

“The Spirit”

North Kildonan United Church

February 2023



*What the world needs now is love, sweet love
It's the only thing that there's just too little of
What the world needs now is love, sweet love
No not just for some, but for everyone*

-Burt Bachrach/Hal David

What happened to kindness, sympathy, compassion, love? There seems to be so much anger and animosity in our society not to mention the increase in crime and violence. And it isn't just local. It has permeated society throughout the world. Can it be that social media, sensationalism and just plain lack of respect has precipitated this temperament? Perhaps.

Of course, this isn't the biggest threat to society. Climate change, economic downfall, health care and nasty viruses continue to be major obstacles to overcome.

What can we do?

We can talk about it, respecting each other's opinions. We can listen to each other, with an open mind. We can read about it, discerning all the information rather than just believing one side. We can express our opinions by letter, email or social media, keeping in mind that what is written cannot be taken back.

As people of God, we know that God weeps in sorrow at all the misdeeds and failings of His people. We also know of His love for us, through Jesus Christ, despite our sins. Let us remember the many blessings He has given us and continue to pray for guidance and forgiveness. We can not be discouraged but can continue to believe in His grace and mercy.

May the God of love guide you and bring you peace and comfort.

-S.M.

We continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.



Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Turkey and Syria after devastating earthquakes in their countries.

Once again, we enjoyed meaningful and inspirational Christmas services at North Kildonan United. The Blue Christmas service saw a good number of people despite the stormy weather. We were thrilled to welcome the Good Neighbours Handbell choir during the December 18th service. The melodic sounds of bells certainly enhanced the Christmas music.



Blue Christmas



Barb Wiebe



Good Neighbours Handbell Choir



Our children presented a Christmas message which is always a delight on December 11, and they enjoyed some treats as well. Our thanks to Wilma for coordinating this wonderful tradition.



The Christmas Eve service was held at 4 p.m. this year due to it falling on a Saturday. Amongst the beautiful Christmas decorations and twinkling lights, we enjoyed scripture and Christmas music. We were very fortunate to enjoy a New Year's Day service conducted by Betty Clark. Her humorous and insightful message on "Inheritances" was very much enjoyed. Thanks Betty!

Our sincere thanks to the Worship committee, Rev Don, Joanne, special musical offerings and Betty for providing our faith community with wonderful Christmas services.

Another tradition that we are happy to keep is our support of the Christmas Cheer Board. The Youth Group collected, sorted, organized and delivered hampers to two families who were very grateful. The Youth Group sincerely thank the amazing congregation of NKUC for their generosity in donating food, gifts and money.





This is just a sampling of the three boxes of mitts, scarves, and hats delivered to Koats for Kids. Thank you everyone who contributed to the "Mitten Tree."

Serving our Community of Faith

Volunteers play an important role in the operation of our church. From singing in the choir, to working on our Unified Board, our volunteers bring a unique talent and ability which makes our community of faith strong and successful in providing programs and activities for all age groups. You will feel truly blessed in making a difference in our community of faith, our church family of NKUC. Please prayerfully consider bringing love and light to all who are searching.

Interested in serving in the church or learning about the many opportunities to serve? Contact any board member, committee chair or the church office.

Give Me ...a prayer

God, give me eyes that I might see the work that can be done by me.
God, give me ears that I might hear the cry of those who need me near.
God give me lips that I might speak comfort and peace to all who seek.
God, give me a mind that I might know how to help those who need me so.

God, give me hands that I might do some large or simple task for You.
God, give me a prayer that I might pray thy help and guidance every day.
And this one thing, all else above, God, give me a heart that I may love.
Amen.

News from the Pews.....



Bea Hutchinson
Kathy Sexsmith
Audrey Shmigelsky
Verna Kereluk
Betty Hamilton
Judy Highfield

Joan Knowles
(Del & Jackie's daughter)
Barb Wiebe
(Sheron Miller's mother)
Felicia Boyce
(Karen Miller's sister)

Good to see Phyllis, Donna, Del and Jackie back in church.

We especially lift up in prayer, those dealing with COVID, respiratory or flu viruses, waiting for test results, worried or stressed or just not feeling in top form. Your church family is here to uplift and support you in any way we can.

Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Abe Hiebert who passed away in December.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Betty Hamilton and family as they mourn the loss of husband and father, Keith.

Sympathy is extended to Ruth Turnbull on the loss of sister, Linda Jones.

May precious memories bring you peace.



Clayton Gording – who has explored and applied for many grants to help finance projects for NKUC. His recent securing of grants enabled our parking lot to be resurfaced at minimal cost. Thanks!

Rev. Don – who donated special candles for use in our services.

Betty Clark and daughter who baked and donated several loaves of banana bread for West Broadway Community Services.

PANCAKE BRUNCH

Please join us for delicious pancakes and sausages as we enjoy fellowship together. Sponsored by the Youth group, this event will be held on **Sunday, February 26** after the worship service. **YUM!**



Amid screams and laughter, youth and adults enjoyed an evening of tobogganing at Bunn's Creek Park, January 27th followed by cookies and hot chocolate at the church. Not sure who had more fun, the kids or the adults. Competition was stiff between father and son (Grant and Luke) as to who could slide the furthest. Thanks to Grant for organizing this event and Dorothy and Linda for delicious treats.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This initiative began at NKUC in 2007 under the ministry of Rev. Marc Whitehead. Our regular distribution had been 35-50 shawls per year however this number has decreased due to COVID. COVID has hit us all hard but thanks to the generosity of our knitters we were able to put less stress on our church budget by donating the wool for our shawls ourselves. We send profound and heartfelt thanks to the UCW for their more than generous donation of \$300.00 to our group. Thank you, ladies, for your kindness in allowing our ministry to succeed even in the worst of times. That being said, if you have a ball of wool or more and not sure you are going to use it please consider donating the wool to our group.

