



# MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## NOVEMBER 2022

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### My Faith Journey - Brenda Knisley

My faith journey ... how do I begin to describe it? When I agreed to write about my journey I thought, "This will be easy"! However, as I began writing I realized what I was remembering was aspects of my attendance at the physical church. Then I questioned myself, "Was that really a significant part of my faith journey?" I paused and thought about how my faith was based on much more than the actual church BUT I struggled to find a way to talk about my faith journey separate from the church! Was I getting this assignment all wrong?

My earliest recollection as to when **my faith-filled life had its start is definitely tied to Wakaw United Church**. I was 5 years old when my youngest sister was born. My mom decided that the baby and the rest of the family (yes, Mom, Dad, and their other 4 children) should all be baptized. We would then belong to a church and we would attempt to be "church-goers". While I have grown to realize a person can lead a faith-filled life without attending church, I also know that if my mom were alive today, I would thank her for making that decision 50+ years ago as it impacted my life in an incredibly meaningful way.

Throughout my school years I enjoyed attending church in our small town. The many things I enjoyed included: seeing familiar faces at church Sunday morning, singing familiar hymns (I really loved Holy, Holy, Holy and He Loves Me, Too), going to Sunday School, eventually teaching Sunday School, attending church lunches which were held once a month, going to the annual church picnic and the annual Fall Supper. Mom made sure we helped out with all those events in addition to helping her clean the church when it was her week to do so. Mom also had the student ministers over for lunch at our home (as the church members took turns hosting the ministers who travelled to town for ministry.) **I took Confirmation classes in that little church, had my bridal shower in the church basement, got married there and had our daughters baptized there.**

Once I graduated from high school and moved away, my faith remained intact but my church attendance grew less and less. When I went home to visit, I would go to church as Mom was still singing in the choir and I was happy to see the familiar faces in the congregation! I was in my twenties and I didn't think I "needed" church to maintain my faith. Or did I? After getting married and having our family I thought I had it all! Life was busy, I was working and raising a family ... I didn't have time for church. Enter my Mom (again!) She said to me one day, "Brenda, you always liked going to church. It was important to you – you should try to find a church in Saskatoon and begin attending again. It is important to give your girls that opportunity, too!" I mulled that around for a while and several weeks later I decided to "try out" a few churches close to my neighborhood.

Once I came through the doors of McClure and saw extended family and other familiar faces, sat through my first church service with amazing ministry at the helm, heard the awesome choir and saw an opportunity for our daughters to attend Sunday School (and later Junior and Senior Youth group and CGIT), I was hooked! I knew I had found the place where my faith could get a boost and grow! I was extremely grateful to be part of a faith community that gave me opportunities to grow, share and understand my own faith journey.

I believe I maintained my faith during the years I didn't attend church, however, I must say that attending **church has deepened my faith**. When I made the effort to reconnect with a congregation and decided to participate in various aspects of the life and work of McClure, I felt a connection. **A connection** to fellow congregants, a connection to a force greater than myself (such as a minister or church board member who calls and asks you to do something you are reluctant to do) and a connection to God (who feeds my heart and soul and leads me to believe I am making a positive difference in my life and in the lives of those around me). My faith has helped me deal with some of life's hardships but has also allowed me to revel in the joy that abounds in life. Each experience that came to mind when I reflected on my faith journey had a connection to the "place"! And I say "Amen" to that!

**May your own faith-filled journey reflect God's love and may you share that love with the world around you.**

Brenda Knisley

## OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES

Holding you gently in prayer...

All who have experienced grief & loss in its many forms.

Maurice Bahrey & family on the death of his wife Zane.

The family & friends of (Slim) Emil Meisner



### NEWCOMER'S WELCOME SUNDAY

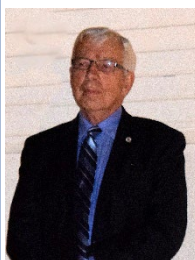
**November 20, 2022**

Meet and welcome the newcomers to  
McClure United Church!

Enjoy fellowship and goodies while you visit  
with one another and stop by to see what  
your church committees do for us.

Committees interested in setting up an  
information table, please confirm with Ann  
Richards – [annrichards334@gmail.com](mailto:annrichards334@gmail.com)

### Congratulations to Dr. Jim Blackburn



At McClure we know that Jim Blackburn is  
the very definition of a great leader  
having served in many capacities  
throughout our history. His quiet steady  
presence has been felt in Men's groups,  
committees and the board, as an adjunct  
choir member and as a calming presence  
in the sound booth.

