistance. Check us out at [www.nkuc.ca](http://www.nkuc.ca)



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### Prairie to Pine News

From May 28 to May 30, 2021, Prairie to Pine Regional Council held their Annual General Meeting. As you may recall, Prairie to Pine Region was formed with the amalgamation of Presbyteries and the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. The theme for the AGM was *Our Place in the Rainbow* and the gatherings were held virtually.

With the work of co-chairs Diane Dwarka and Kwang Boem Cho, the meetings were both informative and interesting. Included were worship times and musical offerings. Three retirements were celebrated and 13 delegates and 4 alternates were nominated and accepted to attend General Council next year.

A wonderful presentation on stewardship was given by Vicki Nelson with inspiration and strategies for communities of faith to use.

Keynote speaker was Gloria Cook, the Community Capacity Development Coordinator working with indigenous Ministries and Justice Unit of the UCC with the Communities of Faith in Keewatin Circle. Her presentation was entitled *Our Journey as an Indigenous (First Nation) People*. Her presentation was a video which is available through the Region's office.

During the course of the weekend, a Mission & Service fundraising activity was held titled *The Masked Singer* using puppets. A great deal of work went into presenting this virtually but it was done very well and proved to be great fun. Over \$8,500 was pledged for M&S.

Sunday's worship service took the form of an Affirming Celebration between Prairie to Pine Regional Council and Affirm United. The service was filled with music and prayers uplifting all orientations and included communion. The service was attended virtually by over 450 people and can be viewed on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COqhLNc9Y>

After the pandemic, be sure to start hugging again! Why?  
Because hugging is practically perfect.



- It helps the body's immune system.
- It cures depression.
- It reduces stress.
- It's rejuvenating.
- It has no unpleasant side effects.
- It is all natural—contains no chemicals, artificial ingredients, pesticides, or preservatives!
- There are no parts to break down, no monthly payments.
- It's non-taxable, non-polluting,

and best of all...it's fully returnable!

One more story.....

### The Centipede

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house. He took the box back home, found a good spot for it, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him.

So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time." But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?" But again, there was no answer from his new friend. So he waited a few minutes more and decided to invite the centipede one last time.

This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted:

"Hey, in there! Would you like to go TO CHURCH WITH ME AND LEARN ABOUT GOD?"

This time, a little voice came out of the box,

'I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME! I'M PUTTING MY SHOES ON!'

**Editor's Note:** We are always looking for pictures, poems and stories about our church family. Please feel free to submit articles to Sheron at [miller01@mymts.net](mailto:miller01@mymts.net) or call the church office at 204-667-7408. Thank you to the following who contributed to this newsletter:  
Peter Latimer Marvelle McPherson Sheron Miller Linda Slade Del Sexsmith

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- Get vaccinated
- Be Covid kind and considerate. We're all in this together.