Our motto should be: *Ask and ye shall receive*. When you request a shawl, you will receive one with no conditions. We only ask that you let Peggy Latimer or a member of the group know so that we may keep accurate records. We will distribute our shawls to whomever requests and believe that one has travelled as far as Africa. Our needles continue to work as we continue to pray, blessing each shawl with love, comfort and peace.



Beautiful, beautiful Barbados. Gem of the Caribbean Sea.



The community of faith of NKUC were fortunate to visit Barbados on Sunny Sunday, January 29th. Everyone joined in the fun by wearing their summer attire, straw hats and sunglasses. After a wonderful commentary and pictures, given by Dorothy, this destination will certainly stay on everyone's mind.

In years past, the Caribbean islands were the scene of many a pirate conquest. At NKUC we also found ourselves amidst a pirate occupation with Rev. Don and Betty captured by pirates Grant, Sydney, Kara, Isla and Luke searching for treasure. After the treasure of a Bible and cross were found Rev. Don explained the true meaning of these items and their value in our lives. Thank you, Peter for writing this script, the actors and the hospitality committee for the Bajan treats.



"Off to the brig, Rev Don"

**NORTH KILDONAN UNITED CHURCH
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND AS WE PROUDLY**

Present
Sisters of the Holy Rock



Come out for an evening of music,
merriment and more

AT CHIEF PEGUIS JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
1400 Rothesay Street

Date: April 16th, 2023

Time: 7:00 pm (*doors open at 6:30*)

Tickets: \$20 (*in advance*) \$25 (*at the door*)

Information or tickets.... contact Barrie @ 204-663-6744

Or email at bmmcpherson@mymts.net



World Day of Prayer will be held in our community on Sunday, March 12 at 2 p.m. at River East Mennonite Church, 755 McLeod Avenue. Theme this year, written by the women of Taiwan is "I have heard about your faith" from Ephesians 1:15-19. You are invited to join in prayer, music and fellowship with churches in our area.

***John Black United Church** has been working on sponsoring refugees from Pakistan and the following information provides wonderful news to the congregation of John Black, to the TBJIGGN* (our network group) and to our community.*

Welcoming 'our' Family to Canada

Dear Members and Friends of John Black Memorial United Church,
Dear Friends of our TBJIGGN Church Families,

On November 18, 2022, the Refugee Interest Group received notice that, pending a good outcome from covid and medical testing on November 21st, the four remaining members of our refugee group in Pakistan would be travelling to Toronto, Canada on the 24th of November. Having had the experience of waiting for further details, we were thankful to receive confirmation on the 22nd of their arrival in Winnipeg on Thursday, November 24th, 2022.

With much joy, a circle of a dozen people met the family as they landed at Richardson Airport at 4:15pm this past Thursday! The RIG has long planned for this joyous outcome for the Bahaduri family. Mom, Mawji, Dad, Shafiq, and their two little girls, Smah and Snah, are now truly in the country the parents have prayed for since their journey out of Afghanistan, their homeland, began eight years ago this month.

Please pray for our family of new friends as they begin the process of settlement in their new home. Please keep RIG close to your hearts as the group accepts and works through the challenges that lie ahead. May we all continue to be grateful for the tremendous progress toward independence that Fahima has made in her first months, and pray that her experiences can act as guidance in our new family's beginning stages of life among us.

***Thank you for supporting our five-year journey. Together we have made a difference!
All things are possible with God***

****NOTE: TBJIGGN – Transcona, Bird's Hill, John Black, Immanuel, Grey St., Gordon King, North Kildonan United.***



Thank you to the wonderful community of faith of North Kildonan United for your continued generosity in 2022. We supported the Canadian Foodgrains Bank with \$135.10, Harvest Manitoba with \$75.00, Mission and Service of the UC of Canada with \$13,902.00, Christmas Cheer Board with \$655.00 and the Ukraine Emergency Fund with \$3700.00.

Our community of faith continues to support outreach activities along with general operational expenses with loving and generous hearts. Thank You!

Although we will have fundraisers this year, we still value the financial support of our church family. Please prayerfully consider donations to the church as you are able.

Another way to support the church is to let friends and family know that we have space available for rent that is suitable for meetings, recitals, church services, showers, weddings, birthdays etc. Information is available on our website, www.nkuc.ca

Dates to Remember

February 22.....	Ash Wednesday Service, 7 p.m. at NKUC
February 26.....	Pancake Brunch following the worship service
March 5	Annual General Meeting of North Kildonan United
March 12	World Day of Prayer, 2 p.m. River East Mennonite Church
April 7.....	Good Friday
April 9.....	Easter Sunday
April 16	Sisters of the Holy Rock concert at Chief Peguis Auditorium
April-May	Annual Plant Sale

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 sheronmiller01@gmail.com or call the church office at 204-667-7408. Thank you to the following who contributed to this newsletter:

Marvelle McPherson
Linda Slade

Sheron Miller
Betty Clark

Barrie McPherson

