



The Sunday Plus

Parkminster United Church
Newsletter –
June 2019

YOU ARE NOT ALONE. COME SHARE THE JOURNEY

Notes from the Chair

Parkminster, a beacon of hope



For Christmas, I bought my husband, Ted, tickets to see John Cleese, a talented British comedian. John Cleese is most famous for his work with a comedy group

known as Monty Python. Ted is a big Monty Python fan and I was looking forward to treating him to an evening full of laughs in late May.

While John Cleese is very intelligent and his comments quite thought provoking, the evening ended up being more of a lecture than a stand-up comedy. I guess I should have looked at the name of his tour...Why There is No Hope. To sum up his message:
"The world is in a paralyzing state of dysfunction. Most people do not know what they are doing and even worse they don't know it. It seems that the less competent people are, the more overblown their confidence. Basically, it's hopeless and you can do very little about it."

Not exactly the evening full of belly laughs I was hoping for. (Luckily, Ted thought it was funny, but he and I can disagree on humour.)

More importantly though, how do we stay hopeful in the world of climate change, in a world where the character of our elected officials seems to be declining, in a world where the divisions of race seem to be getting bigger, in a world where we hear bad news everyday, in a world where spring seems to be so long coming? Perhaps hope is embracing the present as a time of possibilities. We can focus on the things that we can change for the better. Every single action not only makes change, but can also influence the way other people think.

Hope is an active way of being and I see Parkminster as a beacon of hope in our world. Parkminster does not profess to have all the answers, but inspires members to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with the Divine. Actions do make a difference and Parkminster has the confidence and faith to act. At our last Council meeting I was amazed and proud as I listened to the committee reports and the work they are doing. People at Parkminster are not afraid to start journeys without having the whole plan. **We have volunteers and staff who give tirelessly working to spread love and compassion in our world. Now that is HOPE!**

So be kind to yourself and others, treat each day as a precious gift, be grateful, and may hope inspire us so that we may live life more fully.

Kathy Shortt, Chair of Council

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Message from our Ministers

If September is considered the unofficial new year, we suppose that makes June the unofficial year end in the church given that July and August are slower months (food trucks excepted) set aside for rest and rejuvenation.

We want to take this opportunity to lift up some of the great things happening at Parkminster:

- We've welcomed a number of people into the congregation through baptism, confirmation and reception of new members.
- The ongoing work of the Refugee Re-settlement Committee continue with the Al-Mohamad family. The family's transition to Canadian life is going well and will soon be celebrated, watch for details.
- Our Sunday school is having a great year with new children and a dedicated, hardworking group of volunteers. We celebrated the Sunday school picnic on June 2nd.

- The Inclusive Committee once again made Parkminster's presence known at the Pride Day festivities in Victoria Park.
- The music continues to be such a blessing under Neil's leadership and culminated with the Music Sunday service on June 2nd.
- The Living into Right Relations group organized and Parkminster sponsored the grant to bring the Debaj theatre group from Manitoulin Island to K-W and we hosted them for a community potluck meal in May.
- The Family Worship Space in the sanctuary is getting a makeover.
- We continue to host a weekly community drop in for caregivers and tots on Monday mornings.
- At the other end of the age spectrum we started a monthly games drop-in on a Thursday afternoon.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. It is a taste and a testament to the many ways you participate in the ministry of Jesus at Parkminster through your gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Thank you for the service to others, the hope engendered, the connections made and strengthened through your contributions.

Worship over the summer will be a little different. In July we hope to bring you stories of faith as different members of the Parkminster community share their faith journeys. In August the four Waterloo United churches will be worshipping together with all the service being hosted in the air-conditioned sanctuary of Westminster United Church. Parkminster will lead the service on Sunday August 4th. Heather and I want to wish you a safe, fun and restful summer.

Blessings.
Rev. Heather Power and Rev. Joe Gaspar

Best Subcamp



The 9th Scout Troop of Waterloo has been meeting at Parkminster since 1960. They meet weekly on Wednesdays at the church.

In May the Scouts attended the annual Dorchester International Brotherhood Camporee. While there, they participated in a variety of camping and scouting activities. And, while there, both Scouts and Leaders were rated on a

variety of things included in their Campsite Area, their Dining Area, Leader Participation and Youth Participation. **Out of 500 campers the 9th troop was awarded the Best Subcamp award at the end of the camp weekend.** Congratulations to Scouter Tim and leaders and to the Scouts of Waterloo 9 troop.

Cheque to SHOW

Elna and Dorothy delivering an \$1,800 cheque to the folks at S.H.O.W.



L to R: Cathy Stewart-Savage (volunteer), Dorothy Duxbury, Elna Robertson, Gael Gilbert (Director of S.H.O.W)