

northminster

UNITED CHURCH

Fall 2021 Newsletter

September 2021



A Reflection from Rev. Nancy Nourse

John 6 says...“Sir,” they said, “give us that bread every day.” Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

When we hear these words from scripture, we often associate them with communion. Of course, at this point in the story there wasn't any Communion: Jesus hadn't given us that gift yet.

Even our forebears read it back into Jesus' words anyway. They'd experienced Christ's Body as truly life-giving.

After all, Jesus had transformed their world...water into wine, healing people from blindness, and paralysis, and skin disease. He fed thousands, and calmed storms, and turned perspectives and

ideals around like he overturned tables in the temple. Jesus could connect with people in ways no one else could.

People speak about Jesus as medicine for what ails us. Jesus as the Body of Christ, a community of faith, the spirit at work in the world, communion when we get to feast together. Faith is believing in transformation of all that is weighing heavy on us. Faith is about being diagnosed, admitted, treated, and released to a new regimen of health, body, mind, and soul.

The bread of life – as our scripture describes - in a way it vaccinates us against the estrangement that destroys human solidarity (and no I am not suggesting an alternative to the vaccinations we get from the doctor; only speaking figuratively). It brings us together. Being in communion with the Healer and all our siblings in faith in the church staves off terrible infections like hate and greed.

The Bread of Life is also a foretaste of the full health of the life to come. Remembering Christ as the source of all that nurtures and feeds us is like take good medicine. The church's body gets well when we find ourselves tending the bodies of others, when we put our own needs aside for the well-being of others.

We might not be together in person yet. But our prayer and concern for each other, and the ways the bits and bytes connect us on Sunday morning still offer us a clear prescription to all that we need healing from. We pray that nothing will get in the way of community and connection to each other and God...indeed the medicine that heals us.



WORSHIP AND GATHERING THIS FALL

We were excited to welcome you all to in-person worship and gatherings this fall, but due to the covid statistics, we decided it is in the best interest of safety for all to delay this. Thank you to our tech team for providing us with a high quality live-streaming service each Sunday, and to all of you who are doing your best to stay connected to the church and each other.

Small groups may meet at the church if all precautions are followed (masking, vaccination, social distancing, no sharing of food or drinks), but we do encourage you to meet on Zoom if possible.

We will continue to evaluate the situation and look forward to being together at the church soon.



This month's Supper for the Soul is...

CAMPFIRE CHURCH

September 23, 2021 Bowness Park - Picnic Site 2

5:30 - Bring your own meal to eat or
just come early and enjoy a visit

6:30 - Campfire Worship

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CAMPFIRE CHURCH - Hot Dogs or Marshmallows Anyone?

Gather at Bowness Park on Thursday evening, September 23rd for a time of friendship and worship. Gather at 5:30 for a visit or bring your own supper supplies and enjoy an outdoor meal! Then we'll share together in worship at 6:30. Bring a lawn chair – all ages encouraged.

Register at the office for directions and updates.



NORTHMINSTER WOMEN'S RETREAT

Friday, Oct. 15 7 PM – Sunday, Oct. 17, 2 PM

Kasota East Camp at Sylvan Lake

Cost: \$150 per person

Register at the office.

Full refund will be provided if cancellation is required
due to changes in provincial health regulations

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Bring your crafts, your reading, your walking shoes, your cozy blanket. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings in this season of fall. We'll enjoy plenty of free time for whatever you need this weekend to be, and share together in hosting and preparing simple meals (all food provided). Accommodations will be in the lower level of Ross Lodge or in heated cabins on site. Register through the office. Full refund is provided if cancelling due to covid conditions in the province.



KIDZONE UPDATE

September; A beautiful reminder that change can be beautiful. 🍁

We are beginning our KidZone program online starting on September 19th with our Spark group (age 3-Grade 3) at 9:30 am on Zoom. Watch for the Zoom link from the office on Wednesday. The following weekend will be our Glow class (Grades 4-8) again at 9:30 am on Zoom. The Zoom links will

be sent out from the office the Wednesday prior to each Sunday but will be the same link each week so you won't have to hunt for it. Our Youth class is going to try a new format and meet Sunday evenings. We will let you know what dates are chosen for these meetings.

Thanks to our Coaches who take time each week to plan lessons and teach our kids. Our Coaches for this year are: Julie Latter, Nicole Vandervoort, Michelle Petersen, Mary Anne Wickerson and Tracey Abbott. Emily Abbott is going to fill in if we need her.