Now we are very pleased to let you know that the  
University of Minnesota, where Jim did his Doctorate in  
1973, have recognized his outstanding character and  
leadership in awarding him the

#### Distinguished Leadership Award for Internationals

He is the first Canadian and Pharmacist to receive this  
award from the University of Minnesota.

**10 am Worship continues throughout to the end of the Year!**

### Confirmation/Membership and Reaffirmation of Faith gatherings.

Are you interested in a time to deepening your journey of faith?

Contact Debra at [debra.b@shaw.ca](mailto:debra.b@shaw.ca)



## Congregational Meeting November 6, 2012

A reminder of the congregation meeting taking place on November 6, 2012 at 11:15.  
The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Community of Faith Profile report.

We hope to see as many people at the meeting as possible.

## Offering

It's great to see so many faces at Sunday worship over the last few months, providing the opportunity to have personal interactions once again. We also recognize there continues to be congregants joining us from the comforts of their homes.

No matter how you choose to be part of McClure, everyone is welcome.

It continues to be the policy of the Church to forego the passing of the offering plate during services. The reason for this policy is to limit contact with the offering plate by the majority of those in attendance for health concerns.

But fear not! The offering plates continue to be located at the back of the sanctuary, easily accessible for your donations. For those of you worshipping via the internet, you can make your donations by contacting the church office.

Whether you participate in worship in the sanctuary, or in front of your computer, all donations are greatly appreciated!

Have a fantastic fall!  
Sincerely,  
Michael Gorniak  
Chair of the Board

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

- Donations can be made through the website using Canada Help -go to the webpage and click on the donate button.
- Pre-Authorized Remittance PAR can be set up by calling the office 306-373-1753.
- E- transfers are welcome by contacting [Irene@mcclureunitedchurch.org](mailto:Irene@mcclureunitedchurch.org). Irene is our finance staff person.

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

# REMEMBRANCE DAY REFLECTION

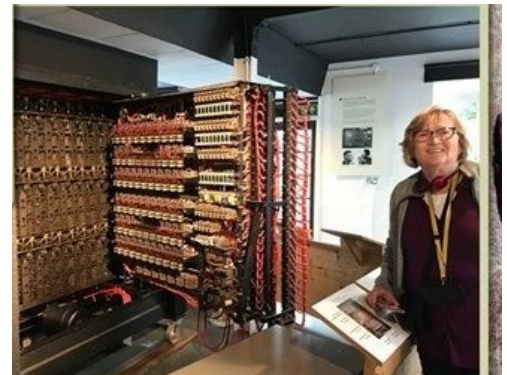
## Recalling the power of diversity – Sheila Krueger

Five years ago, my daughter and I headed out on a great adventure. We travelled to Wales and England in a memorial tribute to my mom, Jeanne Perry. On a very rainy day we travelled to Mom's home town, Ystradgynlais in Wales and stood outside the house that she grew up in and the house where I spent the first year of my life. I recalled the time when as a seven-year-old I spent a summer on that street living with my grandparents. We stopped at the village church and then to a shop where we enjoyed some Welsh cakes and tea.

As the waves crashed in on Caswell Bay along the Gower Coast of Wales, we retold the story of how my mom, a member the British Women's Auxiliary Air Force got engaged to my dad, Allan Perry, a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force. **Every Remembrance Day I remind myself that love sometimes is found in the midst of war.**

As we drove through the countryside enjoying the beauty of the green fields and hedges and the sprays of yellow gorse on the hillside, we told stories of Mom's life before she came to Canada. I felt a great pull of the spirit to this land that enveloped me with a sense of belonging. And I felt her spirit travelling with us.

The highlight of our trip was the day we spent at **Bletchley Park**. During WWII, Bletchley Park was the secret location of a tremendous code breaking organization where German messages were decoded and the world's first computer was built. Bletchley was a major force toward the success of the Allied Forces. My mom was a multilingual young airwoman who worked at Bletchley in Hut 6 breaking codes and we retold the stories of her experience and reflected on the influence of that experience on her life and on our lives.



We read and heard many heroic stories during our day long tour of Bletchley Park, but as we were leaving, we watched a short movie that talked about the **diversity of people of Bletchley**.

They came from all walks of life, gender identity, age, class, socio-economic and ethnicity. The Third Reich on the other hand believed they were infallible as the "master race" and they tried to rid the world of diversity. The people at Bletchley believed in human nature and the ability to make mistakes. The Germans made mistakes and the Allies were able to capitalize on those mistakes.

