



MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2023

What's inside?

1. Looking into a Spiritual Mirror
2. With Sympathy & Baptism
2. Congregational Meeting RPT
3. Worship
4. Photo Directory, Call for Art, Book Sale
5. Young Adult Supper
6. Volunteer opportunities
6. Tech Assistance
7. Plant a Heart for Refugees
8. The Big Shred
8. McClure Place residents

Looking into a Spiritual Mirror

February 22 was one of the coldest nights of the year but still 15 or so hardy souls, along with members of the Choir, gathered to begin the journey of Lent together. We celebrated communion and then, as is our tradition, I imposed ashes on the foreheads of those gathered.

It is interesting to note that we can not see the ashes on our foreheads unless we look in a mirror, and Lent is a good time to look in a spiritual mirror. To look deeply, prayerfully, into our souls and see what's lacking, what we yearn for, what we need to get back on track. The ashes remind us of our need for humility.

Now humility is not some self punishing practice, where we whine "I'm nothing, I'm a nobody." No, real humility is understanding and accepting ourselves as human beings in the great scheme of things. Humility is about knowing and accepting, even celebrating, who we are - *human beings who need God wholly, and who God loves wholly.*

The ashes also remind us of our mortality.

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return

We hear these words as we receive the ashes and they remind us that we are mortal human beings and because we do not know exactly when death will come, time is of the essence. The ashes get us thinking about the preciousness and the importance of each day of our journey.

We are invited in this season of Lent, to look deeply in the spiritual mirror and see the ashes of humility and immediacy every day, not just on Ash Wednesday.

This Lent, let us continue to learn to trust that God is good and gracious and loving and forgiving, and our relationship with God-and what we do for others out of that relationship is at the root of what it means to be a person of faith.

This Lent, let us make God the focus of our attention, our love, our devotion.

Peace,
Debra

LIFE
...is a journey

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES

Holding you gently in prayer...

All who have experienced grief & loss in its many forms

Shirley McEwan and family on the death of her husband Del
The family and friends of Joan Laing
The family and friends of Margaret McElhinney
Georgie Partridge and the family and friends of Don Somors



to help us acknowledge **CELEBRATIONS OR LOSSES** in our church family please contact Sheila at eskrueger@sasktel.net

CELEBRATIONS

Baptism:

February 26, 2023

Edwin John Eremondi-Smith, child of Kabrienne Eremondi and Merlin Smith.
Kieran Julian Traves-Eremondi child of Joseph Eremondi, and Joanne Traves



Congregational Meeting Report

A big thank-you to everyone that attended the February 26, 2023, congregational meeting.

Good discussions took place regarding many topics, with the following motions passed:

- Election of **Heather Muirhead as Chair-Elect!!!** (A big thank-you to Heather)
- Approval of the 2023 operating budget
- Approval of the 2023 capital budget
- Approval of the revised Community of Faith Profile report recommending 1.5 ministerial personnel.
- Election of Heather Muirhead as McClure United Church Regional Representative

Now that the **Community of Faith Profile report has been accepted** by the congregation, the next step is approval by the Regional Council Pastoral Relations Commission. If approval is received by the Commission, we can form a search committee and start the process to hire a 0.5 minister!

Have a great end to winter and welcome back snowbirds to your McClure United Church family.

Did you Know?

The liturgy used by McClure this Lent is based on a resource called "Seeking" by Sanctified Art.

It comes with a **free Lenten Devotional** which is available from the office upon request.

Confirmation/Membership and Reaffirmation of Faith gatherings.

I have two folks interested and we are looking for a larger group. Let Debra know if you are interested.

Contact Debra at debra.b@shaw.ca

WORSHIP SERVICES



We will once again be offering **Lenten lunches each Thursday in Lent** with volunteers offering a short reflection.