We have missed "seeing" you all over the summer and are very much looking forward to being together on Zoom for now and hopefully in person in the near future.

Blessings,
Your KidZone Coaches



YOUTH MINISTRY

September always feels like a "new year" with back to school, and back to routines - it's always exciting to start up again. We have decided to change things up a bit with the Shine Youth programming and we have moved our Youth KidZone classes (Grade 7+) to Sunday evening to work around our youths' very busy schedules. We are going to continue meeting online for these classes - even after our return to in-person worship. We will attend Naked Faith (either online or

in person) on the 3rd Friday of the Month and as well we will plan for at least one social event or service opportunity each month. If your group needs help with any upcoming events or initiatives, please reach out and we can look at coordinating the youth to help out.



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

The Government of Canada, committed to reconciliation and ensuring that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten, has named September 30th a federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The United Church of Canada, also committed to truth and reconciliation, is supporting this day as a time to reflect on and commemorate the effects of residential schools, and the United Church's role in this tragic history as well as our role in the healing. Both the General Council and Region offices are closed September 30th. Following this direction, the Board of Northminster has decided that the church office will be also closed on September 30th, so that we can all take time to reflect on the significance of the day.

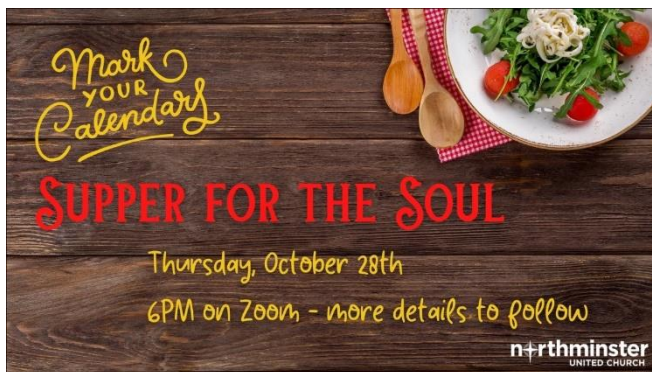
We encourage you to use this time wisely. Chinook Winds Region has provided us with many resources and opportunities. Contact Rev. Nancy for information about Truth and Reconciliation including an “Online Panel with Ecumenical Indigenous Clergy for Truth and Reconciliation Day” at 7 pm on September 30th, and links to many more opportunities throughout September and October.



BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP

Baptism and membership is a time to celebrate that you are a child of God and that you belong to this community of faith called Northminster United Church. Whether you are considering baptism for a young person in your life, or would like to become a member yourself, please reach out to Rev. Nancy. Even if we

are not worshipping in person, we are hosting small worship liturgies for these important milestones and will record them to share on Sunday morning.



SUPPER FOR THE SOUL

Gather on Zoom at 6 PM, Thursday October 28th. Bring your own supper and enjoy conversation together followed by a guest speaker. Sign up through the office, and watch your newsletter and social media for more information.

A background image for a book club flyer showing a person's hands holding an open book. The person has a ring on their finger and is wearing a bracelet.

BOOK CLUB

UPCOMING BOOKS

OCTOBER 2 ~ THE SECRET. BOOK & SCENE SOCIETY ~ ELLERY ADAMS

NOVEMBER 6 ~ THE GIVER OF STARS ~ JOYA MOYES

PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING US



CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

"Dreams are a wish your heart makes"

We are planning to hold our annual Craft Fair on Saturday November 13th.

We will follow AHS protocols in effect at that time.

Many goods are needed to fill our stalls!

The Christmas Stall, as the name suggests, is full of all kinds of decorations, Advent Calendars and table runners.

The Knitting Stall features hand knit items such as sweaters, scarves, hats, slippers and mitts.

The Kitchen Shop sells all those wonderful knit dishcloths and fridge towels as well as jam, jelly, pickles and relish.

The Toy Store has many hand made items for all those young people on your list.

In addition there is a Woodworking Store, a General Store, Bake Store, pie store and a popular "**Cookies by the Dozen**" stall. Several Consignee tables round out the Fair.

All baking is wrapped and labelled. Containers and ingredient labels will be available on Oct 24, 31 and Nov 7 (Cookies by the Dozen may be left in one container).

A poster will be posted on October 24 so you can sign up for a favorite job. People working at the stalls will be spaced. We hope this will be a safe fun day for everyone!

TRUNK OR TREAT!

