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Nancy Nourse***  In June, our worship series was based on the book “Canoeing the Mountains” by Tod Bolsinger. It uses the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1804 as the backdrop for explaining the idea of adaptive leadership in changing times, with the subtitle for the book being “Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory”. “Uncharted territory” is where Lewis and Clark found themselves as they reached the headwaters of the Missouri River, searching for a water trade route west to the Pacific. They soon realized they needed more than their canoes to be successful in crossing the unexpected Rocky Mountains!  This book was so compelling, not just because we are a church discerning the future in an increasingly secular world. But also because we are in the midst of a pandemic! Churches and ministers had been trained to prepare sermons during the week and deliver them in person each weekend from their pulpit. Suddenly, for safety reasons, we could no longer gather in person. Many churches had no live-stream capability. Many leaders were novices at using social media or their iPhone to broadcast messages to their churches. Some ministers merely complained about the government's overreach and longed for a return to normalcy. Others adapted to the unexpected circumstances and discovered new ministry opportunities they had previously missed.  Lewis and Clark had to make a decision. They could admit failure and go home. They could futilely attempt to continue using the methods that had given them success in the past. Or they could adapt. This book is about our being able to adapt. It is for when what got us to where we are now won't get us any further. And as Bolsinger suggests problems churches are facing today ". . . are very often the result of yesterday's solutions". If certain methods have brought us success for many years, it is extremely difficult and unsettling to let them go.  Throughout June, we explored this “Canoeing the Mountains” idea with the help of Moses and the story of the Exodus…basing our reflections on another great book “Let Go: Leaning into the Future without Fear” by Matt Miofsky.  We follow a God who said from the beginning God wants to change us. Romans 12 says don’t’ be conformed – be transformed! Be changed! Everyday God is seeking to change us to be more like Jesus. The adventure to follow Jesus is a constant movement of change. It is essential to our faith as Christians.  That said, change can be hard – whether we ask for that change or not. The Israelites had prayed for change for 400 years while slaves in Egypt. And even then, they found it hard to leave behind the place they had known for so long…with all its comforts and predictability. But they had to stop looking to the past and instead take that first step into the water before the sea would part and they could move safely across. Moses led them through the wilderness, a time of discovery and clarification. There’s this idea that God has to turn us into new people before God can take us into a new place. We have to log some wilderness time – that in-between space is not wasted time but an important feature in what God is leading us on.  The most surprising part of the story, if you recall, is that when the Israelites finally get to the edge of the promised land – full of all the wonderful things God had promised – they realize there are still challenges there. And instead of trusting in God to help them, they choose fear, and end up wandering the dessert for 39 years…circling and circling the promised land because they were too afraid of what challenges existed for them.  We’ll reach points like that too – in our lives and in the life our church as we make decisions about the future. We’ve been prayed and working for change for so long. But when it comes, and we are at the edge of it…will we enter the promised land? Are we going to only pay attention to challenges – or are we going to trust God? Will we trust God to take us to these new places – through the wilderness to a new reality?  We can focus on the promise, on the good things, and the God who brought us here, or focus on the voice of fear and all the challenges.  Yes we need to plan wisely but there is a fine line between all the planning and contingencies and prayers … and just being scared to go for it.  Let’s be part of the great things God has planned for us. And remember that in our road to change there will be a choice between fear, and trusting God. Friends – I want you to always choose trust. | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **HOMECOMING SUNDAY**  A picture containing text  Description automatically generatedThe Board is pleased to announce that with the drop in covid numbers and the increase in first and second vaccine doses, it has decided we will re-open to in-person worship on Sunday, September 12th. It has directed the re-launch committee to review AHS guidelines and put in place necessary safety measures, and give direction to volunteers around greeters and worship practices, children and youth ministry, whether or not coffee and food service can take place, groups that would like to resume meeting at the church, rentals, etc. Live-streaming of worship will also continue after in-person worship resumes. While things still may not be exactly the way they were before, we look forward to being together in person! You have been missed! |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | | A picture containing text  Description automatically generated |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **NORTHMINSTER SUMMER GET TOGETHER**  Join us at Highwood Pool for a summer get together with your Northminster family on Wednesday July 14th from 8:00pm - 9:30pm at Highwood Pool (25 Holmwood Ave NW).  