



MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022

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HOW DO WE FEED OUR MCCLURE COMMUNITY?

I have a wonderful time leading Worship at Amy McClure House once a month. Worship in August was lovely. I read the story of the feeding of the five thousand from Matthew's gospel and together we explored the theme of hospitality. We talked about how Jesus, when his disciples were overcome with the thought of feeding a huge crowd, encouraged his followers to take what they had (five loaves and two fish) and offer it to the crowd. We are not sure what happened that day long ago but somehow, everybody ate their fill and there were left overs. From that moment of unprecedented hospitality everyone knew that God was generous, compassionate and the source of life.

When I asked the residents at Amy's how they coped with unexpected visitors in their kitchens long ago. Joyce said. "She made sure her guest had a nice place to sit". Mary put the kettle on for tea and brought out the good teacups and Betty keep extra potatoes handy in case you had to add a couple to the soup to make it go a bit further.

It would seem to me if we visited Joyce, Mary or Betty we would have left their kitchens knowing, the blessings of hospitality. We would have experienced generosity, compassion and refreshment.

As we move into the Fall, we, here at McClure, are a bit unsure how to address the needs of those who are part of church family and others to whom we are connected in this "almost post Covid" times. Our resources are a bit thin financially, volunteer and formal ministry wise.

Part of the challenge is that we do not know who is coming for supper. Currently we have about 120 folks in the building Sunday morning for worship and so one service accommodates that group. We also know another 20 people are joining via livestream and about 120 people via YouTube later. So, we wonder if those away folk will be back or not and will they choose to join us in the sanctuary again. We do not know.

Very few children have been attending Rainbow village because of Covid – and we wonder will they and their families be back; I hope so for we are poorer without them. Our youth group is tiny and hard to bring together so we wonder how to love them from a distance or to know what might bring them and others together.

HERE IS WHAT I SEE US DOING THIS FALL. Offering what we have, with generous hearts and in God's name, to each other and our community and trusting that baskets will fill to overflowing and all will be fed. And all will know that God is generous, compassionate and the source of abundant life.

Peace,
Debra



REGIONAL COUNCIL CONDEMNS RECENT ABUSES IN SK CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS

Sep 2, 2022

Living Skies Regional Council, the United Church of Canada within Saskatchewan, condemns the abuse that has recently come to light at [Legacy Christian Academy](#) in Saskatoon and at [Redberry Lake Bible Camp](#).

Those who perpetrated, tolerated, and enabled the abuse have not held themselves to Christian principles and practices. As the United Church, we respect human dignity and rights and the highest duty of care for all people because we are Christian- not despite being Christian.

Christians are unequivocally instructed by Jesus to put love for all ahead of all else (*Mark 12: 28-34*). For the United Church, "all" means every person of every race, gender identity and expression, ability, age, sexual identity, and economic status. All people, without exception, are beloved children of God, always deserving of dignity, safety, and respect. (*Luke 10:25-37*). We completely reject understandings of God that are based on fear, control, division, punishment, and coercion. This includes ableist, transphobic, and homophobic understandings of God and Christianity.

The so-called exorcism that took place at Redberry Bible Camp utterly failed to respect the health, dignity, and safety of the camper who was targeted, and we express to him, his loved ones, and the campers who witnessed this violence, our hope for healing from the trauma inflicted.

The [coercion and abuse that took place at Saskatoon Christian Centre Academy/ Legacy Christian Academy](#) likewise violated the most fundamental rights of the students targeted, and we offer our prayers for their recovery, and call for the appropriate authorities to take action. We offer the students our gratitude for their courage in naming this abuse.

We also call on all fellow Christians to completely reject and immediately cease the long Christian tradition of persecuting and targeting Two Spirit and LGBTQIA people.

The United Church believes that all people deserve safe places to work, play, worship, and learn. This is why we support six camps/ outdoor ministries across Saskatchewan, [in addition to other community-based ministries](#). These camps comply fully with [United Church standards](#) and are [accredited under the Saskatchewan Camps Association](#).

Providing an environment where people feel safe and welcome is just one aspect of [our duty of care](#) to those we serve. This includes careful screening of volunteers and leaders, including a criminal record check and clear policies on sexual misconduct, workplace violence and harassment.

The United Church also strives to eliminate all barriers, visible or invisible, that limit the full participation of individuals in any of our hundreds of ministries in Saskatchewan. As we hold ourselves to these standards, we invite the Saskatchewan communities and people we serve to also hold us to these standards.