The lunches are scheduled from 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

There are 7 Thursdays in lent beginning on February 23rd (the first Thursday after Ash Wednesday) and ending on Maundy Thursday, April 6th. You may wish to attend all or just some of the lunches. A light lunch will be served and will include dessert and coffee or tea. The price is \$12.00.

If you have any dietary issues, please advise the office and we will try to accommodate them. In order that we may advise the kitchen of numbers, you will need to phone the office to let us know if you are planning to attend by **Tuesday morning of each week**. You may pay in advance or when you arrive on Thursday.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need one more volunteer to lead the reflection time on April 6th. Theme information is available to help you plan the reflection.

If you would be able to help, please call Carol Claypool at 306-664-2285 or email at cmclaypool@gmail.com.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Easter Morning Breakfast Returns

After the Easter Sunrise service on the Hill, everyone is invited back to the church for a light breakfast of muffins, cheese, hard boiled eggs, and coffee. If you would be able to help out by sending food or by serving, please leave your name at the church and we will contact you.

HOLY WEEK

April 2-9th

Church Service 10am – McClure United Church

Palm Sunday – April 2 - 10am

Maundy Thursday and the Passion Service - April 6 – 7pm

Easter Sunday – April 9 – 10 am

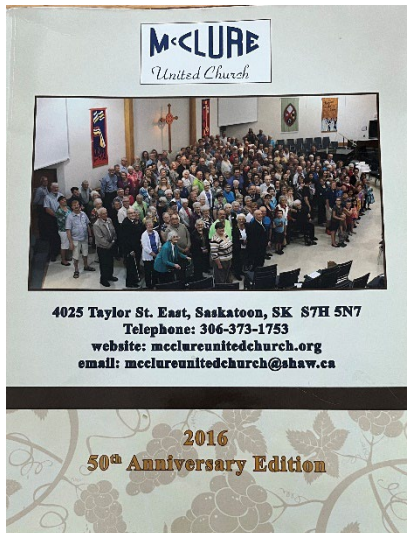
Sunrise Service -6:15 am

Wildwood Park on the hill behind Bishop Pocock School (227 Avondale Road)

Coffee, muffins, cheese, and hard-boiled eggs, back at the church after.

We need some folks to transport out cross up the hill – Let Debra know if you would like to take on this task.

Was That You I Saw in the Photo Directory???



- Are you one of those people who likes to figure out who was sitting next to you in church, by using your photo directory?
- Are you one of those people who likes to phone church people rather than email them, by using your photo directory?
- Are you one of those people who likes to look back at how we all looked a few years ago, by using your photo directory?

But YIKES!! Our McClure Church Photo Directory is 7 years old!

We are looking for a wonderful volunteer to take on the job of organizing us for a **BRAND-NEW** photo directory for the Fall of 2023.

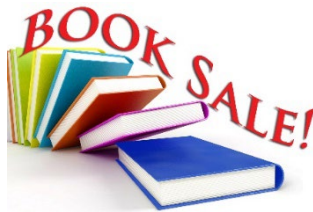
Are you the one who can make this happen??

If so, we'd love to hear from you.

Let the church office know that you would be willing to take on this **short term** project.

(306) 373-1753 or mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca

You "oughta" be in pictures!! And so should we!



PUZZLE AND BOOK SALE, CRAFT TABLES

Date chosen is Saturday, April 22,
2023.

We plan to use two large spaces. We will encourage everyone to wear masks. There will be more details in the April newsletter out the end of March. Until then, perhaps set aside puzzles you have completed and books you have read. (NO Textbooks, Readers' Digests, National Geographic, encyclopedias of any kind, computer books, magazines, dictionaries, atlases)



Contacts: If you are unsure of what we prefer in the way of book and puzzle donations, please contact one of us.