Bring a lawnchair if you want to sit and visit or your swim gear if you're going to swim. Heated pool with 1 to 2.4m depth with spray deck. Sheltered Picnic Area and some picnic tables.  Register early through Eventbrite or call the office to reserve your spot.  66 person capacity. Cost is by donation (box on site) | | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing text, stationary  Description automatically generated**KIDZONE UPDATE**  Well my friends, we made it through this school year. It’s June and as the school year wraps up, our KidZone year comes to and end as well. I want to thank our committed and hard-working Coaches for their efforts especially this year. We have three divisions, Spark (ages 3 - Grade 3) with Coaches Julie and Tracey, Glow (Grade 4-Grade 6) with Coaches Lindsay, Emily and Nicole and our Shine class (Grade 7-12) with Coach Mary Anne. Spark classes take place on the third Sunday of each month. Glow takes place on the second and fourth Sunday of the month and Shine takes place each Sunday. During the Pandemic we have also worked collaboratively with Symons Valley and Woodcliff United to create prerecorded online lessons and activities for children and families. These have been very successful.   Our themes since the start of 2021 have been; Psalm 23, Noah, Palm Sunday, Easter, Lydia, Pentecost and The Trinity. Throughout these lessons we have also discussed diversity, kindness, love and acceptance. This year has certainly had it’s challenges. Our coaches have stepped up and so have our children. Between our three divisions, we typically have 10-12 kids each Sunday. Learning on Zoom is not always easy so I want to thank our children and their parents for showing up ready to learn and participate each week! On behalf of the KidZone coaches, we wish you a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you (hopefully in person) in September. God Bless. Respectfully Submitted,  Tracey Abbott | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Diagram  Description automatically generated**KIDZONE THIS SUMMER** While we won’t be having Zoom gatherings or the collaboration videos in July and August, be sure to check out the weekly email for a fabulous pdf from Illustrated Ministries. Each week, you’ll get a new children’s bulletin with bible and faith-based activities to enjoy. Fun and engaging for all ages! Grandparents…be sure to print them off for your grandkids too! | | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A group of people outside a building  Description automatically generated with medium confidence**YOUTH MINISTRY**  It has been my great pleasure to work with the Shine Youth Group again this year!  What a wonderful group of young people they are!  We met online weekly for Games Nights and Sunday Youth KidZone class.  We gathered virtually once a month for both a Netflix Movie Night and Naked Faith.  We were able to meet in person, socially distanced for a fall fireside games night, as well as helping with the Bottle Drive, and with curbside pickup for both the Christmas and Spring plant fundraisers and Highland Park Rocks - for Highland Park Neighbour Day.  We joined together with Woodcliff and McDougall United Churches for a presentation about consent as well as two virtual Games Nights.  We are wrapping up our year with a trip to the Zoo.  One particular highlight this year has been working with the Shine Youth to write and record prayers and bible stories as part of the Northminster United Church contributions to the Shared Children’s Ministry.  The Youth worked together each month to write the beautiful words you hear in the videos and took time to record themselves saying their parts.  If you would like to see a compilation of the prayers and stories, please visit the Northminster Youtube Channel.  It has been another challenging year for our Youth as they flipped between in school and online learning.  They have all worked so hard and I appreciate that they continue to make time for their involvement in the youth group.  I wish them all a fantastic summer and look forward to what the fall will bring for us! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |   **CELEBRATE YOUR LIFE!** Text, whiteboard  Description automatically generatedAs you celebrate a special occasion this year, why not include Northminster in your plans! Whether it’s a big birthday or a special anniversary…no matter the occasion…consider making a donation to your church this summer as part of your celebrations. Perhaps a dollar for every year you are celebrating? And if your family or friends ask you what you’d like for a gift, suggest they give the same to your church. After all, we say we have everything, right? And we know these gifts make a difference in what Northminster is capable of doing. So let’s give in support of what is close to our hearts. And…it’s the only birthday or anniversary gift you’ll give that you’ll get a charitable tax receipt for! Be sure to mark “Celebrate Your Life” on your donation. |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A child and child wearing graduation gowns and smiling  Description automatically generated with low confidence | | **CELEBRATING OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES**  Congratulations to Grace Abbott and Ashton Engel who are both celebrating the completion of high school. They were presented with a prayer shawl from Northminster. To learn more about their plans, watch the worship service from June 20th on Facebook or YouTube. