

“THE SPIRIT”

North Kildonan United Church

June 2026

*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Psalm 95: v1*

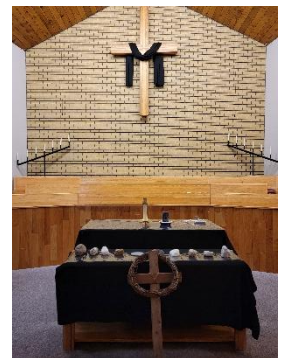


As we consider the past few months of happenings here at NKUC, it has indeed been a time of celebration. So many wonderful events we have shared in as a loving faith community...worship, fundraising opportunities and numerous social activities, all focused on living out our faith with joy. In this newsletter, as we look forward to celebrating our all-too-brief summer season with camping, cottaging, golfing and other fun summer activities, let's reflect on the many opportunities to celebrate we have enjoyed together. From our celebrations of new life at Easter to a tinge of sadness as the busyness of our church life winds down for its summer hiatus, we have so much to be grateful for. But of course, we will continue to worship, to socialize and, of course, to celebrate right through the summer months, keeping each other in our hearts, even as the plans of many draw them to other parts of this province and beyond for the next few months.

WE CELEBRATED: Worship Services

Good Friday Service

As those attending our Good Friday service arrived, they were “welcomed” by a darkened sanctuary with most of the usual adornments stripped away, the communion table featuring a black covering and a black shroud draped from the cross. Certainly, a stark reminder that we were there to remember the painful death of our Lord, Jesus.

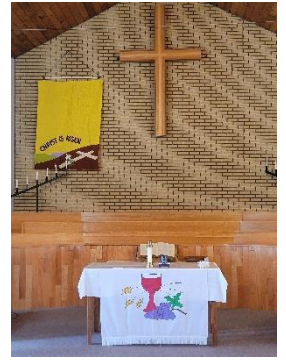


The service itself offered a unique approach to sharing the story of Jesus' trial and crucifixion with a number of readers relating the tragic events of that day through the point of view of stones, which were then, in turn, placed prominently on the table at the front of the sanctuary. Rev. Susan's sermon effectively related the service to today's circumstances with the message that we are an Easter people living in a Good Friday world. Throughout the service, through solemn remembrance, we were reminded of the need to acknowledge the pain of Good Friday in order to fully appreciate the joy of Easter.

Easter Sunday

A strong contingent of NKUC folks, family members and visitors gathered for our Easter Sunday service. The celebratory mood was enhanced upon arrival with a Sunrise (well, a much-belated

sunrise) Brunch taking place before the service featuring fruit, hot-cross buns and even some chocolate eggs courtesy of the Easter Bunny. Many of those attending the service sported colourful Easter garb, and even a few rabbit ears were in evidence. The sense of joy continued with the worship service featuring many opportunities to shout loud Hosannahs, as we heard and celebrated the uplifting account of Jesus' resurrection, made particularly poignant with the incorporation of a celebration of communion together. The service concluded with all of us being treated to a particularly powerful and joyful Postlude performed by our talented Joanne. Thank you to all those who contributed in so many ways to our Easter service...and to all our events throughout Holy Week.



Holy Humour Sunday



Holy Humour Sunday is rooted in a very old Christian tradition of celebrating the resurrection through funny stories, practical jokes, pranks, and lots of joy, all celebrating the ultimate joke they felt that God had played on death by raising Jesus. At NKUC we celebrated Holy Humour Sunday with a service that included a continuing celebration of Easter, plus some joke-telling, humour, music about laughter and joy, and more.

Members of our congregation got involved by reading out jokes supplied by Shirley Alleyne, supplemented by jokes that were submitted to Rev. Susan for her to share with the congregation.

Shirley further contributed to the occasion by sharing a poem capturing the nature of this unique celebration. We also invited the congregation to come wearing 'something fun' - whatever that meant for them. This resulted in some funny t-shirts, lots of bright colours, fun hats, and more. All in all, while retaining a focus on worship, this service provided a special opportunity for us to share in the humour which is so often a cherished characteristic of who we are at NKUC.



International Women's Day Service



On our March 8 worship service at NKUC we recognized the arrival of Daylight-Saving Time with a special guest speaker in honour of International Women's Day. For this occasion, the Outreach Community invited Rev. Marlene Britton to join us and offer our reflection message. We were indeed fortunate to benefit from Rev. Britton's wealth of varied experience both in Canada and in the Caribbean. After being ordained to diaconal ministry in the Caribbean, she has subsequently served as a Diaconal Minister for 33 years, twenty years in the Caribbean and subsequently thirteen years in Canada. After serving pastoral charges in both Alberta and Thunder Bay for six years, Rev. Britton served in the newly-created Office of Vocation, becoming its director in 2022. Since November she assumed responsibilities as the Principal of the Centre for

Christian Studies in Winnipeg.

