



The GrapeVine

Pentecost/Spring/Summer 2017

Not So Ordinary Time

Thoughts from Rev. Brenna

In the Christian Church calendar, we call the Sundays between Pentecost and Advent “Ordinary Time” because there’s no special theme to this time of the year – unlike, say, Lent or the Easter season. But if we were merging our personal lives with the church calendar, we might actually call these summer and early autumn weeks, “The Best Time!”

Let’s face it. As Canadians, as soon as the snow is mostly melted and it’s warm enough to be sitting on a patio, we want to be outside doing stuff. We’re hiking and paddling. We’re at the cottage. We’re grilling and heading into the city for a Jays game. We’re taking the kids on a long road trip, and we’re soaking up as much of the sun and warmth as possible before next winter.

As a minister, I know this is a time when I’ll see less of all of you. The golf course or lake is often much more alluring on a summer Sunday morning than the sanctuary. But being away from formal worship doesn’t mean we can’t continue to praise God and find God’s presence out in the world. In fact, time away can often give us a new perspective on things.

Slowing down and breathing deeper this summer, I wonder how we might see and give thanks for the fingerprints of the Creator in nature. I wonder how time with friends and family can help us show Christ’s love and grace to one another in new ways. Perhaps being out and about in our communities will bring us back in the fall with new ideas of how Erindale United can be connected with our neighbours.

So even though the rhythms of our church life may slow down in this “ordinary time,” as disciples of Christ, we still have work to do. In this Sabbath time where more rest and play is to be found, we re-energize and re-equip ourselves for another year of ministry in the fall.

Go into this “best time” then with God’s blessing (and with your Minister’s blessing!). Go to enjoy this beautiful world God has made for us and the wonderful people with whom we share it. Go with joy to give thanks and praise in these coming weeks and months, and we look forward to the Spirit bringing us back together again in the fall.

*Blessings,
Rev. Brenna Nickel Baker*

From the Music Director

Dear Friends:

I am sure that you can all relate with me in saying how Thankful I am that Summer is fast approaching! As we bring another year of music to a close with our Sanctuary Choir, I have to say **Thank You** to each of the members for the time and talent that they bring to the table each week to put together the ingredients that make up a church service.

It has been, once again, a very successful year of providing music for regular worship services, while adding new additions to the service schedule such as Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, while we continue to participate in Services of Remembrance as we support families as we say Goodbye to members of theirs and our Church Family who are no longer with us. Families facing these difficult times in their lives are very appreciative of the choir for their musical gifts, while the choir is pleased to be able to show their support in this special way.

2016-17 has been a very hectic time for me, as, in addition to my work here, I am President of the Royal Canadian College of Organists (Niagara Centre), and there has been a lot going on in that capacity. In addition, I serve on the National Council, while this organization is facing a decline in membership while dealing with all the challenges of the "Mainline Church" (Anglican, Lutheran, United, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, etc.) Church music/liturgy today, where change is happening faster than anyone would ever want to admit... and introducing those changes to congregations that are resistant to change.

It has been great working with our new minister, Rev. Brenna Nickel Baker. We have both enjoyed dinner meetings where we throw ideas back and forth for upcoming services and get to know one another better. We're both enjoying this as we learn from one another and share our experiences in fellowship and ministry.

Please join us over June, while we wrap up Sunday School for the year with the Congregational Picnic, and support us through July and August when we welcome the Mennonite congregation to our church. It is a great example to the community, that we of different faiths can join together in Worship together, realizing that we all have more in common than we have different. This strengthens the fabric of our community...

Have a Very Safe and Blessed Summer!

Best Regards,

Rob Anderson

Friday Morning Coffee Hour

We meet every Friday Morning at ten o'clock for coffee and conversation in the McGill Room.

One such morning we visited Dick and Sharon Carruthers in their home. We enjoyed great conversation, coffee and goodies AND a stirring recitation by Dick.