Calling all adults to join us in hosting this fun “trick or treat” event for the congregation and community. Park your car in the parking lot, open your trunk, add a few decorations, and sit in your lawn chair while children walk through and safely “trick or treat” at all the vehicles.

The event is Sunday, October 31st from 1 PM to 3 PM.

Maybe you want to do this an individual, or come together as a committee or group from the congregation. Bring your own candy/treats to give away, or reach out to Rev. Nancy about having some of the candy to be provided for you. The Shine Youth Group will also be helping out with the Halloween fun.

Please register at the office if you'd like to participate with your trunk and treats!



AFFIRMING MINISTRIES

AFFIRMING MOVIE NIGHT -Sunday,
Oct. 3rd at 7 PM on Zoom

In September many faith communities came together – of Christian, Jewish, Muslim faiths –for an online worship service to celebrate Affirming

Ministries. Northminster United participated in this special occasion. The theme was “Coming Out in Faith” with guest preacher Rev. June Joplin, pastor at Metropolitan Community Church in Toronto.

Rev. Joplin endured a very public break with her previous Church after coming out as a transgender woman in June 2020. Her coming out story and subsequent dismissal attracted worldwide media attention. Since that time she has become a much sought-after speaker and preacher. Born and raised in North Carolina, Rev. Joplin was Ordained as a Baptist Pastor in 2007 and came to Canada in 2014. She was also recognized as one of the 2021 Woman of Influence for her message of acceptance and love needed by many in the world of queer Christianity.

Register through the church office. Then we'll gather on Zoom to say hello, then watch the worship service using a YouTube link we'll provide. Then we'll re-gather to share in a time of discussion.





Welcome to the Jungle!

The Growing Smiles Jungle, that is!

The Growing Smiles Jungle is a new, online plant store that allows us to fundraise year-round! Check out the online GS Jungle Store to shop for a variety of beautiful tropical plants. Order online at any time and your order will be shipped directly to your door and a portion of your purchase will support Northminster United Church.

Please share the link with family and friends!

Thank you for your support!

<https://www.growingsmilesfundraising.com/NORMII>

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Growing Smiles
FUNDRAISING



Visit the online Jungle Store to shop for beautiful, high quality tropical plants from the comfort of your home and have them delivered right to your door! A portion of the your purchase will support Northminster United Church. Thank your for your support of our new ongoing fundraiser!



CO-OP GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Thanks to everyone for your orders of
September Co-Op Giftcards.

Together we raised \$480!

Thanks for supporting Northminster United Church!

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

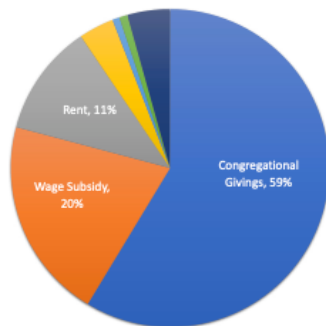
At the AGM in June the congregation approved the 2021 Budget which projected a loss for in the amount of \$81,867. As we continue to live with Covid19 we have been fortunate enough to have qualified for the Emergency Wage Subsidy. To the end of July we have received government subsidies totalling \$22,624, but these government subsidies will be drawing to a close in the near future.

Did you know that any donation that you make to Northminster United Church you will receive a tax deduction for. Donations to assist with computer and livestreaming equipment, online KidZone classes, newsletter mailing, lawn mowing and just keeping the lights on in the building are some of the things that you can support. At this time the Board is asking you to help us in reducing the deficit in any financial way that you can. No amount is too small. We appreciate any gifts you are able to make. Signing up for Tithely or PAR is one simple thing you can do to show your financial commitment to Northminster. Contact the office for more information.

Blessings Leanne Demerais

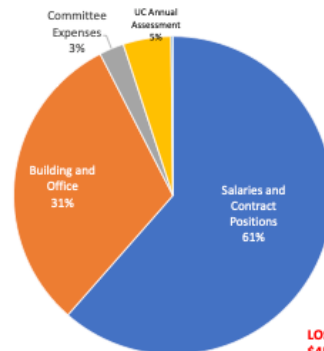


July 31 2021 Financials



INCOME

Congregational Givings	\$ 64,729.59
Wage Subsidy	\$ 22,624.37
Rent	\$ 12,579.00
Fundraisers	\$ 3,944.00
Funerals	\$ 800.00
Interest	\$ 929.78
Special Envelopes, Giving Tree,	
Broadview, Benevolent	\$ 4,759.37
Total Income	\$ 110,366.11