As important as what was achieved at Bletchley Park, are the lessons we can learn from the way it was done. **Bletchley Park was a mosaic of brilliant minds set free by an atmosphere of tolerance.** Societal norms were swept aside because of extreme need and circumstances. What mattered was what a person could do - not their gender, sexual orientation, religion, national origin or any supposed eccentricity. By removing these artificial constraints, Bletchley Park brought out the best in the fullest range of talent.

**In this sense, Bletchley's codebreaking success came not in spite of people's differences, but because of them. It's a compelling role model for the power of diversity that resonates still today.**



# Staying Connected...

## Women and Men's Gathering

For the past 2½ years many of us have been sustained by being together in community. A small group of men and a small group of women meet for connection and conversation.

The 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: November 19**

Other dates: Jan.21, Feb 18, March 18, April 22 (fourth Sat), May 20

## Worship Tech Team

Our team is fantastic! Our team is still learning and growing. If you would like to learn how to help with the Live Stream stuff that keeps us connected to about 120 folks; **there is room for you to lend a hand.**

**Stop by the Tech Booth 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.

**Rainbow Village:** Eden Polischuk, a recent grad of the College of Education, and a longtime member of McClure is our Rainbow Village leader this year. **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.

## Youth and Young Adult

We are still figuring out how to connect with our youth and young adults. As things are sorted out our intention here at McClure is to have some special events. Stay tuned for more information and **please if you have any thoughts or ideas please send them along to the Faith Development Committee** or if you would like to plan something let Debra know – [debra.b@shaw.ca](mailto:debra.b@shaw.ca)

## 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.

## QUILT GROUP

The quilt group meets Thursday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 in the craft room. Our quilts are donated to **Amy McClure House** and hung in the dining room for sound control. New members are welcome. Bring your sewing machine. For more information call Phyllis Barber 306-220-8609



## A Big McClure Thank you

Thank you to Cindy Zintel, educator and daughter of McClure member, Pat Orchard, for her presentation after church on Sunday, October 2. Cindy has prepared a very moving audio-visual presentation around the theme of Orange Shirt Day. Those in attendance (we sure would have liked to see more folks there) were informed about many issues surrounding the history of Indigenous people, residential schools and how we are all treaty people. Thanks again Cindy, for taking your time for our learning.

*Thank You!*

## No Honey!!

Oh no! Joe and Janet Olson at Lucky Beez Apiary, had a difficult year and unfortunately, they do not have their beautiful honey available. We have enjoyed their honey for several years now and their generous donation of half the proceeds to a helping organization has been very appreciated. We have donated to Operation Eyesight, Grandmothers for Grandmothers, and Global Gathering, with this money. We wish Joe and Janet, and their bees, a successful year ahead.



## Something New with Recycling

We are going to reopen our recycling bin (orange box outside the church building) to collect bottles and cans. The box has been closed to recycling since Covid. A while ago, we collected clothing for an organization, however that group has disbanded.

So, bring your recyclables once again to the orange bin. Fantastic McClure member, Gary Loy, has come forward to say he will empty the bin once a week, and take the contents to Sarcan for us. (Please help out by bringing bottles and cans but not jars.) The proceeds will help in several ways around our church; for Communion supplies, battling for the quilting group and more. If anyone would like to help Gary, we're sure he would love to hear from you!! **We thank Gary for this wonderful gift of his time to help others.**

## Back on Track for Food Bank Donations

We are going to reopen our Food Bank donation site!! (in the church foyer, across from the doors to the sanctuary) During Covid, with the church closures, we did not participate in the collection of food for the Food Bank. However now it's time for thinking of others when we grocery shop! Perhaps you can afford some extra canned goods, a jar of peanut butter, or some diapers. **Outreach members, Pat Orchard and Carol Dionne, have updated the donation site**, and hoping you will feel encouraged to place something in the bin. Watch for poster with the helping hands. **A small donation can mean a lot!!**

### OUTREACH PROJECTS

An opportunity to help  
our community and world through  
participating in  
**MCCLURE'S OUTREACH**

## **BREAKFAST at AMY'S HOUSE VOLUNTEERS**

More volunteers are welcome. If you are a bit unsure if this job is for you, Carol Claypool 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



## **SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS**

Once again McClure is collecting filled socks for the homeless in Saskatoon.