Her message focused on the nature of diaconal ministry, beginning with its origins in the early church with the concept of "diakonos", the Greek term for ministry or service. She related this to the nature

of the celebration of our faith today, in which we are all “diaconal” through our various ways of serving those in need, following the example of Jesus. She followed that with a most enlightening account of the history of diaconal ministry in the United Church of Canada (and its forebears) with today’s ever-blurring distinction between diaconal ministry and ordained ministry.

As if that wasn’t enough, Rev. Britton enlivened our service by encouraging us to throw ourselves fully into the singing of our hymns, in the same fashion as she experienced in the Caribbean. Our thanks to the Outreach Committee and especially Rev. Britton for such an energizing and informative service.

Earth Day Worship Service

On April 19 the Outreach Committee led a most informative and thought-provoking worship service in recognition of Earth Day. With a theme of “Do My Clothes Matter”, we were exposed to the impact that “Fast Fashion” has on our environment. The trend in the fashion industry to produce cheap clothing, designed to be replaced frequently has the following negative consequences: consumes extravagant amounts of water; creates a glut of micro-plastics; encourages the discarding of serviceable clothing items for something new or results in deterioration of cheaply-made items; subjects those employed in those industries (mostly women) to endure appalling working conditions. We can make a difference by buying second-hand, repairing and re-vamping existing clothing items, buying fewer clothing items, swapping items with friends and buying more sustainable items. The service was enhanced by a short video demonstrating work on this issue being done in Brandon.



Services for Families



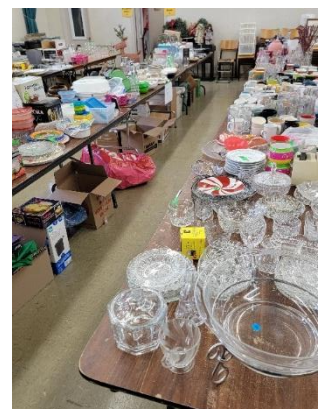
During the month of May we were blessed by having two services in which we recognized the importance of families in our lives. On May 10 we celebrated Christian Family Sunday with hymns, prayers and a message focused on the importance of being members of God’s family and celebrating God’s welcoming us into his family.

On May 31, while Rev. Susan was attending the Prairie to Pine Regional Conference in Selkirk, Worship Committee members Gay Todd, Jen Babcock and Krista Peterson led us in another family-oriented service. This service emphasized some of the challenges in living as a member of a family, both biological families and church families, and trusting God to help us to find joy and special meaning in those family relationships.

WE CELEBRATED STEWARDSHIP

Garage Sale

NKUC held its biannual garage sale with setup beginning on April 20th and carrying through to Saturday, April 25th. Donations of merchandise from our congregation and their friends and neighbours was overwhelming and very gratefully accepted. We had goods for sale on all three levels of the church, plus the larger items outside. In addition to that, over thirty-five people volunteered to work at the sale, which in the end turned out to be a great success. We wish to thank all of the donors, the buyers and the volunteers





who made this possible. This was the most successful garage sale in our history, raising in excess of \$9,000.

We would particularly like to note that we were delighted to receive a donation of four beautiful, handcrafted bird houses compliments of Dick Stone. Dick's hobby is woodworking and he recently took up making bird houses. Each bird house was crafted

with quality materials and protected to survive Manitoba weather. The funds raised from the sale of these birdhouses were included in the garage sale fundraiser.



Plant Sale

For more than twenty-five years, NKUC has held a spring bedding plant sale and 2026 was no exception. Orders for plants were accepted up to April 5th, with the plants arriving for pickup on May 14th, just in time for planing over the Victoria Day weekend, despite the weather conditions not being particularly conducive to planting. Even though overall sales were down a bit this year, it was still a very successful fundraising event, while at the same time, providing our customers with beautiful plants for their gardening needs. Thanks to all of those who contributed to the success of this event: those purchasing plants and selling to their friends and neighbours; those organizing the layout of the plants when they arrived; those filling the plant orders and bringing them upstairs for pick-up; and those cleaning up afterwards. A special thank you to Lorraine and Clayton Gording for all their work in organizing the event, recruiting volunteers and ensuring the plants were delivered into the right hands. Thank you all.



