

MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2023

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"A Faith Refreshed" – Bruce Schnell

I think I inherited my faith. My father was a United Church minister and I was born in the United Church manse in Maymont, Saskatchewan. A few months after my birth, we moved to Saskatoon. I don't recall any in-depth discussions about faith or religion but I certainly grew up in a loving and caring Christian home.

Westminster United was our home church. We went to church on Sundays, sometimes twice! In due course, I went to Sunday School, Boys' Club, and YPU (Young People's Union). I went to communicants' class and joined the church when I was 13. In grade 11, I was our church's delegate to Tuxis and Older Boys' Parliament in Regina. I joined the choir when I was 20. Later, June and I had our marriage banns read in that church. In spite of all this "churching," I realize now that I never really thought much about my personal faith. I guess it was faith by osmosis.

June and I were away from Saskatoon for a number of years and returned in the spring of 1966. I had a new job; we had a new baby daughter and a new home in Brevoort Park

One day, we noted in the Star-Phoenix that there was to be a new United Church to serve the new residential areas on the eastern edge of Saskatoon. How exciting for us! We attended the first service of McClure United Church in Walter Murray Collegiate that October. We were so excited to meet such an energetic group of young parents and to hear the plans for the future. There were kids everywhere! I was on the building committee before we had even transferred our membership. Over the years I have had the opportunity to serve on numerous committees, to be a co-chair of the Board, to work on special projects, to be a Trustee, to sing in the choir for 40 years, all the while interacting with a wonder group of Christians who, week in and week out, lived out their faith.

Most of the issues the minister would ask us to pray about on Sunday mornings, those dealing with illness, job loss, dysfunctional relationships, addictions, depression, etc. didn't really seem to apply to us. Life was good.

Then, suddenly, we got a wake-up call. June was diagnosed with stage three colorectal cancer! Her surgery went well but, after seven rounds of chemotherapy, she became very ill. She was rushed to RUH, suffering from chemo toxicity. Twelve days later, she came home in a wheel chair. The following year, I had a heart attack and a small stroke. Life changed for us. What's happening here? I started having thoughts about mortality, the meaning of life and my faith. I realized that, while I had been church-active, my faith had been on auto-pilot. I didn't really seem to have a faith at all.

I spent quite a bit of time trying to figure out what to do. I read a bit, thought a bit, studied a bit and yes, prayed a bit. And, bit by bit, things started to come together for me. So, where am I today on my faith journey? I have come to realize that faith is a very personal thing. I may be part of a faith community but my faith is my faith! It is based on things that make sense to me.

I have come to realize **there are four things that seem to inform my faith and speak to it.**

- The first is the United Church New Creed - "We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God, who has created and is creating"
- The second is The Lord's Prayer - the version that begins with, "Our Father, who art in heaven...."
- The third is the Great Commandment - "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." And, "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- The fourth component is WWJD - What would Jesus do?

This may seem overly simplistic, and it probably is, but I find it comfortable and comforting.

Thanks be to God. Amen

Bruce Schnell

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES

Holding you gently in prayer...

All who have experienced grief & loss in its many forms

Jim & Shirley Blackburn on the death of Shirley's sister-in-law Greta Bearman

Keith Plewis on the death of his wife May Plewis.

Family and friends of Perry Kullman.

Family and friends of Bill Lampman.

Karl Lenz on the death of his brother Clarence Lenz.

Sheila Lavender on the death of her aunt Geertrui ("Truus") Oliver

Carolynn Drabble on the death of her brother-in-law Terry Baker

Rod Drabble & family on the death of his uncle Terry Baker

John Hanlin on the death of his sister-in-law Margaret Crawford.



to help us acknowledge **CELEBRATIONS OR LOSSES** in our church family please contact Sheila at eskrueger@sasktel.net

CELEBRATIONS

Baptism:

January 6th - Anjali Catherine Menon daughter of Shannon Menon (Bray) & Aditya Menon



Confirmation/Membership and Reaffirmation of Faith gatherings.

I have two folks interested and we are looking for a larger group. Let Debra know if you are interested.

Contact Debra at debra.b@shaw.ca

FRAUD ALERT

Twice now, my email account has been used to fraudulently ask members of McClure United Church to purchase gift cards for someone I am attempting to help in an emergency. Usually, the request asks that you purchase a gift card and then take a picture of the important information and send the photo to me so I can access the money.