Sandy Hoenecke 306-374-5012
(rhoenecke@sasktel.net)

Marlene Kells 306-374-0238
(marlenekells@sasktel.net)

Call for Art

Do you have some artwork or prints you don't want anymore? We are currently looking for some art to brighten the environment of the residents at Amy McClure House. We are taking original artwork, prints, photographs, or small quilted pieces. They must be ready to hang, be of good quality and appropriate subject matter (landscape, florals, still life, animals) and not larger than 24" x 30". Please drop them off in the Music Room starting March 1st - 15th.

If you have any questions please contact Celeste at cad@sasktel.net.

Thank you for your help.

Celeste Delahey



STAYING CONNECTED

Lenten Study

Friday Morning- via Zoom 11am
discussion of readings from the good courage resource.
February 24 to March 31
email Debra to get the zoom link: debra.b@shaw.ca

good courage aims to inspire with honest testimonies from people who have had the courage to follow their hearts, to hope against hope, and to faithfully work towards a better world.

The book is also available as an e-book through UCRD (7.95)



Family Ministry

Eden continues to provide a great ministry with children on Sunday morning. Stories, crafts, games and projects make for a great time of learning and fun. Eden is at the Church every Sunday at 10am. Children are welcome to join their families in the worship space for the first bit and then move to Rainbow Village. If you have any questions please call Debra.

Women and Men's Gathering

A fine group of men and a good group of women are gathering for conversation and connection. Men meet in the Craft Room and Women meet in the Sanctuary; both spaces allow for good spacing and comfort.

The two groups will gather on the **third Saturday of the month at 8am.**

Everyone is welcome.

NEXT GATHERING: March 18

Other dates: April 22 (fourth Sat), May 20

Youth and Young Adult

The congregation is in the midst of figuring out ministry compliment and of course new job descriptions will be developed once we make some decision. Alongside this work the Board is considering hiring a person focused on Youth ministry in the Fall. So stay tuned.

YOUNG ADULT SUPPER

Are you a young adult and enjoy food?
We are going to gather together for supper on
Sunday March 5th.
If you would like to join us,
please text Brooklyn Donsberger
at 306 281 6412.

Nursery

If you are a parent with an infant or toddler, please know you are welcome in the worship space. A little noise is understood and just fine. If you need to use the nursery space, please make yourself at home and turn on the speaker so you can continue to hear the service.

Please communicate your needs to Debra.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Tech Team

Our team is fantastic! Our team is still learning and growing. If you would like to learn how to use the Live Stream stuff that keeps us connected to about 120 folks weekly, there is room for you to lend a hand. Stop by the tech booth after church on Sunday and say hi.

We are looking particularly for folks who would like to learn the sound system part of the technology. Jim Bugg, our current sound coordinator is willing to train you. We need two or three more volunteers so sound management will come around only once a month.

Please contact
Adam Brookman (inventadam@gmail.com),
Jim Bugg (jim.bugg@usask.ca),
or the Church Office for more information.

Breakfast at Amy's House

We need a few more volunteers.

Your job would be to put on a happy face and greet residence as they begin their day. You would then provide breakfast service, get the cereal, prepare the toast, pour the juice and coffee.

If you are a bit unsure if this job is for you, Carol our coordinator will arrange for you to give it a try before you commit.

Please Contact Carol if you are interested in participating in this ministry 306-664-2285.



Prayer Shawls – We are running low.

3-4 shawls are given away each month to Church friends who are in hospital or experiencing a difficult diagnosis.

A shawl is also offered to new residence of Amy McClure House to help them feel at home. There is a pattern available for the shawls or you can create your own. Thank you in advance for contributing to this important ministry

Sing a Long at Amy's

On the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month at 2:00 p.m. we go to Amy McClure House and sing some of the old songs with the residents.

If you would be interested in playing the piano or leading the singsong, we would like to have you become one of the leaders or piano players. You would only be involved about once every two months for an hour and a half.

The residents do enjoy this time spent with them and it is a good opportunity to get to meet them.