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Graphical user interface, text, website  Description automatically generated**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE** *Created by Helen Miller, Lorie Haydu, Elsie Ross, Mary Anne Wickerson, Nancy Nourse*  Northminster hosted a Community Round Table with agencies and non-profits to share how we support the community, current successes and challenges during the pandemic, opportunities that exist in the area around Northminster, and gaps that may need our attention. Agencies that participated included city social workers from Highland Park and Thorncliffe Greenview, Trellis (formerly Aspen Family Services which has now partnered with Boys and Girls Club), The Alex, Kerby Centre, Fresh Start Recovery, Bowwest Community Services, Carya, Closer to Home, and Calgary Police. Folks from Northminster attended as listeners, and here are the highlights that we’d like to share with the congregation as we think about our future.  Food and utility insecurity continue to be the two items of greatest need in our area. In other words, people can’t often support both and will chose to go without one so they can scrape together enough for the other.  What support programs are worth exploring in this area: Community food box? Group cooking nights? Brown bagging? What ideas do you have? Accessing fresh produce in the neighbourhood is also a challenge. Many don’t have transportation to the Food Bank and it’s often only non-perishables that are offered there.  The need for a proper kitchen in our new space will open many opportunities for both church and community – kitchen is a tool for ministry. This doesn’t have to be the most expensive commercial kitchen, but we can’t short-change ourselves on adequate and accessible space.  Food is our hub…for ministry, hospitality, outreach, education, for our sustainability and rental income. Food is biblical – Jesus did so much around food!  Partnerships continue to be a necessity to help us best support the community. Many of the groups who were present at the roundtable are already our partners, or have been.  Some noted that a lot of groups overlap with how they support clients – duplication of programs happens quite a bit, so partnerships would help reduce that.  One future partnership we think would be worth pursuing is with the Kerby Centre. They are more than willing to provide programming in other locations like ours, and we serve a similar demographic. One program they are excited about is the cyber senior program – mentoring youth to help seniors with technology. Another program that would fit for us, in addition to health, fitness, caregiving, life-long learning, is their Rainbow Elders program for LGBTQ seniors.  At one time, funding in our province required smaller social service organisations to amalgamate into larger and fewer hubs. This has changed again, and the move is back to decentralizing – creating more smaller spaces for community support and resources. There is need for flexible and accessible space for education, presentations, movement, and performances. AHS staff are often looking for space for programs and support, and the new teaching kitchen in the Village Commons in East Village was referenced as something to investigate further. Again because not everyone has transportation, these smaller community spaces are becoming a necessity.  One strength of Northminster is our stand-alone programs (not long-term commitments, but single events like movie nights, caroling, guest speakers, community meals, TRC events). Finding the right topic at the right time for guest speakers for community connections and information nights is important, and opportunities that fit for bringing together congregation and community is key.  People are yearning for in-person / non-virtual opportunities to connect. Programs need to be in a safe and accessible space, and be intergenerational and affordable.  We look forward to keeping in touch with these groups to express our gratitude for them, keep connected for future events we can work together on, and continue to building a strong partnership for possibilities for the future.  You’ll notice from this roundtable, that we didn’t go into this wondering what all the needs and problems are with the idea that we can fix them. Instead our hope was mutual conversation, where we could glimpse ideas and opportunities where God is already at work in our community, and then ask “How can Northminster be part of this?” We have to remember that things will go on without us, and if we are envisioning the future, we need to create these conversations and partnerships so we can support the great work that is happening, and see how we can participate.  As we discern the future of our church building, we must remember that the building is not the mission. The building is just a tool to living out our mission. So…having read the highlights from our first roundtable, where do you see Northminster fitting into all of this? How do you see us being part of the great work that is happening in our area, and how can we merge those missions as we plan for the future?  We learned this year that we can be the church in new ways without the building in its exact form. So looking to the future, what has the pandemic taught us about being the church? And what tools will we need as we plan our mission for the future? | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A close-up of hands holding a baby's feet  Description automatically generated with low confidence**AFFIRMING MINISTRIES**  Thanks to the 17 folks from Northminster who participated in the Queer Virtue study in Lent. From that, we were able to share our thoughts, learnings, challenges, reflections during worship on May 23rd. If you haven’t had a chance to watch that service, here is the link to the YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U49cD4nbEpE>  We are also excited about the ABCs of LGBTQ+ with guest speaker Kiran McKee.  The Affirming Ministries committee met recently on Zoom and is planning opportunities for us to be in conversation this fall…hopefully over coffee, or movie nights, or guest speakers on the ways we can make sure there are no barriers to full participation in the life of Northminster…whether those are physical, race, gender, age, language, financial, sexuality. We want to engage everyone in learning, reflection, and conversation from a faith perspective. To help with that, our committee members are reaching out to other Affirming churches in the area to ask how they engaged folks in conversation.  