



# Happy Thanksgiving

Ralph Milton writes, in his book entitled *Lectionary Story Bible: Year C*, "After the people of Israel escaped from Egypt, they lived in the desert for 40 years. They often didn't have enough food to eat or enough water to drink.

Then their leader, Moses, brought them into a new country where there was plenty to eat and drink. So they asked each other, 'What should we do to say thank you to God for bringing us to this wonderful country?'

This is what they decided.

'Every year, when we gather all the food from the fields, we should remember that God gave us this food. We should give some of it back to God. If we have ten baskets of grain, we should give the first basket to God. If we have ten bunches of grapes, we should give the first bunch to God. If we have ten new lambs in our flock, we should give the first one to God.'

'But how are we going to do that?' some of the people asked. 'God is everywhere. And anyway, God doesn't need food or clothes. God isn't a person like you or me.'

Then the people of Israel had a good idea. 'We'll take these things to the Temple.' A temple is like a big church. 'Then people who are hungry can go to the Temple and get some food. And people who need clothes can go there and get something to wear. That way, we can always say thank you to God. Because God has given us so many good things. And when we help people who are hungry or lonely or hurt, we are doing it for God. Then we are living God's way.'"

Milton's piece, called *The People Say Thanks*, is based on Deuteronomy 26:1-11. Many of you here would have recognized that.

On reading it, though, I recognized something else as well. I recognized that much of the same is being done right here at First United. In many cases, quietly—far removed from the limelight.

For example...

I make a hospital visit, and learn I'm one of a number who've been there already.

I'm contacted by community-based groups and agencies because we have a reputation for helping out with local needs.

Most recently, after leading a nursing home worship service, I was approached by a person who told me our musicians had saved her life—six years ago—when she first came to live there.

Our Mission Statement says, "[We are] a Christian community, committed to reaching out in friendship and concern to people of all ages and to meeting their personal and spiritual needs through Worship and Music, Fellowship and Service, [and] Faith Development and Pastoral Care." It ends by acknowledging, "We are living in an ever-changing world, in which we strive to be a visible sign of God's presence and love."

Friends, that's been our experience of you in the short time we've been ministering together. The irony being, realizing we're aware of such a small piece of what's actually been going on. For which, we are truly thankful.

I look forward to hearing about more of these things. For which, I'm sure, the many recipients are ever thankful.

Speaking of being thankful, Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Yours in Christ and in friendship...

Rev. Neal

## Highlights from Pastoral Council

### September Meeting, 2019

Dave Morison reported on a very favourable financial statement. We are on budget to date.

Plans are under way for the Beef BBQ to be held this week. There are limited tickets available at the office. It was noted that Dave Brewster is to be commended for his work on obtaining sponsorship for the meals.

Elna Scott reported on the difficulties that UCW are facing with membership and continuing leadership. There are only a few formal meetings a year and they often meet for lunches or similar events. Please consider joining them.

Lester Scott has accepted the role of Property Management Chair. A lot of work was done in the church and hall over the summer, much of it done by volunteers. Each and every one is appreciated.

The Hospitality and Friendship Team is in need of a new chair. Many people have signed up for Sunday hospitality but the team really needs a chair to keep things organized.

The Christian Development Team has been active and reported on the Spring Musical Event, the graduation service, Sunday School curriculum, baptisms and transfer of memberships

The policy regarding the sacrament of Holy Communion has been updated to allow both members and adherents to distribute the communion elements.

Regional Council met in May from the 23<sup>rd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup>. Jini Palmer sent a very informative report to Council. One item of note was that there were a lot of youth (12-18) attending who were very enthusiastic. It is hoped that we can encourage our youth to attend next year's conference.