Please call Elaine Nutbrown (306-373-7992) or Mary Lou Forrest (306-373-0425) if you would like more information. All the piano music and sing song books are provided



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Church Donation Envelopes

Just a gentle reminder that, if you have ordered donation envelopes from the church office, **they are ready to be picked up.**

If you haven't and wish to order envelopes please drop into the office during the week or on Sunday before or after the service. You also have an opportunity to sign up for PAR if you wish.

Office hours are Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon and 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. You can also place your order by email at mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca. It is helpful if you have your envelope number when you order.

To support of the Life and Work of the Church financially:

- **Pre-Authorized Remittance PAR** can be set up by calling the office 306-373-1753.
- **E- transfers** are welcome by contacting donations@mcclureunitedchurch.org
- Donations can be made through the website using Canada Help -go to the webpage and click on the donate button. (Note: Canada Help takes a fee and therefore McClure does not get 100% of your donation if you use this method)

Envelopes are available through the Church office 306-373-1753

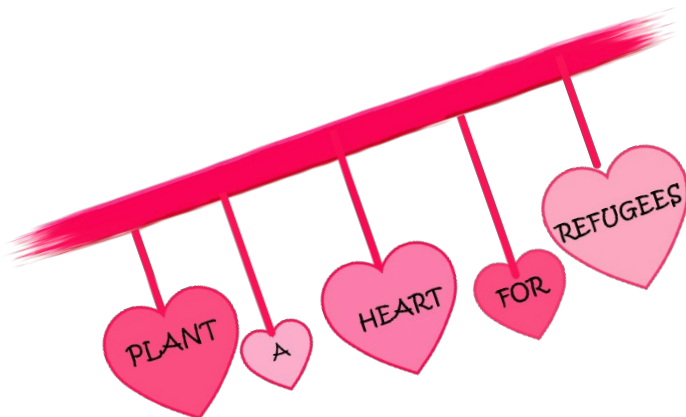
OUTREACH COMMITTEE

THANKS

Another Huge McClure Thank You

Wow another wonderful response to our Plant a Heart for Refugees campaign!! Have you seen all the hearts in our front yard??

For the month of February, every \$20 donated to Refugee projects, has seen a heart being planted in the snow or hung from a tree branch. Even some folks attending church have helped us to hang the hearts! Thank you for all the donations and the help with hanging them.





"THE BIG SHRED" MAY 6th

Confidentially shred your Papers that are taking up space,

OLD PERSONAL LETTERS OUTDATED PRIVATE DOCUMENTS CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS
The Big Shred! Have you circled **Saturday, May 6** from 9 am - 12 noon on your calendar for the 6th annual Big Shred? Quickly shred old paper that is taking up your space. Thanks to our partner, *Shred-it*, (who donate their service to our project), their shredders will quickly take care of your documents in the McClure United Church parking lot. The service is by donation (suggested \$10 per box, or \$5 per shopping bag) and the funds raised will assist the McClure Place Foundation in upgrading health services and well-being at Amy McClure House.

BANK STATEMENTS UTILITY BILLS TAX RETURNS OUTDATED DOCUMENTS

McClure Place Happenings

"To enrich the lives of McClure Place Residents by providing support and service"

Residents continue to be physically active by participating in exercises, yoga, and the floor curling tournament. Some residents are part of the Saskatoon Council on Aging Global Walk program wherein monthly daily physical activity is tracked. Nineteen residents and nurse Nicole reported 2208 kms plus Amy McClure House 294 kms from their exercise groups and participation in yoga. Saskatoon Seniors Continuing Learning program has continued through the month.

Weekly events for social interaction include cribbage, line dancing, knitting circle, bingo, scrabble, bridge, and the puzzle table. The monthly Celebration Day held on February 21st celebrated all residents with February birthdays with cake at morning coffee time.

In addition to the daily delicious supper meal the kitchen provided a well attended special Chinese Supper on February 8th.

