



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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Sunday, August 20, 2017
New Member Sunday

Reflection: “In the Meantime”
Amanda Kalbfleisch

Rev. Meg Grieve

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!

Now We Gather

Prelude: “Shall We Gather at the River” *arr. Craig Curry*

★ Introit: “God, We Praise You for the Morning” 🎵 VU #415

Welcome

One: “To everything there is a season.” Like the seasons of the year, the seasons of our lives bring change. In the midst of change, how do we stay strong? How do we stay open to possibility? How do we hope? There is no avoiding change, but we can choose how to embrace it.

Today, we remember our relationship with First People which has not always been healing and empowering. With gratitude and respect, we recognize the tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home, the Anishnawbe, the Haudenosaunee, and the Neutral. 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 welcome the great gift of spirit in us, through us, and among us.

Joys and Concerns

Welcome in the Spirit

Welcoming New Members

Today we welcome three new members by transfer from other United Churches.

Introduction by the Sponsors

Doris Heselwood, from Transcona United Church, Winnipeg
by Lyn McNiffe

Sandra Quehl from Westminster United Church, Waterloo
by Don Pendlebury

Heather Watts from Westminster United Church, Waterloo
by Jack Reynolds

Reaffirmation of Faith

*Do you believe in the hope and possibility we name God,
and trust in the power of God's love and peace?*

*Do you believe in Jesus who shows us the path of inclusion
and just relationship and the possibility of transformation?*

*Do you believe in spirit who moves in us and among us to
renew and encourage?*

*Will you, as a member of Parkminster United Church, share
your personal gifts to strengthen our community as it cares
for the world?*

Presentation of Membership Certificates

Blessing and Welcome

★ Children's Song: "Like a Rock"  MV #92

Story Time

Following the story time, children and youth will leave for Sunday Morning Activities. Happy Learning!

For babies and toddlers, there is the Family Worship Space at the back of the sanctuary. Parents are free to come and go from that space, according to the needs of their children.

Opening Our Hearts

“To everything there is a season.” In a time of silence, ponder the season of life you are experiencing. *What is the gift of this season? Where do you find strength and vision for the challenges you face?*

Prayer

Song

**I am becoming peace.
I am becoming peace,
a well of patience, well of grace,
make my soul a holy place.
I am becoming peace.**

Now We Discern

Ministry of Music: “Great is Thy Faithfulness”
(Darlene Basse, soloist)

 Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8 (OT, pg.616)

About Scripture

Today we read from the book called Ecclesiastes, or “The Teacher”. It is a book in the wisdom tradition that was put together around 300 BCE. The purpose of the book is to encourage us to reflect on life and discern its gift.

Life, according to Quoheloth, the teacher, is no cake walk. We all struggle with our own mistakes and with the

pain that life dishes. We all face difficult choices about right and wrong, about love and fear, and about the need to be just in an unjust world. Nothing is simple, and it is the wise person who takes the time to discern what the moment requires of us.

Today's reflection is an opportunity to grow our wisdom.

Reflection: "In the Meantime" *Amanda Kalbfleisch*

★ Hymn: "A Light Is Gleaming" 🎵 VU #82

Now We Share

Offertory: "Just a Closer Walk with Thee"
(Darlene Basse, soloist)

Dedication: "What Can I Do?" 🎵 MV #191

Offering Prayer, said by **all**:

Nothing escapes love's power to transform. No one is unworthy. Nothing is simply impossible.

Today we return thanks for the hope that the holy is all in all and that redemption will happen no matter who we are. We offer our gifts for the sake of others and for the sake of the world. Amen

Prayers for Wisdom

★ Hymn: "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" 🎵 VU #509

★ Commissioning and Blessing

★ Sung Blessing "Peace Be with You" 🎵 MV #215

Postlude: "All Creatures of Our God and King"

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

Ushers: Jack & Mary Reynolds
 Greeters:..... Ken & Mary Willsie
 Lay Reader: Kathleen Vanderlinden
 Soloist: Darlene Basse
 Music Supply: Jeannie Petrie (for Neil Murray)
 Chancel Arrangements: Chancel Committee
 Counters:..... Steve & Sarah Quanz

The Ministry of Parkminster:All of us
 Ministry of Word, Sacrament & Pastoral Care (Interim):
 Rev. Meg Grieve (ext. 23)
 Music Director: Neil Murray (ext. 25)
 Office Administrator: Melanie Chisholm (ext. 21)
 Custodian: Allen Switzer (ext. 26)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(please refer to the weekly "What's Up" email for a complete listing)

Pastoral Care – Rev. Meg Grieve: If you or anyone in the congregation requires pastoral care or you become aware of someone who might be ill, in hospital or in need of some support, please contact Meg at church, **519-885-0935, ext. 23** or by email at **rev.meg.parkminster@gmail.com**

This week let us pray for: **World Council of Churches Prayer Cycle:** Liberia, Sierra Leone; **Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle:** York United Church, Erie Presbytery

September – Your "Second Chance Month": September doesn't have an assigned house group (we have nine house groups to cover ten months). So...we're appealing to any who weren't able to help during your assigned month (or who liked it so well you want to do it again), to sign up on the sheet in the upper hall, or contact Mary Reynolds at 519-886-0474 or email jackr2002@aol.com. Your help with this is very much appreciated.

Hardcopy Sermons: If you would like a paper copy of Meg's sermons, please contact the office to have one printed.

Online Bulletins & Sermons: Did you know you can find bulletins & sermons on our website? Visit our site at www.parkuc.ca. At the bottom of our main page you'll see a link to both Sermons & Bulletins. Click on your preferred item to view the listings in date order. It's that simple!

Thank You to Our Summer Students: The time with our summer students has flown by quickly! We thank Ceiline Zhang and Laura From for their dedication, hard work and for sharing their insights about the Parkminster Community.

Laura is preparing a report which will help Parkminster design its future community outreach. Her time was focused on many areas: Food Truck night - children's activities & community outreach conversations; support for grant application to make Parkminster more accessible; promotion of & signage for the Labyrinth; community service; research around First Peoples providing Parkminster with materials which will assist with these future partnerships; research around priorities with the Region regarding its community organizations. Laura returns to WLU in the fall. We wish her every success with her studies and beyond.

Ceiline has helped Communications create some material that will help us as we continue to become more efficient in communicating internally and externally. Her enthusiasm and cheerfulness to tackle any job has made it a joy to work with her. We wish Ceiline the best in her studies and future endeavours.

Funding for the students was provided by the Federal Government's "Student Summer Jobs Program".

Helping First People - "Backpack Program": *With a deep desire for reconciliation, we remember our relationship with First People. 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.*

Today is your last chance to donate items. Donations of NEW items and funds are most welcome. Please make cheques payable to "Anishnabeg Outreach"; tax receipts will be issued. If you have any questions, please call Janet Holland at 519-746-1992. Items may be placed in the boxes provided in the Upper Hall. Your gift is greatly appreciated.