Darrell Reine, chairperson of the Regional Council

Rev Shannon McCarthy, Executive Minister

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES

Holding you gently in prayer...

All who have experienced grief & loss in its many forms.

We remember Joyce Kendall and family on the death of her husband Dennis

We remember Sandra Busler and family on the death of her husband Cliff



CELEBRATIONS

BAPTISM:

July 17, 2022 -Lilith Vegeta Hamm daughter of Nathan Reimer and Nicole Hamm



MARRIAGE:

August 6th, Jared Albert Espenant & Aurora Jean Coulthard



Church Donation Envelopes

Just a gentle reminder that, if you have ordered donation envelopes from the church office, they are ready to be picked up. If you haven't and wish to order envelopes please drop into the office during the week or on Sunday before or after the service. You also have an opportunity to sign up for PAR if you wish.

Office hours are Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

You can also place your order by email at mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca.

It is helpful if you have your envelope number when you order.

McClure's Transportation Ministry Update

Did you know that McClure provides transportation to anyone needing a ride to and from church on Sunday mornings? Did you also know the church-owned van is NOT self-driving?? We rely on our amazing volunteers. They dedicate their time on Sunday mornings to pick up church-goers who really appreciate getting to in-person services.

At this time, we recognize **Tom Powell, Bill Roach, George Wilson and Norm Woodcock** for their many years of service. These gentlemen have been providing trips enjoyed by many. Their commitment to helping others has been much appreciated and we want to thank them on behalf of all at McClure. They have definitely earned their "van driving retirement!"

We also thank our equally wonderful drivers **Doug Coley, Alf Bisschop and Alice Hiller** who are providing transportation at the present time. They are doing an amazing job but as the old saying goes, "many hands make light work!"

We would love to add a few new volunteers to continue this wonderful transportation ministry, as we are short of drivers. An orientation on operating the bus (eg. chair lift), schedules and routes will be provided. All you need is 5A driver's license and approximately two hours on Sunday mornings. You will make a meaningful impact to those who use this service.

Please consider this opportunity and call the church office at (306)373-1753 or stop in for more information or to volunteer.

MCCLURE BOARD NEWS

Welcome Back to McClure United Church

With the hot (sometimes too hot) days of summer almost behind us, I'd like to encourage everyone to get involved with the numerous committees and activities in our Congregation of Faith. The fall is a busy time of year for our church family as we commence various programs and committee meetings, making it a great time to share your talents in whatever capacity you are able.

A few committees are still in need of additional members, particularly the Stewardship Committee. The Board also has a couple of vacancies and the position of Chair-Elect is still available for the current year. If you are interested in being on a committee, the Board, or acting as the Chair-Elect, please contact me at mgorniak@thomsonjaspar.ca or 306-220-3148.

The Community of Faith Profile working group was very busy over the summer months. Thank-you to everyone that provided them with much needed feedback on our Community of Faith and thank-you to those serving on the working group. The Board will be reviewing the draft report in September and expect further communication to the congregation later this fall.

Extremely exciting news is the potential return of theatre to McClure! Please see the article written by Kristie Elliot in this newsletter for more information.

In closing, I hope everyone has had a relaxing and enjoyable summer and I look forward to seeing you at church in September.

Sincerely, Michael Gorniak, Chair of the Board

McClure United Church is proud to announce the return of Dinner Theatre in March of 2023.

We are hoping to mount a production of the musical **ANNE OF GREEN GABLES**, directed by Kristie Elliott, and we need your help! Your chance to volunteer to help behind the scenes, or to audition for a role on the stage is coming soon.

Right now, we have two key roles we need to fill in order to move ahead.

- **Front of House Manager:** This person will organize ticket takers and ushers for the days of the show.
- **Dinner Coordinator:** This person will organize the caterers, the servers, and oversee the meal portion of the experience.

Kristie Elliott found her love of theatre while participating in dinner theatres, both at Grace Westminster and McClure in the 1990s. Kristie is a teacher and an active member of Saskatoon Summer Players where she most recently directed the summer show, *9 to 5 The Musical*. She is excited to bring theatre opportunities to the current congregation by providing a chance to be on stage, volunteer for the production, or by being an appreciative audience member!

If you are interested in volunteering as a front of house manager, or a dinner coordinator, please contact Kristie by email at Elliott.kristie@gmail.com or by calling (306) 291-5017. If we do not have these volunteer positions in place by the end of September, we will not be able to move forward with this exciting project

NAMETAGS

McClure will be ordering name tags on Thursday September 15th. If you are in need of a new nametag, please contact the office.

