

PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Baptism of Jesus

Rev. Fred Monteith





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Sermon: "This Is A Bit Awkward" - Rev. Fred Monteith

LARGE PRINT Bulletins, Voices United Hymn Books and Bibles are available from the ushers.

BULLETIN NOTATIONS:

★ Signal to stand, for those who are able.

VU~Voices United Hymn book **MV**~More Voices Hymn book

Welcome Visitors! We're glad to have you worshipping with us at Parkminster and would like to make sure you feel connected. Please take a few minutes to fill out one of the white information envelopes found in the pews and place it on the offering plate, or put it in the mail slot outside the office. Whether you'd like more information about Parkminster's programs, want to request offering envelopes, or have a question about becoming a member – or whatever else is important to you, we'd love to hear from you! Welcome!

Gathering

Prelude: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" *arr. by Lloyd Larson*

★ Introit: "Arise, Your Light Is Come" 🎵 VU #79

Welcome

One: In this brief season of Epiphany, a season in which we hear stories of ancient revelations, we gather with eyes wide open to see the surprising places and the expected places in which we will see Holy Mystery revealed in our time.

With gratitude and respect, we recognize the Six Nations tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home. We acknowledge, with regret, that this history has not always been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.

All: Seeking true community, we welcome all who have no church home, need strength, and are seeking deep meaning. Welcome to those who have doubts or who do not believe. Welcome to those whose faith is sure, and to those who believe, but who are asking large questions.

One: Welcome to visitors and to familiar friends. Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, youth and children, couples, and single people.

All: Welcome to people of all colours, gender identities, abilities, and sexual orientations.

One: Welcome to each who is searching for meaning, who is seeking an understanding of community and what it means to accompany one another.

All: As we come together as church, we turn to one another with gratitude and pray that we will be strong together, faithful together, and loving together. We seek blessing as we continue our spirit-journey to the promise of transformation and the coming of hope to our hurting world.

Joys, Concerns, and Greeting One Another

Listening and Wondering

★ Children's Song: "River"  MV #3
A Conversation

Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17 (NT, pg. 2)

★ Hymn: "Called By Earth and Sky"  MV #135

Sermon: "This Is A Bit Awkward" Rev. Fred Monteith

Ministry of Music: "Fe Y Esperanza" arr. by Anne Krentz Organ

Responding in Faith and Wonder

Offertory: "Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella" arr. by Brad Nix

Dedication: "Christ Has No Body Now but Yours" ♪ MV #171, v.4

Offering Prayer, *said by All:*

O God of light and of shadows, of life and of death, grant that we might have ears and eyes to see those places in our lives and our world that need your healing presence. May these gifts be used in that work we pray. Amen

Prayers of the Community

★ Hymn: "Let Us Build a House" ♪ MV #1

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Alleluia ♪ MV# 52

Postlude: "Noel #1" by Claude Balbastre

Thank you to everyone who has offered their gift of time to volunteer in various ways this Sunday:

Ushers:Anne & Eric Yardley; Isobel Field; and
.....Wendy Ridgway

Greeters:.....Lyn McNiffe; Rob Vanderlinden

Lay Reader:Kathleen Vanderlinden

Music Director:Neil Murray

Chancel Arrangements:Chancel Committee

Offering Counters:.....Jim Bowman; Bill Spall

Coffee Hour Host:.....Thelma Hamilton

Coffee Hour Dessert:.....Thelma Hamilton

The Ministry of Parkminster:	All of us
Ministry of Word & Sacrament (Interim): ..	Rev. Meg Grieve (ext. 23)
Ministry of Pastoral Care (Interim):	Rev. Elaine Beattie (ext. 22)
Ministry of Christian Education:	Kelly Moores (ext. 24)
Music Director:	Neil Murray (ext. 25)
Office Administrator:	Melanie Chisholm (ext. 21)
Custodian:	Allen Switzer (ext. 26)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Financial Update

Although we're still working on year-end financials, we wanted to let everyone know that revenues for the year exceeded expenses, and we were on target with the \$80,000 Outreach goal. As in other years, this again demonstrates the exceptional level of caring for our congregational community and in support of our Outreach projects locally and internationally. We sincerely thank each and every one of you for your generous gift of time, talents and financial resources over the past year.

