

“The Spirit”

North Kildonan United Church

December 2023



*A significant symbol of Christmas is the simple candy cane
Its shape is the crook of a shepherd, one of the first who came.
The lively peppermint flavour is the regal gift of spice
The white is Jesus' purity, the red His sacrifice.
The narrow stripes are friendship and the nearness of His love
Eternal sweet compassion, a gift from above.
The candy cane reminds us all of just how much God cared
And like His Christmas gift to us, it truly should be shared.*

*May your heart be lifted in praise this
Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus
and the joy He brings to our lives*



Note from the Minister...

I find it hard to believe I've already been in active ministry with NKUC for four months now! While much still feels new, it is gradually feeling more familiar to me. I am deeply grateful to all those who have helped orient me to the church and its ministries and events. I am also deeply grateful for the welcome I have received among you! The warmth, welcoming nature and genuine care of this congregation has been readily apparent to me these past few months, and have contributed to NKUC already starting to feel so much like home. I continue to feel so grateful and blessed to be in ministry among you. I look forward to experiencing this Advent and Christmas season together, and I look forward to continuing to meet and get to know all of you who also call NKUC home.

*Blessings and peace to each of you,
Susan Reed*

susan.reed@nkuc.ca

Christmas Services at North Kildonan United

November 26 - December 17	Advent Sundays (Hope, Peace, Joy, Love)
December 13	Blue Christmas service at NKUC 7 p.m.
December 17	Christmas Pageant - 10 a.m.
December 24	Christmas Eve service 4 p.m. - No morning services
December 31	New Year's Eve Morning Service - 10 a.m.

News from the Pews.....

Our sympathies are extended to the Molter family as they mourn the loss of mother and grandmother Marion, to the Kosheluk family as they mourn the loss of family member Marion, and to family and friends of Doris Quinn who passed away November 17. These wonderful women were faithful and active members of NKUC.

Our prayers are with the Farmer family on the passing of Jim. Jim and Carolyn (passed) were long time members of NKUC, involved in Sunday school, choir, board and many committees.

We also lift up the Funk and Wiebe families as they mourn the loss of Marilyn Funk, sister-in-law of Barb Wiebe and to Del and Jackie Sexsmith on the passing of Del's uncle, Don. Condolences also to the Polet family as they mourn the loss of Klaas's sisters, Pearl Boonstra and Luella Tolsma.



In our thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery - Jess Polley (Richard and Heather Boroski's grandson), Pat Duff and Sawyer McKay (grandson of Arnie and Sheron Miller), Barb Welton and Bruce Clark.

Congratulations to Grant McMillan for being named Bud Grant Coach of the Week. Grant is Head Football Coach at St. John's High School.

Congratulations to Jared & Nicole (daughter of Patti & Jim Bews) on the birth of a baby girl, Olivia Claire Patricia Leney, on November 4th



Way to go **Scotty McLaren**, who shot a hole in one while golfing in Arizona these past few weeks.

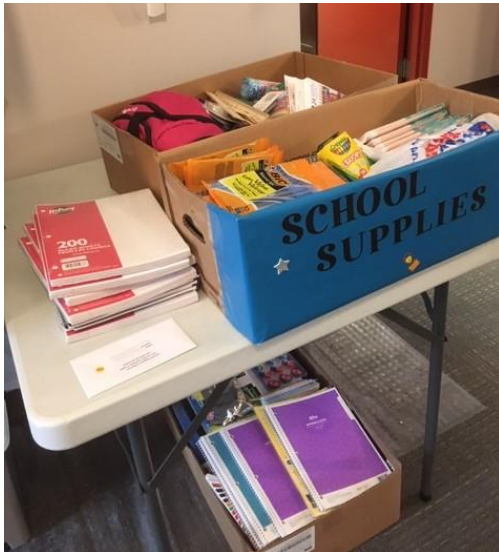
The "fractured" Millers thank our church family for their care, concern, rides and prayers as we recovered from our injuries. We are both recovering well! Love, Arnie and Sheron

Thank you, Mike and Myra, for sharing your abundant crop of tomatoes. Delish!

Outreach Ministries Once again, the generous folk of NKUC filled boxes and bags for two collections initiated by the Outreach Committee.

In September, we collected school supplies for Harvest Manitoba. Along with the 4 boxes of supplies we were also able to send \$365.00 in financial support.

West Broadway and West End Drop-In were the recipients of a generous Thanksgiving and World Food Day food collection in October. This was most appreciated by both organizations serving the vulnerable in our city. Thank You everyone!



Good news for the West End Drop-in (formerly St. Matthews Maryland Community Ministry). This ministry which is part of the 1JustCity family, were forced to vacate their building and were looking for another suitable space in the West end. They have secured the property now known as the Balmoral

Hotel. It features security, room to expand, parking, commercial kitchen and much more. The building next door (formerly a beer store) will become medical offices. Expected occupancy date is January 2024. We extend congratulations to all those involved in securing a new space. We pray for a smooth transition and continued success in this very important work in the community.



The ELEVATOR must be on the mezzanine floor (narthex) at the end of each event/day. If it remains on the top floor or the basement, it will not function and will require a service call which can cost up to \$1200.00.

-Thank You



As we head into the holiday season and cold weather, the Prayer Shawl and Outreach Ministries will be setting up a box to collect knitted and crocheted hats and mitts as well as purchased ones for children to adult sizes.

Our recipient this year is the Southeast Resource Development Council Corporation that serves 26 communities in the north and south of our province such as Norway House, and Berens River. We will collect these items until the end of December.

We also invite you to help yourself to the 2 boxes of knitting yarn under the coat rack to those who may need yarn. We also have a selection of knitting needles as well. For more information please see Peggy or Sheron.