Fridays can be full of surprises and laughter. Come and join us!. (Our last meeting before a summer break will be Friday June 23, and we will resume in the Fall on Sept. 8, 2017.)

"Navigating the Healthcare System for Seniors"

Erindale United Church, along with Gary J. Hepworth from Hepworth and Associates held a seminar regarding this topic on Tuesday, May 2nd. It was very well attended, and some of the points to remember are:

1. An informed Health Care System user will have a more positive experience/outcome.
2. Plan ahead now so to avoid having to make decisions in a crisis.
3. Diet and exercise are important. Calcium and Vitamin D.
4. Get all documents prepared...Will, POA's, Advanced Care Plan.
5. Record all medications and health conditions.
6. Spend time researching the services CCAC offers.
7. Have an advocate.

Congregational Care

Just before Easter Congregational Care joined residents of Evergreen Retirement Home to enjoy tea and conversation. Rev. Brenna Nichol joined us, and conducted an Easter Communion Service with them. It was a very good opportunity to introduce her to the congregation that cannot regularly attend church.

The Contributions to Canadian Food for Children

Thanks to everyone (too many participants to name) for knitting and crocheting the pneumonia vests, sweaters and blankets to keep little ones warm.

Thank you, Vera Jenkins, for the beautiful knitted bears which make many children smile and enjoy happy times.

Thank you, Sandra Wiseman, for the time-consuming beds made with milk bags. They will keep their users comfortable.

Thank you, Judith Gvirtzman, for the beautiful coloured dresses made from the pillow cases. The young girls will be delighted.

The amazing work done by the ladies is very appreciated by all the children of the third world.

We started this project in April 2007. From April 2007 to December 2016, your contributions total:

Knitted and Crocheted Pneumonia Vests	3,224
Knitted Sweaters	8
Knitted Bears	482
Blankets	78
Milk Bag Beds:	2
Dresses made from Pillow Cases	30

All of the above has been taken to Canadian Food for Children at 1258 Lakeshore Rd. E., where they are sorted. Along with non-perishable food, clothing, medicines, personal hygiene and hand-skill supplies, these items are sent in containers to 15 countries.

Submitted by Dianne Drennan and Rose Yamamura

Deacon's Cupboard / Bulk Food Delivery / Spring 2017

Once again, as part of our effort to help keep the Deacon's Cupboard stocked up, we have arranged to have Longo's Supermarkets drop off **60 cases** (approx. 30 cubic feet) of a mix of staple foods - delivery was made on May 04. The cost of the food (purchased at wholesale prices) was \$2,000 (well, ok, \$1,997.00).

This project is interesting for a number of reasons:

- it eliminates the driving/picking/delivery of goods;
- because we are working closely with the Deacon's Cupboard folks, it gets them a delivery of their "highest need" items (which can change over time);
- the Deacon's Cupboard staff like it because it helps them schedule volunteers around one large delivery;

- it gives us the most bang for our dollars, because we are buying at wholesale;
- and by funneling donations through EUC, it gives participants a tax deduction, which is not available if you drop off \$25 of food.

We have had some of our congregation members make donations to help defray the cost. If you would like to make a donation specifically to help the **Deacon's Cupboard Bulk Food Delivery**, please put your donation on the plate, clearly marked "**DC Bulk Food**", including your envelope number or name; or speak to Paul Sabourin, who can help co-ordinate your donation.

This ongoing program has been in place for almost 5 years now, and has delivered well in excess of \$15,000 in much-needed food to the DC. We will plan to do another delivery in the fall of 2017.

July and August Worship Schedule

Rev. Brenna is leading worship on July 2, 9, 16 and 23. The Mennonite Church is leading worship on July 30, August 6, 13 and 20. We're having a shared service on August 27.

July Midweek Worship Opportunity: "I Come to the Garden..."