I will never ask you for money electronically or otherwise.

The Church has emergency funds that I can access if necessary and so I would never make a direct request. This email scam has occurred using several Saskatoon clergy emails as well. Be careful out there.

Debra

Did you Know?

The liturgy used by McClure this Lent is based on a resource called "Seeking" by Sanctified Art.

It comes with a **free Lenten Devotional** which is available from the office upon request.

WORSHIP SERVICES & LENTEN STUDY



Ash Wednesday Worship February 22 at 7pm

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, the 40 days before Easter (not including Sundays). The season is symbolic of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness being tempted. When we place the ashes (made from the burning of the previous year's palms from Palm Sunday) on our bodies (foreheads or hands), we are marked with a sign of repentance, and reconciliation.



We will once again be offering Lenten lunches each Thursday in Lent with volunteers offering a short reflection. The lunches are scheduled from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

There are 7 Thursdays in lent beginning on February 23rd (the first Thursday after Ash Wednesday) and ending on Maundy Thursday, April 6th. You may wish to attend all or just some of the lunches. A light lunch will be served and will include dessert and coffee or tea. The price is \$12.00.

If you have any dietary issues, please advise the office and we will try to accommodate them. In order that we may advise the kitchen of numbers, you will need to phone the office to let us know if you are planning to attend by **Tuesday morning of each week**. You may pay in advance or when you arrive on Thursday.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will need to have volunteers to lead the reflection time. Theme information will be available to help you plan the reflection.

We also need a volunteer to check people in and to collect the money each week.

A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board with McClure coming events. You may choose to sign up for one or more of the Thursdays.

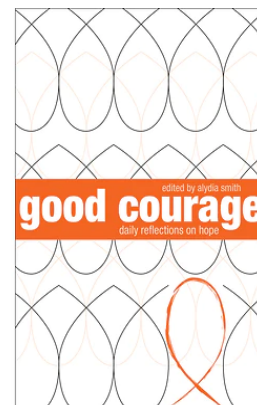
If you would be able to help, please call Carol Claypool at 306-664-2285 or email at cmclaypool@gmail.com. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lenten Study

Friday Morning- via Zoom 11am
discussion of readings from the [good courage](#) resource.
February 24 to March 31
email Debra to get the zoom link: debra.b@shaw.ca

[good courage](#) aims to inspire with honest testimonies from people who have had the courage to follow their hearts, to hope against hope, and to faithfully work towards a better world.

We will **bulk order** the book to reduce shipping costs - contact the office before January 30 (approx. \$18.00) to place your order. The book is also available as an e-book through UCRD (7.95)



McClure United Presents...



Anne of Green Gables

The Musical

Directed by Kristie Elliott

March 9-12th

Anne of Green Gables –
The Musical™
Book by Donald Harron
Music by Norman Campbell
Adapted from the novel
by L. M. Montgomery

McCLURE
United Church

4025 Taylor St E

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES – THE MUSICAL
is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals.
www.concordtheatricals.com

March 9, 10, 11: Dinner Theatre

Doors open at 5:30 pm. Dinner at 6 pm,
show to follow.
Assigned seating, tickets \$50

March 12: Dessert Theatre

Doors open at 1:30, show at 2:00.
Dessert at intermission.
Rush seating, tickets \$25

For tickets, please call:
306-545-8432

**Ticket takers and Ushers
needed for Dinner theatre**
3 each night on March 9, 10, 11
starting at 5:20 pm.

2 people on Sunday, March 12
starting at 1:20 pm.
contact

Kathy at (306) 242-3972.

**Dessert & Coffee Prep for
Dessert theatre**

4 volunteers Sunday, March 12.
call or text

Terry at (306) 880-1939

* Tickets will be sold
after church on Sundays
starting
January 29th
and by phone
306-545-8432
starting on January
30th

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Income Tax Receipts:

Income tax receipts will be delivered by hard copy this year rather than by email. The receipts will be ready the first part of February and will be **available to pick up** in the church foyer prior to and after the church service for a couple of weeks.