If you are looking for an act of kindness, and/or another alternative to gift giving this Christmas, you might want to consider doing up a sock for either a homeless man or a woman in Saskatoon. Make it a family affair. Please mark the socks for either a woman or man.

Bins will be placed inside of the **East doors** for the socks. We ask you to fill the socks and bring them to the church either on Sunday, November 13 or November 20 and any time that the office is open during those particular weeks. This will give us plenty of time to get them to the appropriate people for distribution in time for Christmas. The items will be handed out to men and women living on the street by Community Support Officers during the weeks before Christmas.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS (MEN AND WOMEN)**

Start with a good pair of warm socks. Fill one of the socks with any of the following suggested items **plus** the sock that you have not used.

#### **Toiletries:**

Bar of soap in a container  
Travel size – shampoo, hand lotion, Kleenex, bandaids, toothpaste, toothbrush, shaving cream.  
Brush and comb  
Razor – preferably a good razor, not disposable  
Hand sanitizer

#### **Survival Items:**

Gloves, toque, hand warmers, shoe warmers, silver thermal blanket (\$Store), poncho (\$store)

#### **Miscellaneous:**

Nail clippers, deck of cards, flashlight, dice, notepad and pen, wrapped candy, candy canes, hot chocolate packages, cup of soup packages, etc.

**Gift Certificates from any place like Tim Horton's, McDonald's that are open 24 hours (place of refuge in -40 degree weather).**

*Once the sock is full, add a Christmas Card with a special handwritten message such as:*

Prayers are with you,  
May you find peace and love in the following year,  
You are loved, etc.

# REFUGEE COMMITTEE

## Refugee Committee Update"

There is a **great need for volunteers to help settle the Ukrainian families arriving in Saskatoon**. The families have fled war, so many are traumatized, and some need help in learning English. **Volunteers do not need any particular skill set – just patience, empathy, and a willingness to speak English with newcomers.** For further information, please contact Victoria Marko, from our Ukrainian Catholic Chancery office - [uwitness2youth@gmail.com](mailto:uwitness2youth@gmail.com)

With the war in Ukraine, the Refugee committee decided a donation of \$5000 to the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Saskatoon chapter, would be the best way to support Ukrainian refugees arriving in Saskatoon.

However, the Refugee Committee has a long history of working to welcome and settle refugees from a number of troubled situations. **Here is a snapshot of our work in the last couple of years.**

From October 2020 to October 2021, we helped support the Swid family of four, originally from Iraq, but most recently living in Saudi Arabia, after their arrival to Saskatoon. Father, Mohammed, his wife, Majed, and their two daughters, Loujin and Sham, were initially scheduled to arrive in March 2020 but were delayed by the onset of the COVID pandemic. The Swid family persevered through a two-week quarantine and found an apartment downtown after briefly living with local relatives. The girls are both enjoying school, Mohammed and Majed have taken some on-line courses and language classes, and Mohammed began working in landscaping during the summer of 2021. The entire family is extremely grateful for the support of the committee and the McClure family.

We recently welcomed a couple originally from Eritrea, Mhret and Goitom, who arrived a few weeks ago. When we asked for donations to settle this couple in an apartment, congregation members were so willing to assist. Many people offered items, and we are grateful for each generous offer even if we were unable to use everything offered. Mhret and Goitom are grateful to the McClure family for helping to set up their apartment.

Our sponsorship application for a family of five originally from Afghanistan but currently in Iran has been processed by the United Church Refugee Office (UCRO) and passed on to the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) office as of November, 2020. We are hopeful this case may be processed by the IRCC in late 2022 or 2023. We also submitted sponsorship paperwork for a family of four from Syria, who are currently in Lebanon, to the UCRO in March 2020. We are hopeful this application will be processed by the UCRO in 2022 and passed on to the IRCC for appraisal. St. Martin's United Church also has a sponsorship application for a family of six from Syria currently in Iraq, and we have agreed to help with the family's settlement, if they are accepted.

Recent families that we have sponsored continue to thrive. Syrians Yaseen and Heyam and their son, Aras, arrived in 2016 from Turkey where they had fled, and moved to Richmond, BC, in 2019 for employment. They now have a son born in Canada, little Salar, and are Canadian citizens. Mengsteab Ashebr, who arrived in September 2018 from Israel, originally from Eritrea, has recently moved to Calgary for new employment opportunities and is now married. These families remain so grateful to the committee and McClure United Church.