The cost is:

- Pin on - \$9.00
- Magnetic \$12.00

Money must be received prior to Thursday the 15th.

thanks!

CANS FOR COSMO

Bring your recycling to the McClure parking lot on September 9th between 10 AM - 1 PM to help raise money for Cosmo Industries!

McClure United - 4025 Taylor St. East



Thanks for your
generous donations.

Cosmo Industries

is so very
appreciative.

How do we stay connected as a Community of Faith?

Rural Connect Sunday – September 11

We are glad to welcome back to worship with us the United Church folks of Carlyle and Radville. Both communities of Faith will join us every Sunday until Christmas with only a few exceptions. Each week I send them our Sunday morning liturgy, including the sermon and assign how each partner will participate. Our partners pay a set amount each Sunday for this connection and support. This is an important ministry for all of us. Our partners, who no longer have paid ministry staff and who would have to travel long distances to continue to worship, are able to gather for worship where they are. For us our partners keep us connected to our roots in rural Saskatchewan and mindful of sharing from our abundant resources. Debra

Worship Tech Team

Our team is fantastic! Our team is still learning and growing. If you would like to learn how to help with the Live Stream stuff that connect about 120 folks to our church family, there is room for you to lend a hand. We are looking particularly for folks who would like to learn the sound system part of the technology. Jim Bugg, our current sound coordinator is willing to train you. We need two or three more volunteers so sound management will come around only once a month

Pastoral Care Team September 22 – 7pm in the Craft Room

In the past, we have had a wonderful, small group, of folks visiting and connecting with members of our Faith Family who can no longer attend worship. During Covid, we appreciated calls of care from members of the congregation. It is time to refresh and renew a Pastoral Care Team. You are invited to gather, with other caring souls, September 22 at 7pm for conversation. No previous experience is required, as some training will be provided. Contact Debra if you are interested or come out on Sept 22.

Blessing Students Sunday September 18

We are celebrating students and starting a new year of Rainbow Village. Children will gather with their families in the worship space for the first 15 minutes of worship where we will offer a prayer of blessing for them. Bring your BACKPACK as we have a special gift for each child to help them remember that God and their church family love them. Then it's off to Rainbow village for some fun with Eden. A special snack will be part of the fun.

Rainbow Village: I am excited to tell you that Eden Polischuk, a recent grad of the College of Education, and a longtime member of McClure will be our Rainbow Village leader this year. We will add more support to her team as needed. Our goal is to provide a safe and fun environment for our children as they explore and live their spirituality. If you have any questions, please call Debra.

Committees and Fundraisers
are a great way to get to know other McClurites

Youth and Young Adult

It is hard to know what shape our McClure youth and young adult groups will take this year. There is conversation amongst Saskatoon United Churches about the wisdom of hiring a Youth Minister for the whole of the city. We are part of the conversation that is just beginning. As things are sorted out, our intention at McClure is to have some special events just for our youth and for our young adults. Stay tuned for more information and please if you have any thoughts or ideas, please send them along to the Faith Development committee via the office email.

Nursery

If you are a parent with an infant or toddler, please know you are welcome in the worship space. A little noise is understood and just fine. If you need to use the nursery, please make yourself at home and turn on the speaker so you can continue to hear the service. Once we get a sense of what the needs of those using the nursery are we will do our best to accommodate those needs. Please communicate your needs to Debra.

Women and Men's Gathering

One of the things that has sustained many of us through the past 2½ years is community.

A small group of men and a small group of women have been meeting throughout the pandemic for connection and conversation via zoom.

We are now **gathering back in the building**. Men meet in the Craft Room and Women meet in the Sanctuary, both spaces allow for good spacing and comfort.

The two groups will gather on the **third Saturday of the month at 8am**. Everyone is welcome.

First gathering: September 17

Other dates: Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Jan. 21, Feb 18, March 18, April 22 (fourth Sat), May 20

BREAKFAST AT AMY'S HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

In our last Newsletter, I asked if anyone was willing to help with scheduling volunteers who serve breakfast to our wise ones at Amy's House. I am thrilled to **celebrate Carol Claypool** and her willingness to take on this important ministry. I am excited, as well, to see that many of you have volunteered for this special work of serving breakfast. Your work frees up the trained staff to better assist residents with morning routines. More volunteers are welcome. If you are a bit unsure if this job is for you, we can team you with someone so you can give it a try. Just a **warning** once you start hanging out with the good residents of Amy's you will be hooked. Please Contact Carol if you are interested in participating in this ministry 306-664-2285.
Debra



Music Moments at McClure

"New Beginnings" would be how I describe the restart of the music program; we hope to be able to Sing for Joy this fall as the Senior Choir begins Wednesday September 7 and new members are always welcome.