COVENANTING AND BEYOND

For many of us, participating in two worship services on a Sunday is not in our DNA, however we were so pleased that a healthy contingent from our faith community ignored their DNA in order to attend the Oct. 1st Covenanting Service in honour of our newly-arrived minister, Rev. Susan Reed. While many of us had no idea what a covenanting service was all about, those attending were so pleased to have dispensed with a Sunday evening in front of the TV in order to share in this special event.

We soon learned that a Covenanting Service is about promises...promises by Susan to support us at NKUC as we endeavour to grow in our faith and to contribute to the wider church through the activities of the Prairie to Pine Region. Promises also by members of our faith community and the Prairie to Pine Region to support Susan in her ministry with us.

Unlike empty promises to tell the truth seen on television court room dramas, these promises were the culmination of a ceremony in which we were reminded that our faith is all about serving God and our commitment to live the life he has called us to. Thus, the theme throughout the service was one of joy at having Susan answer a call to guide us on our faith journey.

The service was led by Rev. Elizabeth Brown and Rev. Paul Duval who had guided us, on behalf of the Region, through the steps involved in our call to Susan. There was active participation in various aspects of the service by members of our faith community, including Board members, members of the Search Committee and, of course, Susan herself.

The sermon, composed by one of Susan's much-loved instructors from Seminary, Ann Naylor and read by Nancy Saunders, was a highlight of the service. The message focused not only on Susan and the path that brought her to ministry with us, but also on God's promise always to be there with us, a reminder that Susan's arrival is in keeping with God's plan for all of us.

In conjunction with the promises made was the presentation of symbols, creating powerful images of the nature of Susan's ministry with us. These included a Bible, bread and wine, a chalice of water and water, basin and towel, all presented to Susan by members of our faith community.

Of particular significance was the attendance of many folks from the Prairie to Pine Region and many members of the nearby faith communities, all there to help us celebrate the onset of Susan's new ministry with us at North Kildonan United Church. The evening culminated in...what else, delicious snacks provided by the Hospitality Committee. This fellowship time was a wonderful opportunity for all of us to share our joy for the amazing service of celebration we had just experienced. Thank you to all who contributed in so many different ways to such a joy-filled event.

-Peter Latimer



Top left: *Enjoying fellowship and refreshments after the covenanting service.*

Reverends Paul DuVal, Elizabeth Brown, Shannon McCarthy.

Left: *Rev. Susan and her partner Rev. Rob.*

Pet Blessing – October 1st, 2023



On a lovely Saturday afternoon, 8 dogs, 1 cat and 1 raccoon hand puppet gathered in the courtyard of the church for blessing of the pets. This has become an annual event and

we're so happy that Rev. Susan has continued with this tradition. The pets were very well behaved although there was a lot of tangling of leashes around the pets and their owners. All the pets received a treat to enjoy!

THANK YOU to the stewardship and hospitality committees for a wonderful, fun filled Quiz Night. The Quizzlers were a most engaging husband and wife facilitating team, quizzing us on everything from antiques to music. Each table had a team name and we congratulate Stayin' Alive who came out the winners. The silent auction prizes were amazing, bar tenders quick, and yummy snacks and lunch completed this great evening.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

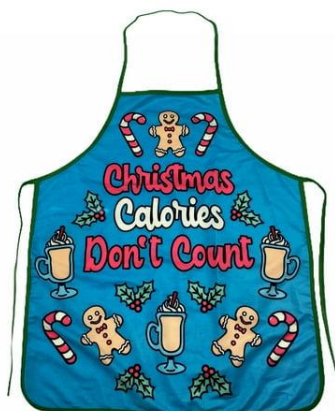


Lest We Forget ...A service of remembrance was held on November 12 at which time we remembered not only those who gave their lives in the Great wars but those in conflict around the world today. We were honoured to have Paula Thomson as our guest speaker. Paula is a retired air force helicopter pilot who shared her stories of the conflicts she and her fellow service persons engaged in. The kids were especially enthralled with the items she brought with her, in particular her helmet. Thank you Paula. Thank you to the hospitality committee who provided a lovely luncheon following the service.

Our prayers are with all those who are struggling in conflict and those who mourn the loss of family, friends and community. We pray in gratitude for the freedom and independence we enjoy in Canada and let us continue to pray and work for all those who seek peace.



Thank you, friends, family and community of NKUC for the wonderful support at our annual Christmas Bazaar sponsored by the UCW. The baking was outstanding, crafts delightful and fellowship and conversation amazing. We were able to raise approximately \$2800.00 due to the wonderful donations to the bazaar. We will be able to support several organizations in the city and support our own community of faith.





Morden's
OF WINNIPEG

Thank you to Barrie and Marvelle for continuing with the Morden's Chocolate and Nut Sale. This has become an annual event and family and friends of NKUC look forward to enjoying these delicious chocolate/nut morsels. They are not only delicious but make excellent Christmas gifts. Thanks to outstanding sales, we realized a profit of over \$1500.00.



We are grateful to all who continue to support North Kildonan United. Our stewardship campaign is one way that we can plan for financial viability and budget for all our expenses. Utilities, payroll, regional assessment and property taxes are all fixed expenses. Please look through and complete your stewardship pledge forms.

We also want to sincerely express how grateful we are for the support of our congregation through the special appeal. Both the completed stewardship pledge forms and special appeal are ongoing.

We ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to the church as you are able. It may be mailed to 174 Pentland St. R2G 2S3 or dropped off in the church mailbox. Any questions please call the church office at 204-667-7408.

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:
Peter Latimer Marvelle McPherson Susan Reed Sheron Miller Betty Clark