They will also be available in the church office during office hours at this time. Once folks have had the opportunity to pick up their receipt in person, the remainder of the receipts will be mailed out and you will receive your receipt before the end of February as required

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

- **Pre-Authorized Remittance PAR**
can be set up by calling the office 306-373-1753.
- **E- transfers** are welcome by contacting
donations@mcclureunitedchurch.org
- Donations can be made through the website using Canada Help –go to the webpage and click on the donate button. (Note: Canada Help takes a fee and therefore McClure does not get 100% of your donation if you use this method)

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

STAYING CONNECTED

Family Ministry

We hope our families enjoyed a little gift bag to help celebrate advent. **A big thank you to Heather Muirhead** for putting the bags together and making sure they were delivered. Each bag contained some activity ideas for marking Advent, a book mark, candle, Christmas tree ornament, a card signed by members of the congregation and of course some candy

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 space, please make yourself at home and turn on the speaker so you can continue to hear the service. Please communicate your needs to Debra.

Rainbow Village: Eden Polischuk, a recent grad of the College of Education, and a longtime member of McClure is our Rainbow Village leader this year. **Eden is at the Church every Sunday at 10am.**

Children are welcome to join their families in the worship space for the first bit and then move to Rainbow Village.

If you have any questions, please call Debra.

Women and Men's Gathering

A fine group of men and a good group of women are gathering for conversation and connection. 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.

NEXT GATHERING: February 18

Other dates: March 18, April 22 (fourth Sat), May 20

Youth and Young Adult

We are still figuring out how to connect with our youth and young adults. As things are sorted out our intention here at McClure is to have some special events. Stay tuned for more information and **please if you have any thoughts or ideas please send them along to the Faith Development Committee** or if you would like to plan something let Debra know – debra.b@shaw.ca



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Tech Team

Help is Needed

In the technical booth with operation of the sound system, projectors, cameras, and Rural Connect. No prior skills or knowledge necessary. Training is provided for all positions. Unsure of what is involved? Come up for a service and see what takes place. Please contact Adam Brookman (inventadam@gmail.com), Jim Bugg (jim.bugg@usask.ca), or the Church Office for more information.

Breakfast at Amy's House

Snowbirds (retired folks heading to warmer climates) are flying south so a few more volunteers are welcome.

Your job would be to put on a happy face and greet residence as they begin their day. You would then provide breakfast service, get the cereal, prepare the toast, pour the juice and coffee.

If you are a bit unsure if this job is for you, Carol our coordinator will arrange for you to give it a try before you commit.

Please Contact Carol if you are interested in participating in this ministry 306-664-2285.

Prayer Shawls – We are running low.



3-4 shawls are given away each month to Church friends who are in hospital or experiencing a difficult diagnosis. We hope that those who receive the shawls will feel the care and comfort of their church family at a difficult time.

A shawl is also offered to new residence of Amy McClure House to help them feel at home. There is a

pattern available for the shawls or you can create your own.

Thank you in advance for contributing to this important ministry

Sing a Long at Amy's

On the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 2:00 p.m. we go to Amy McClure House and sing some of the old songs with the residents.

If you would be interested in playing the piano or leading the singsong, we would like to have you become one of the leaders or piano players. You would only be involved about once every two months for an hour and a half.

The residents do enjoy this time spent with them and it is a good opportunity to get to meet them.

Please call Elaine Nutbrown (306-373-7992) or Mary Lou Forrest (306-373-0425) if you would like more information. All the piano music and sing song books are provided



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Egadz is a non-profit community-based organization providing programming and services to children, youth and their families in making healthy choices which improve their quality of life.

The Outreach Committee would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who donated winter wear, personal hygiene items or monetary donations to Egadz this past **Christmas**. The monetary donations totaled \$2395.00! The Egadz organization is very thankful to the McClure Community for their support.



THANKS!



McClure has been supporting refugees for 43 years!
That is an amazing legacy of Outreach care and compassion.



This is the third year for our "Plant a Heart for Refugees" project.

We are asking for donations of any amount for Refugee projects to be mailed, dropped off or e-transferred to the Church office. Be sure to indicate that this donation is for Refugees.

For every \$20 collected, we will "plant" a heart in the snow beside the outdoor sign. It is simple and yet it makes a beautiful reminder to the community of our concern for people beyond our doors. Anyone driving by gets a wonderful indication of how important refugees are to our faith community.