Envelope Project

Our Envelope Project is gaining speed! Join the excitement and help the church raise some extra money before heading into the summer break. Simply select a number(s) from the Board at the back of the Sanctuary and place the number(s) in the envelope provided and insert cash or cheque into the envelope equal to the amount of your number(s). If paying by e-transfer, please send payment

to: treasurer.nkuc@mymts.net and please write "envelope" in the message section. Payment may also be made through our Point-of-Sale device on your debit or credit card. We are also asking that you complete a card indicating what you will be doing during the summer and hang it on the other door. **Even if you are unable to attend church and wish to contribute, please feel free to participate via e-transfer.** Thank you for your support, as this will help to reduce our deficit as we head into the summer.



Last year, through the same project, we collected gifts of money for the church, and we also distributed paper hearts, and invited you to write on them something which you love or appreciate about this church. Susan took the key words from those hearts and added them to a word cloud generator. It produced the image below. There are some names of people involved in leadership in the church, and there are some words describing your experiences of the congregation, and what you appreciate about it. The larger the word, the more times it was written down.

WE CELEBRATED SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Curling With Atlantic Garden City

On the evening of March 14 three hardy teams of NKUC curlers ventured out to the wilds of West St. Paul to do battle with our rivals from Atlantic Garden City U.C. to defend our trophy in the annual curling competition between the two churches. Despite having two of our spies (thank you Karen and Grant) infiltrate Atlantic Garden City teams to ascertain their weaknesses, each game proved challenging with shots being made reminiscent of those of Rachel Homan or Brad Gushue (or perhaps Rachel and Brad's grandmothers). In any case, it looked as if NKUC was about to lose its iron grip on the championship trophy, until the four lads of the Gording team snatched victory from the jaws of defeat to prevail by one point over a team of Atlantic Garden City's finest. Congratulations to our four sharp-shooters, Clayton Gording, Blaine Gording, Brodie Gording and Ron Fortier.



Thanks to Martin and our hosts from Atlantic Garden City for organizing the tournament and for treating us to a much-needed post-game luncheon. Thanks also to our fans who showed up to cheer us on...we couldn't have done it without you. And, of course, thanks to all our curlers who risked life and limb to bravely represent our NKUC family.

St. Patrick's Day Luncheon

We, at NKUC, pride ourselves at getting out "in front of the pack" in whatever endeavours we take on. This past March was no exception, as we made a point of beginning our St. Patrick's Day celebrations a full two days before they got underway in Dublin (or even Chicago). At our worship service, green apparel was much in evidence and Rev. Susan noted how unique that was for a faith

community normally so adverse to the colour green, especially during the football season. While the worship service still focused on the more somber nature of the Lenten season, the service incorporated sufficient Irish-themed prayers and music to acknowledge our St. Patrick's Day celebrations of that morning.

Following the service, it was time to eat. All headed downstairs to find the lower hall suitably decorated to reflect the Celtic festivities and the Men's Group representatives sporting the finest in Irish headwear. Then all helped themselves to a feast, which even the good St. Patrick himself would have heartily approved of...a delicious pseudo-Irish stew, accompanied by suitably green coleslaw and buns (fortunately not green). To top it all off, Dorothy O'Franklin and the Hospitality Committee provided a tasty green dessert to finish the meal in the Irish style.

We are grateful to our token Irishman, Del Sexsmith, and the assorted leprechauns of the Men's group for planning, preparing and serving the meal...not to mention cleaning up afterwards. And thanks to so many of our NKUC folks for attending and contributing in so many ways to a wonderful celebration of fellowship, no matter what their heritage.



Youth Bowling Evening

On the evening of May 1, our Youth Group and friends, under the guidance of Youth Group Leader, Grant McMillan, and joined by Rev. Susan gathered to demonstrate their impressive bowling technique at the Rossmere Bowling Lanes. While no new candidates for Bowling for Dollars emerged, nonetheless the pins took a healthy beating due to the powerful shot-making of our fourteen young bowlers. More importantly, there was lots of fun to be had, amongst plenty of good-natured teasing. And what would a NKUC event be without food? With that in mind, our bowlers gathered afterwards to replenish their energy with delicious snacks, courtesy of the Dorothy Franklin and Linda Slade. Thanks to all who contributed in a variety of ways to this great evening. It reminds us that, despite smaller numbers than in the past, our Youth Group and Sunday School remain active and engaged in our life at NKUC.