A picture containing text, television, screen, indoor  Description automatically generatedFun fact: Alberta has more Affirming churches than anywhere else in Canada! | | |  |  | | --- | | \*Here’s a photo from our committee meeting in June.\* | | A picture containing flower, plant, decorated, porch  Description automatically generatedText  Description automatically generated |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **SPRING PLANT FUNDRAISER**  A picture containing text  Description automatically generatedGraphical user interface  Description automatically generated with low confidenceA group of people in a room  Description automatically generated with medium confidenceA picture containing text  Description automatically generatedOur Growing Smiles Spring Plant Fundraiser was a great success.  Thank you to all who ordered.  We raised $1400 for the church.  Thanks also to the many volunteers who came out to sort the plants on delivery day and to the Shine Youth Group members who helped with Curbside Pickup.  Your support of our fundraisers is greatly appreciated! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | Graphical user interface, diagram  Description automatically generated**ADMINISTRATION UPDATE** Thank you once again, to all who are able offer donations and offerings through the year. Your donations continue to support the online programs for things such as KidZone and Youth ministry, sending monthly worship packages, community engagement, partnerships with the city on Truth and Reconciliation projects and many other opportunities that keep us connected as a church family and engaged in ministry. Your generosity is appreciated! | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  | | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | Graphical user interface, text  Description automatically generated | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |   Logo, company name  Description automatically generated |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **RESPONSE TO KAMLOOPS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL GRAVES DISCOVERY**  A Message to People of The United Church of Canada  Grace and Peace to you.  Since the announcement of the discovery of the undocumented and unmarked remains of 215 children on the grounds of Kamloops Residential School, we have received many messages of sorrow, concern, and outrage from members of the church.  We share these feelings.  We have also been asked many questions about the United Church’s intentions regarding burial sites and missing children, about the sharing of our residential schools records, and about our response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.  Many biblical passages remind us of the importance of working together for peace and justice. We would like to take this opportunity to answer your questions so that together we can honour all those affected by the residential schools system, and live up to our obligations as a participant in it.  The United Church of Canada operated 15 of the residential schools covered by the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA), accounting for approximately 10 percent of Indigenous children who were forced to attend them.  Since 1998, our response to the role we played in this system has been guided by the wisdom of residential school and intergenerational survivors. In 2003, the Residential Schools Steering Committee (later the Committee on Indigenous Justice and Residential Schools) established six principles of reconciliation, which continue to guide this work.  Among them is the principle of whole community involvement, the “acknowledgement that [the impacts of residential schools] are communal as well as individual and that they are intergenerational.” The committee also acknowledged that “the children and grandchildren of survivors are also living people who carry with them the burdens of the residential schools system.” The discovery at Kamloops, and the pain and trauma that it has reignited, make it clear that residential schools are not simply part of a historic event; it is also why we have been doing the difficult work of reconciliation, and must continue to do so.  **United Church Response to the Kamloops Discovery**  The principle of community involvement guides how we are responding. Indigenous Ministries Executive Minister Murray Pruden and the Moderator issued pastoral responses, along with a call to mourn and remember. This time of respect is required in order for any other actions we take to go forward in a good way.  As The United Church of Canada, we stated our commitment to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission when they were issued in June 2015. This includes Calls to Action 73‒76, which deal with burial sites and missing children. We have already worked with communities in commemorating known gravesites in Brandon, Edmonton, File Hills, Red Deer, and Regina.  These Calls to Action state very clearly that the Indigenous communities most affected must lead in the development of such strategies, and that their protocols must be followed. We are aware that unmarked graves may be found on United Church properties, and we are committed to working on them, and on known burial sites, following the principles laid out in the Calls to Action.  The General Secretary is convening a table of current and former staff to develop our response, and the ecumenical parties to the Settlement Agreement will also be meeting to discuss how to respond together to an issue that affects us all. The National Indigenous Council and Elders Council also continue to meet to discern the needs and response of the Indigenous church. These meetings are taking place in the next few weeks, and we will share more information with you as it comes forward.  