

Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge

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Find us on Facebook at "Deseronto-Napanee Pastoral Charge"!

SUMMER WORSHIP

I am writing this on the day after we got a nice, refreshing rain. The world has greened up again, and the heat is settling in. Summer seems to be here.

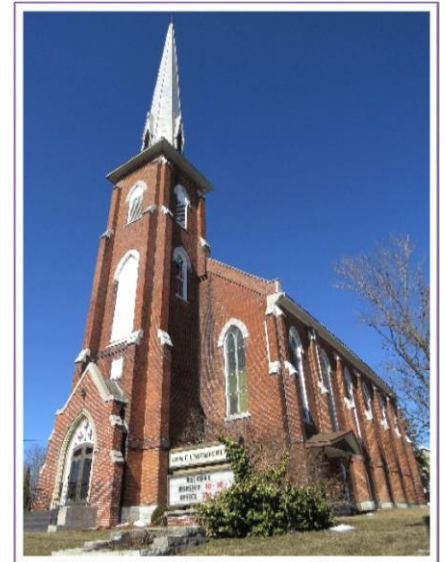
Things are looking very hopeful for a return to normal soon, but we are not quite there yet. I am heartened to know that many people are getting their vaccinations, not only in this community, but all over the province.

We will continue to offer pre-taped worship services over the summer months, and hope we may be able to be back to in-person worship in September.

I will be taking vacation time from July 4th to July 31st. For the worship services on July 11th and 18th, Chris Ingersoll will be taking the lead. For the worship services on July 25th and August 1st, Siobhan Flynn will be taking the lead. (Remember, the worship services are pre-taped, so the dates may look a little out of whack.) Steven Lindsay has the music all figured out. While I am on vacation, for pastoral emergencies, Rev. Mark Arnill has agreed to be on call, at Trinity United Church, 613-354-3858.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who continue to send donations and offerings to the church, even when our usual activities are suspended. Treasurer Bert points out that our expenses remain about the same as they would be in normal times. The Stewards have been discussing fund-raising options to help offset the growing deficit, but are not sure how to manage a fund-raising event and still follow all of the Covid protocols.



Upcoming Events

July 4th – July 31st

Rev. Elaine will be away for her summer vacation. If you or someone you know are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact Rev. Mark at Trinity U. C., 613-354-3858. Leslie will remain available by appointment or by chance. Please call, e-mail, or message her on Facebook.

July 11th

Chris Ingersoll will be leading our worship service while Rev. Elaine is away.

July 18th

Chris Ingersoll will be leading our worship service while Rev. Elaine is away.

Thank you to some people who are generous with their time, and have been working on the gardens at the church. I am aware that Marlene Wilson and Rick and Patti Sweet have been here cleaning up the flower beds. There may be other people who have done some gardening that I am not aware of, so thank you to them, too. Thank you to Scott, who faithfully keeps the lawn cut.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

While we are shut down, the trustees are working at several things. The loose carpeting on the front steps will be removed, and the steps fixed up to be safe again. The elevator, which is 37 years old, needs some upgrades to meet new regulations, and cannot be used until the changes are made. Getting this fixed is a challenge because every similar elevator in the province needs the same upgrade, and Covid has slowed everything down. This will also be an expensive repair. A tree guy has been contacted to take down dead branches in the maple trees to the east of the church, and if he decides the trees are in too bad a condition, to take the whole tree down.

Thank you for your patience, and your support. I think we can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and maybe we will be able to come to back to some form of normal by the fall.

Rev. Elaine

Indian Residential Schools

As I write this, many people are still trying to process the news that 215 un-marked graves of children have been found on the grounds of the former Kamloops Residential School. There are many actions that are being taken around the country in honour of those children and their families.

The United Church of Canada did not run the Kamloops School, but it and its predecessor churches operated other Residential Schools. Since the 1970's and 1980's, the United Church has been active in trying to bring some healing to the damages caused on Indigenous people by those schools. In 1986, The United Church made a formal apology to Indigenous people for the historic ways the Christian Church had not been very kind to Indigenous people.

In 1998, the United Church made a second apology, this time specifically to the survivors of residential schools and their families.

This is the text of that apology, spoken by then Moderator, Right Rev Bill Phipps:



Upcoming Events

July 25th

Siobhan Flynn will be leading our worship service while Rev. Elaine is away.

August 1st

Siobhan Flynn will be leading our worship service while Rev. Elaine is away.

Important Announcement

The Grace Finance and Stewardship Committee is considering hosting an on-line auction in the Fall. (More information to come.) They are currently looking for donated items to sell. If you are clearing clutter, updating your interior, or have been busy crafting during the pandemic and have items that you wish to donate, please contact Leslie or a member of the F&S Committee.

“As Moderator of The United Church of Canada, I wish to speak the words that many people have wanted to hear for a very long time. On behalf of The United Church of Canada, I apologize for the pain and suffering that our church’s involvement in the Indian Residential School system has caused.

We are aware of some of the damage that this cruel and ill-conceived system of assimilation has perpetrated on Canada’s First Nations peoples. For this we are truly and most humbly sorry.

To those individuals who were physically, sexually, and mentally abused as students of the Indian Residential Schools in which The United Church of Canada was involved, I offer you our most sincere apology.

You did nothing wrong. You were and are the victims of evil acts that cannot under any circumstances be justified or excused. We know that many within our church will still not understand why each of us must bear the scar, the blame for this horrendous period in Canadian history. But the truth is, we are the bearers of many blessings from our ancestors, and therefore, we must also bear their burdens.