If you're away at the cottage on weekends in July, but in town during the week, join us for a brief service in one of gardens in the middle of the week. Exact days and times TBA, but the hope is, weather permitting, we may spend Wednesday mornings or evenings outside in the garden with a time of devotion, prayer, and perhaps some light singing. If you're interested, please speak to Rev. Brenna and voice your preference for a morning or evening service.

Check out the Skylight Festival in Paris, ON! July 28-30

As part of your summer plans, please consider attending the Skylight Festival in Paris, Ontario. You can come all weekend or just part of it. Skylight brings together amazing speakers, musicians and artists to talk about faith and justice. There are activities for families, children and youth, and free camping is available on site. This is an amazing experience that you won't want to miss. More info and registration at Skylightfestival.ca.

Women's Shelter Second-Stage Housing

Second-stage, or transitional, housing provides support for women who have left abusive relationships, helping them make plans for independent living.

At Armagh, we provide:

- Safe and affordable, temporary housing, for up to one year
- Emotional support and ongoing counselling from on-site, qualified staff
- Practical support, as well as accompaniment, for family/criminal court, including legal information, advocacy and resources
- Transitional support for up to one year after the women leave Armagh and move into permanent housing
- Group facilitation on issues such as, but not limited to, living independently, self-esteem, parenting as a single parent, budgeting and other educational programs
- Our modern, self-sufficient furnished apartments can accommodate nine women and their children. Additional facilities for residents include laundry, a children's play area, youth room and a computer room with internet access

How are women referred?

Women are referred to us from local shelters. Once a unit becomes available, we send a notice of availability to crisis shelters in the Peel Region.

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As a church, we are called to pray for each other and for our mission in the world. This week, please remember St. David's-Queenston United Church in Niagara Presbytery in your prayers.

Erindale United Church is now set up to receive donations by credit card. Go to www.CanadaHelps.org and follow the very user-friendly directions.

Celebrate 55 Years

UCW SOCIAL

TUESDAY, JUNE 6 AT 6.00 PM

Social Time, Worship, and Dinner

Guest Speaker: Tara Monks

Armagh House

2nd Stage Shelter for Women and Children

Dinner - \$12

Tickets Deadline is May 28

**You are invited to bring a Donation of
a Gift Card for a Grocery Store,
Pharmacy, or Walmart.**

***Anyone, not just women, unable to come for dinner is
welcome to come for the speaker only.***

UCW's 55th Anniversary Service

On Sunday, June 11th, UCW will lead the Worship Service at 10.30 a.m. in celebration of the coming together of The Women's Missionary Society and The Women's Association to form The United Church Women 55 years ago in 1962. Our service has been adapted from "Celebrating Spirit" which has been specially written for the 55th Anniversary by Betty Turcott, author of a number of worship and meditation books, and who is also a Past President of National United Church Women

Rev. Brenna will also participate, and we hope to have our choir augmented by women of the congregation. Ask Marilyn Johnston if you would like to be part of the choir for this special day.

We hope everyone will join us on June 11th as we Celebrate the Spirit.

Garage Sale:

The UCW thanks everyone who helped in any way to make our sale on April 22nd such a success. Some leftover books were donated to the Mississauga Symphony Book Sale.

The rest of the books and all the other leftover items were taken to Value Village.

The amount raised was nearly \$2000 which will be distributed in November, along with other funds raised this year, to charitable groups both local and farther away.

Give the Gift of Life

A Blood Donor Clinic is held locally every two months on a regular basis. Anyone, 17 and over and in good health, may donate. It takes about one hour and your donation can help save up to three lives.

Erindale United has a 'Partners for Life' number which credits your donation to our church. ERIN436289

Sheridan Centre: Friday June 30, 1 till 7 pm

Friday August 25, 1 till 7 pm

Friday October 27, 1 till 7 pm

Women's Retreat at Five Oaks

Five Oaks Centre continues to operate on a lesser scale and the good news is that there will be a Women's Retreat this year. The dates are Oct 13/14 and the cost is \$115.

More information will be available soon.