Celebration Sunday

As is our practice at NKUC, we celebrated our last Sunday before the wrap up of Sunday School/Youth Group and the departure of many of our members on various vacations with our Celebration Sunday festivities. During the service the Sunday School and Youth Group Leaders (along with two Youth Group members graduating from High School) were recognized, and the Geritol Grannies and Friends enhanced the celebrations with a song composed by our ever-so-talented nonagenarian, Betty Clark. In keeping with the fun-filled tone of the service, Rev. Susan used Conversation Time to engage us in an entertaining bout of NKUC Family Feud.



Following the service, Mother Nature blessed us with beautiful weather for a change, enabling us to gather both inside and outside to share in a wonderful barbecue lunch, organized and served by our Hospitality Committee. While the Youth, as is our custom, enjoyed games outside during the worship service, this time afterwards the adults joined in the fun, being reminded that aging muscles and

tendons are no longer as flexible as they once were. All in all, a wonderful lead-in to our Manitoba summer. A grateful thanks to all who contributed.



NEWS FROM THE PEWS



This has been a period in which several people have had falls. Hopefully with change of seasons, we will have fewer such incidents. Since our last newsletter Get Well wishes have been extended to: Betty Hamilton, Lindsay Enns, Jen Babcock, Betty Clark, Phyllis Dyck, Barb Welton, Shirley Codd's grandson Benjamin, Donna Price, Shirley Davie, Barb Wiebe, Joan Knowles's sister Fran, Verla Verrier, Evleyn Milne, Kelly Nord and Jean Cunningham.

Please keep the following in your prayers. Betty Hamilton, Betty Clark, Shirley Codd's grandson Benjamin, Brenda Gibson's nephew Vincent,

Jen Babcock, Betty Nazarewich's son-in-law Kelly, Heinz Goetz family as his brother undergoes treatment, Joan Knowles and Noreen Scott. And let us pray for the McPherson family as they grieve Marvelle's sudden passing. Our sympathies are also extended to the Gard family on the passing of Myrle Gard.

Lindsay Enns reports that she has completed her last radiation treatment and expresses thanks for all the prayers and support received from this faith community and from the Lord's strength.

In Board News Sheila Fortier reports that the NKUC board wrapped up for the summer with the Executive agreeing to be available for any issues that may require board attention. They are also working on some revisions to our Constitution which will be brought to the Community of Faith once completed. While most changes involve the length of term for board and committee members, we are also spending time reviewing the entire constitution to ensure it is current and reflects our needs.



A number of our NKUC folks have distinguished themselves due to their accomplishments out in the wider community over the last few months. Wilma Fehr was inducted into the Volleyball Manitoba Hall of Fame. Sean Lindsay was recognized at the MCEC (Manitoba Council for Exceptional Children) "Yes I Can!" awards ceremony as MCEC Outstanding Educator of the Year, for his work as an inclusion teacher with the River East Transcona School Division. Emily Kearney (goalie) and her team won gold in the junior high school ringette tournament held at Canlan Sports at the end of April. Elvera Kirk was recognized by CancerCare Manitoba for her dedication to teaching radiation therapy with the establishment of the Elvera Kirk Entry to Practice Excellence Award. Congratulations to all these folks...we're proud of you.



Congratulations are also extended to two active members of our Youth Group, Sydney Lewicki and Kasey Gregg. Sydney is graduating from Kildonan East Collegiate, and she will be moving to Calgary to attend SAIT for the two-year Baking and Pastry Arts program, while Kasey will also be graduating from Kildonan East Collegiate and, for now, his future endeavours will keep him closer to home. All our best to these outstanding young people...your NKUC family is very proud of you!



Betty Clark reports that she has "family" in Sioux Lookout Ontario and when they found out our folks at North Kildonan United Church were collecting tabs they spread the word. A friend of theirs cycles all over town and keeps his eyes open for cans and every few months we are the happy recipients these tabs. Amazing how good folks will pitch in and help the cause for providing wheelchairs to those in need. Many thanks to all you good people of Sioux Lookout.

Finally, a sincere thanks to all who contributed to this mid-winter edition of the Spirit Newsletter, specifically Marvelle McPherson, Sheila Fortier, Nancy Cosway, Linda Slade, Betty Clark, Rev. Susan and Clayton Gording, as well as those who provided photos...Sheila Fortier, Rev. Susan Reed and Peggy Latimer and those providing news about accomplishments. A particular thanks to our Office Manager, Wilma, for her assistance in organizing, formatting and distributing this newsletter.

As we head off on our various summer adventures, let us ask God keep all of us safe and healthy, both those in our faith community and those out in the wider world.

Then you will go on your way in safety, and your foot will not stumble.

When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet.

Proverbs 3 v.23-24