Our burdens include dishonouring the depths of the struggles of First Nations peoples and the richness of your gifts. We seek God’s forgiveness and healing grace as we take steps toward building respectful, compassionate, and loving relationships with First Nations peoples. We are in the midst of a long and painful journey as we reflect on the cries that we did not or would not hear, and how we have behaved as a church.

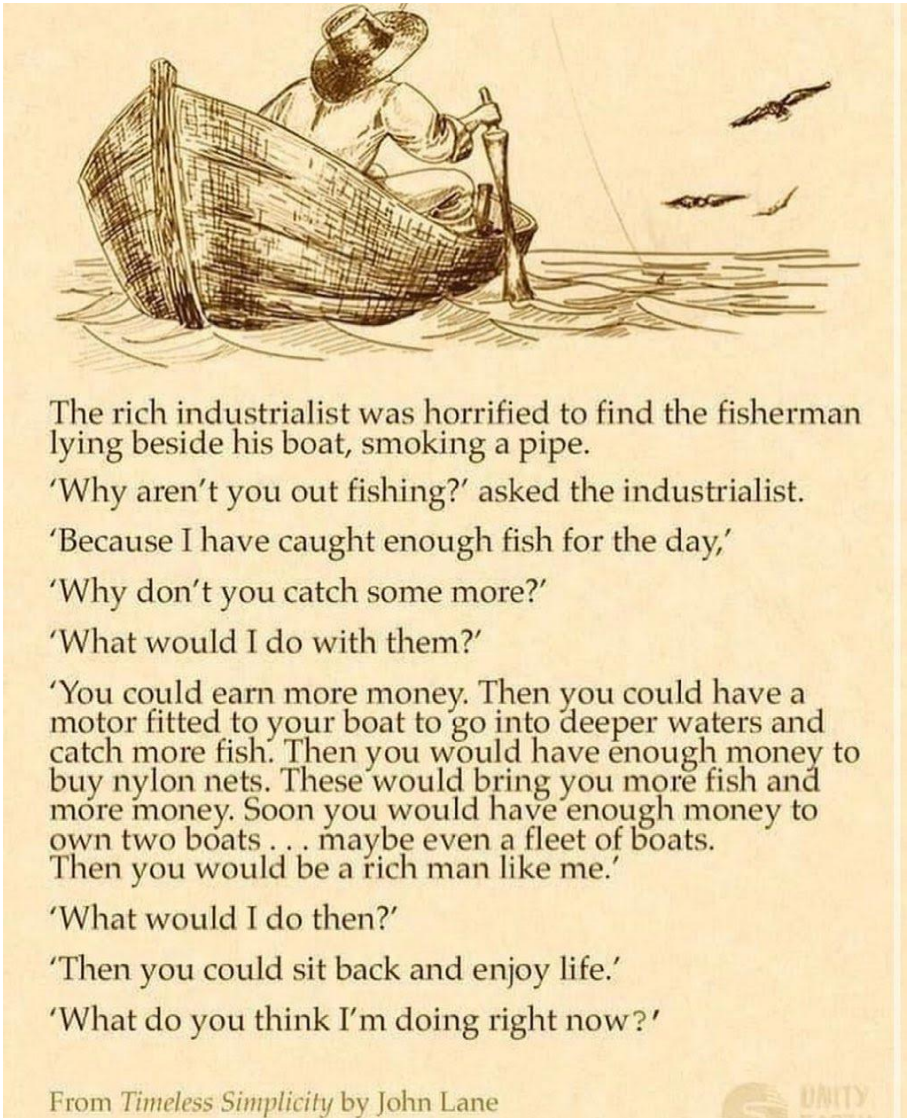
As we travel this difficult road of repentance, reconciliation, and healing, we commit ourselves to work toward ensuring that we will never again use our power as a church to hurt others with attitudes of racial and spiritual superiority. We pray that you will hear the sincerity of our words today and that you will witness the living out of our apology in our actions in the future.”

The Right Rev. Bill Phipps,
General Council Executive, 1998,
The United Church of Canada



Easter Flowers

Over Easter weekend our busy bees were at it again, delivering 70 begonias to our church friends and family that reside in a Long-Term Care or Retirement facility, may have been alone, or experiencing an especially difficult time. Our drivers/visitors included, Rev. Elaine, Beth McKinney, Yvonne MacDonald, Bev Somerville, Marilyn Cole, Bev Boomhour, Diane Remington, Ron and Marilyn Murray, and Leslie Sweet. Thank you all so much for your time and energy! Also, thank you to the Christian Education Committee, Pastoral Care Committee, and the Men’s Group for generously donating the money for this endeavour. All of the notes, phone calls and cards of thanks show how much it was appreciated.



The rich industrialist was horrified to find the fisherman lying beside his boat, smoking a pipe.

'Why aren't you out fishing?' asked the industrialist.

'Because I have caught enough fish for the day,'

'Why don't you catch some more?'

'What would I do with them?'

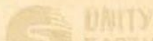
'You could earn more money. Then you could have a motor fitted to your boat to go into deeper waters and catch more fish. Then you would have enough money to buy nylon nets. These would bring you more fish and more money. Soon you would have enough money to own two boats . . . maybe even a fleet of boats. Then you would be a rich man like me.'

'What would I do then?'

'Then you could sit back and enjoy life.'

'What do you think I'm doing right now?'

From *Timeless Simplicity* by John Lane



Earth Day

In our Easter Newsletter, our congregation members were encouraged to participate in Earth Day/Week events in the manor that best suited their abilities, to snap a photo, and send it in, or send in a photo of something that you do throughout the year to help the environment. We had two submissions, one from the Milligan and Melhuish boys of them picking up garbage in their neighbourhood and the other from Betty and Jim Harrington of some salvaged and repurposed deck furniture and repurposed food containers. Thank you for your participation!