*Thanksgiving,  
after all,  
is a word of action.  
~W.J. Cameron~*

### West Bathurst Cemetery Committee Update –

The West Bathurst Cemetery Committee is responsible for the upkeep of Saint Luke's "Old Scottish" Cemetery on St. Luke's Court and the West Bathurst Cemetery on St. Anne Street. The committee met on May 1, 2019. Shawn's Lawn and Property Maintenance was hired for the 2019 mowing season and again this year did a wonderful job of maintaining the two cemeteries. A spring clean up of the two cemeteries took place in May with committee members and other volunteers from our church family. Three gravestones were repaired with help from Donald Eddy. Two had toppled from their base and one was straightened. Two truck loads of leaves and tree limbs were hauled to the city dumping site for organic waste. Hugh Young has volunteered to finance the scraping and painting of the entrance gate to West Bathurst Cemetery and a thank you letter was sent. Additional weeding, tree trimming, etc. was carried out by committee members. The cemetery records were updated as needed. A special thank you is extended to everyone who continues to support the Endowment Fund with their donations. The donations made in 2019 to date total - \$9,935.00.

### Community Outreach

The Community Outreach team continues to offer support to those within the community who are in need. We often receive request for food and would like to thank the congregation for their generous contributions to our Outreach Pantry. 661 jars of peanut butter have been collected for the Volunteer Center to date. Our goal is 900 units for the year. The Volunteer Center supplies for to approximately 500 households monthly. A Breakfast Program is in place for the students attending the Adult Learning program which is held in the Donald Eddy Memorial Hall. Hot and cold cereals, milk, juice and fruit is available for the students.



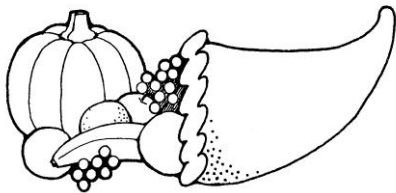
Church School will be beginning for the fall season on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The White Gift service is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to having the children and youth back with us.

## **Up-Coming Events at First United**

- Oct. 6 – World Wide Communion
- Oct. 13 – Thanksgiving
- Oct. 20 - Sunday School Start-up
- Nov. 10 – Remembrance Sunday
- Nov. 28 – Turkey Supper

### **Broadview**

Would you like to receive the Broadview (Observer), a United Church of Canada publication? For a new subscription, please contact the church office at 546-3532 before Monday, Oct 7, 2019. The annual subscription rate is \$25 (Tax included) Renewals are also payable at the office.



### **Thanksgiving Service**

10am - October. 13, 2019

Anyone wishing to contribute items to decorate the church are encouraged to bring them in by 4pm Wednesday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>

**Church envelopes** for the coming year will soon be available. If you haven't had contribution envelopes in the past and wish to have them for 2020, please advise the church office. Another way of making contributions is through PAR.

**PAR:** Pre Authorized Remittance (PAR) is a convenient way to support the ongoing work of your church. Your monthly contributions are taken directly from your bank account or charged to a Major Credit Card. Currently we have 95 households using this method of support. Signing up for PAR takes only a few minutes and can be done for you at the church office. All that is required is a void cheque or your credit card information.



## ***Christmas Concert 2019***

*The choir of First United will be hosting its annual Christmas concert in December. Plan to join us for a peaceful evening of music of the season.. Announcement will follow with the date of the event and the participants.*



Do you enjoy singing? Play an instrument?

Looking for people who enjoy music- old favorites as well as new contemporary selections.

Please consider joining us:

- ~ Senior Choir. Practice Wednesday evenings
- ~ Men's Choir. Practice Sunday Morning last Sunday of the month.
- ~ Instrumentalists- youth and adults

Please contact Martha for further details: 548-3282  
[martha.vickers@rogers.com](mailto:martha.vickers@rogers.com).



## **Annual Remembrance Service**

Each year, on the Sunday immediately prior to Remembrance Day, we honour our war veterans as well as those who lost their lives in war. Our Remembrance Service will be held Sunday, November 10. Those wishing to place memorial crosses in the sanctuary are reminded to contact the Legion office directly. 546-3135

# Summer Garden Party 2019



Alice & Don McLean, Helen Norton



Anne Brooks  
Ruth & Rachel Lewis, Isabel MacLaggan



Florence Erskine, Helen Knowles, Catherine Eddy



Robert & Judy Losier (Hosts)  
Lorne Stymiest



Mick Knowles, Earnest Brooks, Doug Henderson, Aldra Carson



Blair Lewis, Harvey Norton, Pille Leonfellner