There were several opportunities to travel by McClure van for grocery shopping, a trip to rRemai mModern, a Patsy Cline tribute concert, and a trip to the Public Library Local History Room. Residents purchased chocolate and/or a carnation for delivery to friends, neighbours or anyone special on Valentine's Day. Through the courtesy of an anonymous resident each of us received a carnation.

Special events included a presentation on reflexology; a presentation from the Saskatoon Fire Department; a performance by the Choristers, complete with cookies, on Valentine's Day. Designated charitable donations for the month of February went to Telemiracle. Resident donations were supplemented with after expenses funds from valentine sales.

Carolynn Drabble

BACK PAGE

Got important info for the McClure UC Newsletter? Feedback? Ideas?

Please e-mail any newsletter submissions, suggestions & feedback to

Sheila Krueger – Editor
eskrueger@sasktel.net

**April Newsletter Deadline:
Sunday, March 26, 2023**

Newsletter Format Options:

Our monthly newsletter is available at the church website & it's also e-mailed directly to everyone on the e-mail list. But, if you prefer to receive a paper copy **or** you need to update your e-mail/contact info, please contact the office at:

306-373-1753 or mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca

Passionate about the work, ministry & mission of the wider
United Church of Canada?

Please check out these links for news & updates:
UCC National Newsletters:

<https://united-church.ca/e-newsletters>

UCC Mission & Service: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/generosity-through-mission-and-service>

Did you know?

All Worship services are available at McClure's YouTube Channel:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCTKNODhUdibWig5etzkMv8w

Printed copies of sermons are available at:

<http://mcclureunitedchurch.org/sermons>



MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH

www.mcclureunitedchurch.org

www.facebook.com/McClureUnitedChurchSktn/



4025 Taylor Street East
Saskatoon, SK S7H 5N7

Phone: (306) 373-1753

Fax: (306) 373-3450

Email: mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca

Ministry Personnel

Rev. Debra Berg

Office Administrator

Irene Lacoursiere

Administrative Assistant

Claudia Manning

Data Entry Clerk

Pam Turner

Music Coordinator

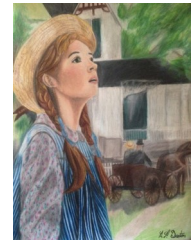
Shirley Blackburn



Pianist

Elin Sletmoen



March 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:30 The Choir	2 10:30 MP Choristers 12:00 Lenten Lunch 1:30 Quilting Group 4:00 Forever in Motion 7:00 Sacred Sounds	3	4
5 10AM Worship & Rainbow Village	6 4:00 Forever in Motion	7 7:00 Outreach Cmte 7:00 Property Cmte	8 9:30 Congreg Care Dress Rehearsal 5:30 Anne of Green Gables	9 10:30 MP Choristers 12:00 Lenten Lunch 1:30 Quilting Group 7:00 Faith Development Opening Night 5:30 Anne of Green Gables	10 5:30 Anne of Green Gables	11 5:30 Anne of Green Gables
12 10AM Worship & Rainbow Village 2:00pm Anne of Green Gables	13 4:00 Forever in Motion	14	15 7:30 The Choir	16 10:30 MP Choristers 12:00 Lenten Lunch 1:30 Quilting Group 4:00 Forever in Motion 7:00 Sacred Sounds	17 	18 8am Men's Gathering 8am Women's Gathering
19 10AM Worship & Rainbow Village	20 4:00 Forever in Motion 	21 7:00 Worship Cmte	22 7:30 The Choir	23 10:30 MP Choristers 12:00 Lenten Lunch 1:00 Quilting Group 4:00 Forever in Motion 7:00 Sacred Sounds	24	25
26 10AM Worship & Rainbow Village NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	27 Forever in Motion	28	29 7:30 The Choir	30 10:30 MP Choristers 12:00 Lenten Lunch 1:00 Quilting Group 4:00 Forever in Motion 7:00 Sacred Sounds	31	