EXPENSES

Salaries and Contract Positions	\$ 95,626.14
Building and Office	\$ 48,186.33
Committee Expenses	\$ 3,885.78
UC Annual Assessment	\$ 7,580.58
Broadview, Miscellaneous, Task	
Force	\$ 295.17
Total Expenses	\$ 155,574.00

LOSS \$ 45,207.90

**LOSS:
\$45,207.90**



**NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
TASK FORCE UPDATE**

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Task Force Update September 15, 2021

Since our meeting with the Congregation on June 27 to have a motion approved to engage StonePoint Realty agent Joe Belland The purpose of the Congregational meeting was to pass a motion to have StonePoint Realty investigate the possible sale of Northminster Church and to investigate the possible purchase of a building that meets our needs or to purchase land to build a new facility.

The Trustees and the Task Force approved the Buyer and Seller Agreements presented by StonePoint Realty and the trustees signed them to begin the process. The Task Force held a meeting on September 09, 2021 with Joe Belland of StonePoint Realty. The purpose of the meeting was to give StonePoint Realty all the Maintenance Contracts, Leases, Government Code requirements and a description of the features and benefits of our church building for potential buyers. We also presented various scenarios of what we would like in a new facility with respect to square footage and possible floor plans in order to help StonePoint Realty search for potential buildings that may be of interest to purchase.

We have booked our next meeting for October 05 , 2021 to get a report from Joe Belland of any possible buyers for Northminster and as well any facilities that meet our needs and availability.

Respectfully

Task Force Committee

POLICY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Often a congregation's governance structure is established at a particular moment in time – and it works really well then. But over the years as context changes, demand on volunteer time increases, and the type of leadership required evolves. And suddenly that governance structure doesn't fit as well as it once did.

Are you someone who loves details, fine-print and policies, and how organizations work? We know you are out there! And perhaps you are wanting to help out your church, and are looking for something that is just a short term commitment! We hope you'll reach out to Rev. Nancy and be part of a small group of people to take a look at a new governance model that might work for Northminster. Evaluate the concepts together, ask some questions, see how it works



in other United Churches who have adapted the Policy Governance model, and then tell the Board what you think.

What is a Policy Governance model? Similar to what used to be known as the Carver model, policy governance restructures committees to alleviate the need for a large board to gather monthly. There is a managing body (not an executive consisting of committee chairs) consisting of 4-5 people (including the minister) which offers the accountability structure necessary, and setting policies that give committees parameters to work within. This model offers full accountability and communication without putting heavy time burdens on volunteers that is often associated with traditional board/committee structure.

We'd love to hear from you if you are interested in being part of this short-term review and how it might be of benefit to Northminster. Let us know if you want to help out!



CRAFTING FRIDAYS ARE BACK!

Whether you like making cards, sewing, scrapbooking, knitting, painting, etc. you are welcome to join our group. We will meet on the first Friday of each month from 7-10 pm in the Upper Room at the church. Of course we must follow the Relaunch Committee guidelines which (at this time) means **mask wearing and vaccinations are strongly recommended, as well as social distancing. No food or drink may be shared.** You may bring your own beverage and/or snacks. In this Newsletter you will also see the information re. a Fall Retreat in October, therefore our first Friday will be November 5 at 7:00 pm. A reminder email will be sent one week prior to this date. If you would like your name added to this distribution list, please contact Suzanne Vandervoort at svanderv@shaw.ca.



Siksikaitsitapi (Blackfoot Confederacy) Painted River Rocks Project

Tuesday September 21st 3:30-5:30

Highland Park Community Association

Little Pipe Woman (also known as Sarah Russell) from Kainai, is storytelling about Blackfoot history through her unique river rock art installations. She invites you to paint river rocks with her while she shares her personal story as a Blackfoot woman and offers insight into her ancestors ways of being.

A central theme of her art and stories is reconciliation.



This event is open to all and is free.

Registration is required.

For more information, and to register,
contact Tannis at Tannis.Eapen@calgary.ca.

*Brought to you by the Highland Park Thorncliffe
Greenview TRC Initiative, a collaborative effort of
The City of Calgary and Northminster Church*

Artist Sarah Russell will be coming to Highland Park to paint river rocks as part of her current art installation. She invites you to join her in painting rocks that will form the Blackfoot Confederacy flag. While painting Sarah will share stories about being a Blackfoot woman and about her ancestors. Registration is required - please contact Tannis at Tannis.Eapen@calgary.ca.

SUMMER FUN AT NORTHMINSTER!







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.

Our mailing address is:

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