Finally, we want to **thank and honour the long-time work of Sylvia and Clint Cory** who after twenty-two years of service to the Refugee Committee are retiring. They modestly repeat that they have received more than they have given, but they have given much, and we will miss them.

**Hence, as always, we seek more members to join this committee.**

**If you are interested in refugees, please consider joining our committee.**

**You won't be sorry.**

Email our Chair, Joel at [joelwreid@gmail.com](mailto:joelwreid@gmail.com)).



# MCCLURE PLACE RESIDENTS

## McClure Place Happenings

**“To enrich the lives of McClure Place Residents by providing support and service”**

We have been grateful for the beautiful fall colours and pleasant days in October.

Thank you to the gardeners who cleaned up flower beds, and to those who shared their produce from the Louise Griffith Garden. We are so fortunate to have the raised garden beds. Our Thanksgiving dinner prepared by our kitchen staff was delicious and over a hundred residents enjoyed the meal and fellowship. Saskatoon's Best Variety Group entertained us with music and songs.

We received our fifth Covid vaccine booster and, also the annual Flu shot this month. Thank you to Nurse Nicole for organizing this clinic so well. It is a time to be mindful that the virus is still with us, and we need to be vigilant about caring for our health and safety.

Activities this month continued with SSCL classes, movies, cribbage, Chorister practice, and Writing Circle. Residents will soon get teams organized for Floor curling in November. Donations can be made to the Canadian Diabetes Association, our charity for October. Elaine Senga will be hosting another paint class. The Church Van is booked to take residents to the musical, “Come from Away”. The World Series pool is almost filled, with proceeds going to maintenance of the McClure van.

Students from SIGMA program at the University of Saskatchewan will be giving a brief overview of their program/business venture, specifically designed to help seniors with Tech support and lessons. They will also provide individual Tech support to residents. There is an opportunity to be part of the Pen Pal Program initiated by the Saskatoon Council on Aging (SCOA). Teachers have been contacted, and seniors can sign up to be pen pals with students. Letter writing is part of their curriculum.

Our thoughts are with those who have experienced illness. We have welcomed several new people over the past months, and hope they are getting to know this community and all that it has to offer.

Elaine Tall

**Is it your turn to volunteer?**

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

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

Sheila Krueger – Editor

[newsletter@mcclureunitedchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@mcclureunitedchurch.org)

**December Newsletter Deadline:  
Sunday, November 20, 2022**

## **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](mailto: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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTKNODhUdibWig5etzkMv8w)

Printed copies of sermons are available at:

<http://mcclureunitedchurch.org/sermons>



## **MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH**

**306-373-1753**

[www.mcclureunitedchurch.org](http://www.mcclureunitedchurch.org)

[www.facebook.com/McClureUnitedChurchSktn/](https://www.facebook.com/McClureUnitedChurchSktn/)



4025 Taylor Street East

Saskatoon, SK S7H 5N7

## **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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7pm Outreach	2 10am Congregational Care 1:30pm Going Deeper 7:30pm Choir Practice	3 10:30am Choristers 1:30pm Quilting Grp 4pm Forever in Motion	4	5
6 10am Worship & Rainbow Village  Remembrance Sunday  Congregational Meeting 11:15am	7 4:00pm Forever in Motion	8 7pm Property Committee	9 1:30pm Going Deeper 7:30pm Choir Practice  <b>Deadline Budget Submissions</b>	10 10:30am Choristers 1:30pm Quilting Grp 4pm Forever in Motion	11 <b>Remembrance Day Church Office Closed</b>  	12
13 10am Worship & Rainbow Village	14 4:00pm Forever in Motion	15 7pm Worship Cmte	16 1:30pm Going Deeper 7:30pm Choir Practice	17 10:30am Choristers 1:30pm Quilting Grp 4pm Forever in Motion 7pm Faith Dev Mtg	18	19 8am Women's Gathering 8am Men's Gathering
20 10am Worship & Rainbow Village  11:15pm Newcomers Event  <b>Newsletter Submission Deadline!</b>	21 4:00pm Forever in Motion	22	23 1:30pm Going Deeper 7pm Board Meeting 7:30pm Choir Practice 7pm Pre Advent Worship Service Holy Spirit Parish	24 10:30am Choristers 1:30pm Quilting Grp 4:00pm Forever in Motion	25	26
27 10am Worship & Rainbow Village  <b>Advent 1</b>	28 4:00pm Forever in Motion	29	30 1:30pm Going Deeper 7:30pm Choir Practice			