Just a word of explanation about the results – Although offerings were below budget, the total approximated that of 2015. We had increased income from rentals and the food trucks, and expenses were well below budget. We spent less than expected on building repairs and maintenance and on heating costs; telephone and internet costs were reduced by moving to a new carrier; and salaries and benefits were less than budgeted as a result of changes in our pastoral care staffing during the year. **More details will be available at the congregational budget information session after the service on Sunday, January 29.**

– Finance Committee

Pastoral Care

If anyone in the congregation requires pastoral care support, or you become aware of someone who might be ill, in hospital or in need of some support, please contact our interim pastoral care minister, Rev. Elaine Beattie. You may contact Elaine by leaving her a confidential voicemail at the church (519-885-0935 ext. 22), or for urgent matters, at her home (519-826-6961). She is also available at elainebeattie8@hotmail.com.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY – WINTER 2017

SPEAK PEACE 101:

A 5-week learning circle begins **Tuesday afternoon, January 17, 2017, 1:15 - 3:30pm** (alternative time on Monday evenings a possibility).

Get to know some interesting people and learn practical ways for creating peace within oneself, at home, at work, in institutions, and in the world. Without good communication, understanding withers and dies. Without good understanding, relationships wither and die. Without good relationships, we wither and die.

Includes: home reading, communication exercises and stories in a friendly supportive environment.

Facilitator: Rev. Isobel McGregor

Cost: \$20 (includes text, *Speak Peace in a World of Conflict* by Marshall Rosenberg, and handouts)

Venue: Unit 610, 55 William St. East

To register: contact Iso at [<isobelmccgregor@yahoo.com>](mailto:isobelmccgregor@yahoo.com) or call tel.# 519-954-4822 . **Note:** Parking is limited. Car-pooling or alternate transportation advised.

VIOLENCE DIVINE: Overcoming the Bible's Betrayal of Its Non-Violent God - Is the only path to shalom through a valley of capricious divine bloodshed?

An 8-week series starting on **Monday, January 9th at 9:29am.**

One of the world's foremost historical Jesus scholars helps the church and its alumni rise above the greatest of Christian treasons: that everlasting peace can only be achieved through the onslaught of divine violence. Professor and author John Dominic Crossan summarizes the essence of his bestselling *HOW TO READ THE BIBLE & STILL BE A CHRISTIAN: Struggling with Divine Violence from Genesis Through Revelation* and shows the way forward for those seeking an authentic Christianity for the 21st century.

Please Contact: Jim Bowman, by email at jbbowman@rogers.com or by phone at tel.# 519-747-2401, for further information.

A Message from Rev. Meg

Many of you will know that my sister, Nan, died on December 30th. It seems that she had a heart attack in her home, while she was on the phone with the 911 dispatcher. Nancy lived in Maple Ridge, BC, so Rosanne and I are heading west. Once we are there, we will organize a memorial service for Nan, and then clear out her condo and get it ready to sell. We are also helping our nephew who is the executor of his mom's estate. We think we will be in BC for a week, but are still not sure when family will arrive and what details might take longer to deal with than we anticipated. As you might imagine, there have been many organizing emails so that my Parkminster responsibilities will be taken care of. Rev. Fred Monteith has graciously agreed to preach while I am away. Thanks, Fred.

My committees are all ready to carry on the work as we have been planning. Individuals have readily taken on extra tasks so that we don't fall too far behind in this last 6 months of my time with you. I am so grateful for their generosity. I have received dozens of calls and emails as people found out about Nan's death. Each one was loving and supportive. Many offered to hold me and my family in the light. There is no more precious gift.

Over the years of my ministry, I have befriended death. I see it as transformation, the letting go that leads to new spirit-life. Of course I am sad to be separated from my sister. She is my oldest friend and confidant. In her life, she was incredibly kind, generous to a fault, and had a wicked sense of humour. Just ask me about the time we laughed until tears rolled down our faces in the Women's Clothing section of The Bay. People actually stopped to watch.

That phase of our sister-life is gone, and I will really miss her. In the midst of the sorrow, Though, I am calm and feel strong. My faith is deep and so many have offered to hold me in the light. Thank you.

This week let us pray for: World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle: Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle: Jerseyville United Church (Hamilton Presbytery).