We are grateful for the actions you are taking in your own contexts, whether they are vigils, times of prayer, support for Indigenous agencies, or donations to The Healing Fund. Please know that any donations made to The Healing Fund in this time will be held until the Indigenous church, which oversees The Healing Fund, decides how best to share them given the needs that emerge in Indigenous communities.  **Sharing of Documentation**  It has been widely reported that many institutions have not fully shared their residential school records. This has understandably raised questions about what the United Church has shared.  During the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, United Church General Council and Conference Archives staff went through all records that were related to residential schools and created a substantial Guide to Holdings Related to Residential Schools. These materials are available to researchers.  The materials were also turned over to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for its research. They have since been transferred to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, where they are available for research and have contributed to projects such as the National Residential Schools Memorial Register.  We are currently undertaking a similar discovery process regarding our role in Day Schools, and will continue to turn over relevant material if and as it emerges.  **United Church Response to the Calls to Action**  We track United Church work on those TRC Calls to Action directed to the churches and the Parties to the Settlement Agreement in this document which is updated annually. We also support and participate in advocacy initiatives identified in other Calls to Action, such as those concerning child welfare and missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.  As we do this work, we often find ourselves reflecting on this passage from 2 Corinthians 5:18–19: “All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself…and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.”  With this trust comes the onus to first seek and speak the truth. At this time, we recommit to truth-telling, to education, and to taking action for those things for which we hold responsibility. May God be our helper.  The Rt. Rev. Dr. Richard Bott  Moderator  The Rev. Murray Pruden  Executive Minister, Indigenous Ministries and Justice | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA HEALING FUND**  The Healing Fund, established in 1994, is a grant that supports healing initiatives in Indigenous communities to address the ongoing impacts of the residential school system. Many name a need for mending, restoring, and celebrating—a sense of loss, along with hope for rebuilding identity. Indigenous communities may apply up to $15,000 to create healing, culture, and/or language projects.  Your donations support the vital work of the Healing Fund.  Support for the Healing Fund is movement towards living out the United Church's Apology to Indigenous Peoples (1986) and the Apology to Former Students of United Church Indian Residential Schools and to their Families and Communities (1998).  If you would like to make a contribution to the Healing Fund, you may drop off a donation at Northminster specifying “Healing Fund”, or make a donation through Tithely and selecting Healing Fund. |  |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A sign on a pole  Description automatically generated with low confidence**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**  The other evening Sarah Charters was sitting with her husband and they started to talk about the future. Not the future of tomorrow, but the future (hopefully) many, many years from now. Like you, they wanted to make sure that the people and communities that are important to them are taken care of after they are gone. For many of us, our local church is one of the things that we want to make sure will be supported. How does that work? How do we even start that conversation?  The United Church of Canada Foundation knows that there are many ways to support the ministries that are important to you. They want to make sure that whatever decision you come to is right for you, helps the people that you want to help, and looks exactly like you envision it.  Here is an example:  In 2007, Dave and Elinor Robertson were contemplating the future of their congregation. They had always been active members of St. Andrew's United Church in Bow Island, AB and were concerned with its financial future once key congregants passed away. "What will happen when we are no longer supporting the local church?" they wondered.  Dave and Elinor decided to establish an endowment fund at the Foundation upon their passing that would sustain the important work of their congregation. "A Named Endowment is a satisfying way to ensure continuation of our church's work," they wrote. The Elinor and David Robertson Endowed Fund was established after the passing of Elinor Robertson in 2021, and the passing of Dave Robertson in 2018.  Next year, the fund will begin making annual grants to support their beloved congregation. This is a legacy of great service and faith. Their thoughtful preparation will continue providing a place to nurture creativity, inspire change, foster Christian leadership and put faith into action both locally and globally.  Leave a Legacy  Now is the best time to include the future of our church in your estate plans. If you have already arranged a planned gift that is close to your heart, thank you!  