Please consider joining one of the following groups; to quote a saying by R. Auerboch, " **Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life**".

Senior Choir will meet Wednesdays with Elin and Shirley in either the Sanctuary or the music room at 7:30pm and discussions will be held as to whether we mask at all practices.

Sacred Sounds are also inviting new members to their group; at present a new meeting time needs to be discussed as some conflicts have arisen. Celeste and Tamara will keep in touch with their members to issue a practice time better suited to everyone.

McClure Place Choristers will meet at 10:30 am Thursdays and are anticipating a good year with lots of vibrant singers in this group.

Is there a Handbell player in the house? If so, please let the office know as we have a set of sad bells plus music waiting to be utilized. A lovely set of handbell ribbons to wear has also been donated in memory of Betty Alexander.

May God bless the gift of music to everyone!

Shirley Blackburn

OUTREACH PROJECTS

Watch for upcoming opportunities to help our community and world through participating in
MCCLURE'S OUTREACH

GOING DEEPER"

The Faith Development Committee is offering a nine-week program this fall for those who wish to spend time in a comfortable discussion group called "Going Deeper." The goal is for the participants to be encouraged to think a bit more deeply about their personal faith and (hopefully) to be willing to share their thoughts with each other in a safe and respectful environment.

This is neither a book study nor a Bible study. We will use a variety of stand-alone resources ... something new each week ... to encourage participants to think a bit more deeply about being a person of faith in the Christian tradition within a UCC context and ethos. Nobody will have to prepare ahead (and no "homework"), so being present for all sessions is not an imperative. All are welcome; however, the number will be limited to 15 persons in order to have space and to help build community during our time together.

Details: each Wednesday afternoon during October (starting 5 Oct) and November in the Craft Room from 1:30 to 3 pm. Feel free to bring a beverage and a pen and notebook if you want to keep any notes

Leadership: Sheila Lavender (MTS)

NOTE: Please register between 15 September and 1 October by emailing Sheila directly at lavenders@sasktel.net or phone her at 306-373-1418.



QUILT GROUP

The quilt group meets Thursday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 in the craft room. Our quilts are donated to **Amy McClure House** and hung in the dining room for sound control. New members are welcome. Bring your sewing machine. For more information call Phyllis Barber 306-220-8609



REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF MCCLURE PLACE ASSOCIATION INC. SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

This newsletter item simply conveys a **brief update** on what is taking place with the Board of McClure Place Association Inc. (MPAI).

The Board of MPAI comprises a maximum of 12 members and a minimum of seven members as per the MPAI bylaws. A simple majority of the members is required to be members or adherents of McClure Church. The change to a simple majority was made at the Annual General Meeting held in June (previously it was a minimum of 70% of the Board members were required to be members of the Church). The other change is that the Church Board no longer has a Board position appointee as was previously the case.

With three members stepping down in June and only two new members joining the Board, the total current complement is 10 people. Eight of these members are also members or adherents of the Church. The Board welcomes new members **Kristie Baxter** and **Don Somers**. Continuing on the Board are **Jim Bugg, Bryan Bilokreli, Jim Kells, Cara Martens, Lori Chartier, Jim Gillis, Shannon Menon** and **Greg Morrison**. With two vacancies to achieve the full complement of 12 members, the Board welcomes interested parties to contact Jim Kells as Chair of the Nominations Committee at your earliest convenience (Jim.Kells@usask.ca). The Board would appreciate having a full complement of members!

As the Board year is just now getting underway, I can only say that we anticipate a full year of activities in 2022-23. We have a couple of major capital projects to conclude in the next few months, and we also intend to communicate the plans being finalized for the expiration of the agreement with the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. This agreement provided for supplemental funding for folks living in the 35 low-rental suites in McClure Tower.

As always, the Board appreciates the leadership provided by MPAI's Executive Director, Lisa White, and all of the other staff members who make McClure Tower and Amy McClure House a great place to live.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Kells, Chair of MPAI

McClure Place Happenings

"To enrich the lives of McClure Place Residents by providing support and service"

We have enjoyed the flowers, garden boxes and many activities this summer at McClure Place. Thank you to all the residents who share vegetables and help to keep our home a pleasant place to be. Summer activities included ice cream parlours, scrabble, cribbage, and playing pool on warm days. Forever In Motion, Yoga, Line Dancing along with coffee time help to make our days go well. Tech Lessons with Jace (our summer student) happen each week. Jace goes over the basics of the iPad/tablets and smart phones.