This project begins February 1 - March 1. So, let us start those hearts sprouting up soon.



"THE BIG SHRED" MAY 6th

Confidentially shred your Papers that are taking up space,

The Big Shred! Mark your new calendar today for **Saturday, May 6** from **9 am - 12 noon** for the 6th annual Big Shred!

This is your chance to quickly shred any old personal papers that are taking up space. The team of local smiling volunteers including our partner, *Shred-it* (which donate their service to our project), will quickly shred your documents in the McClure United Church parking lot. The service is by donation (suggested \$10 per box, or \$5 per shopping bag) and the funds raised will assist the McClure Place Foundation in upgrading health services and well-being at Amy McClure House.

McClure Place Happenings

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

McClure Place residents enjoyed a variety of special Christmas events - Christmas Banquet, Caroling Firefighters, Christmas Carols and Coffee with McClure Place Choristers, Enchanted Forest Light Tour - and we look forward to many participatory opportunities in 2023. Although a number of residents and staff have experienced colds, the flu and covid, we continue to be an active community.

January activities began with the continuation of In Motion exercises four mornings a week and a new weekly series of yoga with Fran. Yoga is done in a combination of sitting and standing and is designed to help maintain body flexibility and balance.

Floor Curling is under way for another season and a Cozy Waffle Brunch was enjoyed by many residents.

The church van is appreciated by residents for weekly trips to grocery stores and occasionally to local malls. A special thanks to the volunteer drivers who so faithfully provide this service. To support the operation of the van a "High Tea" was held on January 21st featuring the musical styling of renowned pianist Martin Janovsky.

The 10th Annual Globe Walk program from the Saskatoon Council on Aging has begun. This is a program for seniors to be active during the winter months. We log our own physical activities and track with other seniors in Saskatoon.

Saskatoon Public Library provides an eclectic selection of books for residents to enjoy. The books are exchanged every 2-3 months so we have a continual supply of good reading material.

Saskatoon Seniors Continued Learning online courses are offered via zoom and include: A Brief Survey of the History of Popular Music in North American Today; Stalin: 1934-1941. The Place and Impact of the Purges and Lord of the MAGA; the Two Legislatures: Parallels Between US and Canadian Politics Since 2020.

There was a Residents General Meeting on January 23 to communicate the work of Residents Council. This gives all residents the chance to engage in the everyday aspects of the tower as guided by their elected Council.

Carolynn Drabble

BACK PAGE

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

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

Sheila Krueger – Editor
eskrueger@sasktel.net

**March Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, February 19, 2023**

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

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>

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

www.mcclureunitedchurch.org
www.facebook.com/McClureUnitedChurchSktn/



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Office Administrator

Irene Lacoursiere

Administrative Assistant

Claudia Manning

Data Entry Clerk

Pam Turner

Music Coordinator

Shirley Blackburn

Pianist

Elin Sletmoen



February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30pm Senior Choir	2 10:30 MP Choristers 1:30 Quilting Group 4:00 Forever in Motion 7:00 Sacred Sounds 7:00 M & P Meeting	3	4
5 10am Worship & Rainbow Village	6 4:00 Forever in Motion	7 7:00 Property Cmte 7:00 Outreach Cmte— Zoom	8 9:30am Congreg.Care 7:30pm Senior Choir	9 10:30 MP Choristers 1:30 Quilting Group 4:00 Forever in Motion 7:00 Sacred Sounds 7:00 Faith Development	10	11
12 10am Worship & Rainbow Village	13 4:00 Forever in Motion	14 	15 7:30pm Senior Choir	16 10:30 MP Choristers 1:00 Quilting Group 4:00 Forever in Motion 7:00 Sacred Sounds	17	18 8am Men's Gathering 8am Women's Gathering
19 10am Worship & Rainbow Village Newsletter Submission Deadline!	20 FAMILY DAY OFFICE CLOSED	21 7:00 Worship Cmte 7:30pm Board Meeting	22 7:30pm Senior Choir 7pm Ash Wednesday Service 	23 10:30 MP Choristers 1:00 Quilting Group 4:00 Forever in Motion 7:00 Sacred Sounds	24 12pm Lenten Lunch 	25
26 10am Worship & Rainbow Village	27 4:00 Forever in Motion	28			12pm Lenten Lunch 	