If you would like to learn more about laying the foundation for a stable and exciting future for the Church beyond your lifetime, please call 1-866-340-8223 or click on this link:  <https://www.unitedchurchfoundation.ca/giving/long-term-giving/> | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Events at Northminster** | | |   Diagram  Description automatically generated  **TRC EVENTS**  In honour of National Indigenous People’s History Month we planned two virtual events - Plains Cree Language Classes and a Dream Catcher workshop both of which received a great deal of interest from the greater community.  Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, our instructor was unavailable so the Plains Cree Language Classes have been postponed but all registrants were notified and it will be rescheduled in the fall.   On Tuesday June 22nd we had our Dream Catcher Class.  As well as members of our church community, we had a number of registrants from the greater community.  Each registrant was provided with a kit including a hoop, a strip of suede, sinew and some beads and feathers.  Our instructor, Alphonse Napoose shared the meaning of the Dream Catcher and shared other stories and spoke of Truth and Reconciliation.  It was wonderful opportunity to learn about indigenous culture, make a beautiful and meaningful craft and to hear first hand of the experiences of a Residential School Survivor. |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | A picture containing website  Description automatically generated | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **SUPPER FOR THE SOUL**  In January, we reimagined Supper Church - and came up with a new, more interactive online format, calling it Supper for the Soul.  Each month we gathered online at 6 PM, and enjoyed our own evening meal and then began our guest presentation at 6:30.  Each month has had a different and very engaging theme.  **January** - We became armchair travellers as our guest was Louai Chehada shared a beautiful presentation about his homeland of Syria.  **February** - Our guest, Registered Psychologist Maureen Theberge spoke to us about managing our mental health during pandemic times.  **March** - Elder Ernie Poundmaker was our guest teaching a class of Plains Cree Language Basics.  **April**- Our very own - Poet Weyman Chan, Finalist for the 2008 Governor General’s Award for English-Language Poetry joined us and shared some of his poetry and discussed his writing and creative process.  **May** - Horticulturalist JoEllen Wickerson inspired our gardening as she gave an informative presentation about gardening in small spaces - exploring current gardening trends and talking about plants suited for the Calgary growing region.  **June**- Our guest Ken Lima-Coelho - local community advocate, storyteller and all around amazing guy joined us for an engaging discussion about the importance of community.  Thank you to all who joined us for our Supper for the Soul evenings! | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | |  |   Text  Description automatically generatedDiagram, text  Description automatically generated |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **HIGHLAND PARK COMMUNITY COLLABORATION INITIATIVES** Northminster hosted a Rock Painting Station on June 19th for the Highland Park Neighbour Day initiative - Highland Park Rocks!  Our Youth Group Volunteers had lots of fun painting their own rocks and we had a few church members and people from the neighbourhood come by as well.  We are also collaborating with the Highland Park Community Association in helping with the implementation of the Highland Park Human Library.  This Human Library is an opportunity for community members to sign up to be come “Human Books”  who can share their talents, skills, life experiences and for people who might be interested in learning about something new.  For example - someone who is really good at growing tomatoes might sign up to be a Human Book and could offer a session for anyone interested in learning from them.  Or someone with an interesting life experience could be a Human Book and give a talk about whatever that might be.  Watch for more information about this community initiative in the fall. |   A picture containing text  Description automatically generated |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | Text  Description automatically generatedThank you to the many volunteers who contribute so much to Northminster United Church.  You are appreciated! | | | | | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **ODDS & ENDS ...** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **IF YOU ARE IN HOSPITAL OR MOVE**  Seniors, in the busyness of a sudden illness or move, your family members may forget to notify the church where you are. Please remind them to call or email us so we can keep in touch and support you as needed. Also, when you are admitted into hospital, remember to put Northminster United or United Church on your forms so that a chaplain can be in touch and connect us.  **KEEP IN TOUCH** You can always find details about events upcoming at Northminster by checking out our website and by following us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Thanks for all the “likes” and “follows” – don’t forget to share our events and posts on your own newsfeed so others can see the great things that happen!  **CANDIDACY PATHWAY**  Do you ever have questions about what is involved in becoming a minister in the United Church? There are many options and opportunities that are flexible with your stage of life. Don’t hesitate to ask Rev. Nancy questions. Or go to [www.united-church.ca/leadership/entering-ministry/candidacy-pathway](http://www.united-church.ca/leadership/entering-ministry/candidacy-pathway). | | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | *Copyright © 2021 Northminster United Church All rights reserved.* **Our mailing address is:**  3011 Centre Street North Calgary, AB T2E 2X7    Office Phone:403-277-0322 Email:  office@northminster.ca | | | |  |  | | --- | |  | | | |  | |