City of Saskatoon Archivist, Jeff O'Brien gave a talk on the "War to End All Wars".

Jeff spoke of the challenges that affected people of Saskatoon in the dark days of the First World War titled, "Home by Christmas, Saskatoon and the Great War 1914-1918".

On a hot July day, Alf Bisschop drove residents in the church van to the Buhler Gardens in Osler. This was a Nest Saskatoon Refugee Fundraiser. We enjoyed four gardens, music, and refreshments. At each garden, refugees welcomed all visitors. On our way home, Alf stopped and treated us to ice cream!

Residents enjoyed an afternoon of fun with wine and friends in a tent outside the link doors. The Thelma Pepper Memorial Art Walk at River Landing Amphitheater gave residents an opportunity to celebrate the life of Thelma Pepper. This walk was to raise awareness of the value of creativity, nature, exercise, and friendship. The church van was also used to drive us to the Berry Barn to enjoy an outing and delicious lunch.

Cynthia Johnston from the Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA) gave a presentation on the positive aging programs for Saskatoon older adults. Some of these programs are the Globe Winter Walk, Hub Clubs, Century Club, iPad lending library, pen pal program and Caregiver Resources. Seniors can receive the Coming-of-Age newsletter and come to a fundraiser called Nifty 50s Showcase on November 4, 2022.

McClure's summer students have done a great job helping this summer. We wish Jace, Matthew, Jessie and Jared all the best in the coming year. Thank you for all your hard work.

Our thoughts are with those who have passed away and those who are experiencing illness. We look forward to sharing time with new residents as they become part of our community.

Elaine Tall

Passionate about the work, ministry & mission of the wider
United Church of Canada?

Please check out these links for news & updates:
UCC National Newsletters:

<https://united-church.ca/e-newsletters>

UCC Mission & Service: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/generosity-through-mission-and-service>



**Got important info for the McClure UC Newsletter?
Feedback? Ideas?**

Please e-mail any newsletter submissions, suggestions
& feedback to

Sheila Krueger – Editor

newsletter@mcclureunitedchurch.org

October Newsletter Deadline:

Sunday, September 25, 2022

Newsletter Format Options:

Our monthly newsletter is available at the church website & it's also e-mailed directly to everyone on the e-mail list. But, if you prefer to receive a paper copy **or** you need to update your e-mail/contact info, please contact the office at:

306-373-1753 or mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca

To support of the Life and Work of the Church financially:

- Donations can be made through the website using Canada Help -go to the webpage and click on the donate button.
- Pre-Authorized Remittance PAR can be set up by calling the office 306-373-1753.
- E- transfers are welcome by contacting Irene@mcclureunitedchurch.org. Irene is our finance staff person.

Envelopes are available through the Church office 306-373-1753

Did you know?

All Worship services are available at McClure's YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCTKNODhUdibWig5etzkMv8w



Printed copies of sermons are available at:

<http://mcclureunitedchurch.org/sermons>



MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH

306-373-1753

www.mcclureunitedchurch.org

www.facebook.com/McClureUnitedChurchSktn/



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Ministry Personnel

Rev. Debra Berg

Office Administrator

Irene Lacoursiere

Administrative Assistant

Claudia Manning

Data Entry Clerk



Pam Turner

Music Coordinator

Shirley Blackburn

Pianist

Elin Sletmoen

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7pm Sacred Sounds	2	3
4 10am Worship	5 - Labour Day Church Office Closed 7pm Property Cmte	6 7pm Outreach 7pm Stewardship	7 10am Congregational Care 7:30pm Choir Practice	8 7pm Sacred Sounds 7pm M & P Cmte	9	10
11 10am Worship & Rainbow Village	12	13 10:30am Joint Facilities Cmte 6:30pm Faith Dev Zoom 7pm Property Cmte	14 7:30pm Choir Practice	15 10:30am Choristers 7pm Sacred Sounds	16	17 8am Men's Gathering 8am Women's Gathering
18 10am Worship & Rainbow Village  Blessing Student Sunday	19	20 7pm Board Meeting (1)	21 7:30pm Choir Practice	22 7pm Sacred Sounds 7pm Pastoral Care Team	23	24
25 10am Worship & Rainbow Village ***Deadline for Newsletter***	26	27 7pm Board Meeting (2)	28 7:30pm Choir Practice	29 10:30am Choristers 7pm Worship Committee	30 	