

MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

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"The Waiting Place...for people just waiting. Waiting for a train to go or a bus to come, or a plane to go or the mail to come, or the rain to go or the phone to ring, or the snow to snow or waiting around for a Yes or a No or waiting for their hair to grow. Everyone is just waiting." ~Dr. Seuss

This week I had the honour of walking with a family in the waiting place we call Palliative Care at St. Paul's Hospital. For the children waiting with their mum, the time was long. Waiting means it's not yet time to grieve, not yet time to call far away friends. Waiting means there are no answers yet for the boss about a return to work. Waiting makes you wonder if there is time for coffee. But even with all the waiting, when the moment came for their beloved mum to go back to God, her children were surprised. In just a moment, their mum was released from suffering, gone from the room. Grief, relief, peace, and tears flowed. Phone calls to friends began, and the hope of sleep returned.

The liturgical season of Advent that we are entering as a world-wide Christian family, represents The Waiting Place on the spiritual journey. In Advent, we are invited to notice the waiting places in our own lives as well as universal waiting places; waiting for healing, waiting for hope, and most of all, waiting for peace. Just as Dr. Seuss reminds us that The Waiting Place is somewhere we cannot avoid in his book, "Oh the Places You'll Go", Christians acknowledge that it is a place we will return to again and again each year in Advent.

In the gospel for the first Sunday of Advent, we hear Jesus say,

"Therefore, keep awake - for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." ~Mark 13:35-37 This passage reminds us that, like the children keeping vigil with their mum, we will not know the moment when God will choose to take action in our lives, but we will not be left in the waiting place forever. These powerful words call us to wait in anticipation and in hope. These words invite us to wait for the one who will act when the time is right.

In some ways, my journey to McClure United Church seemed to take a long time. Together, we spent months waiting and wondering, discussing, and discerning. Only weeks after my family received the wonderful news that we would be joining McClure, we heard that a five-year-old boy would be joining our family. If we weren't awake before, we are now! I am surprised and grateful, humbled and delighted by God's good timing. As my little family waits and wades through the process of bonding and becoming four when we were once three, as we wait to join you and Rev. Debra in our new faith community, I pray that your time of waiting will be blessed with hope. And I pray that you will be awake when your time of waiting has passed and the love and peace, joy and wisdom of God flow into your life.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES

Holding you gently in prayer...

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

Gordon Taylor and family on the death of his wife Reta Taylor The family and friends of Harold Chapman whose celebration of life will be held January 27, 2024 Jan Grieg and family on the death of her husband Bill Grieg

The family and friends of Betty Yeaman



MCCLURE BOARD NEWS

Saskatoon United Churches Meet. The Saskatoon United Church representatives met together for the second time since COVID, on Nov.16. This cluster meeting was an opportunity to hear from some of the ministries which we support in our area. We heard about the work and concerns of ICM (Integrated Community Ministry), NSHC (Northern Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy) and the U of S Ecumenical Chaplaincy. In smaller groups we talked about common concerns, such as having good quality and up to date communications methods. It was a productive meeting and another one is scheduled for January. If you are interested in attending, please let Debra know.



On Sunday November 26, a group of approximately 25 McClure folks gathered to learn about the Remit (decision to be made) from the United Church of Canada. The Remit is all about establishing an autonomous National Indigenous organization within the United Church of Canada. We watched a short video from our National church and then had a discussion about the Remit. Thank-you to Debra, Sheila Lavender, and Heather Muirhead for their work on this matter. On Tuesday, Nov. 30, The McClure Church Board voted yes to support the Remit. We look forward to the next step in this very important process.

Thank you, Eden!

Thank you to Eden Polischuk for serving as our Temporary Administrative Assistant in the church office from June till November. Your help in the office was very much appreciated!!



Welcome Arron!

A big warm McClure welcome to Arron Bahry who will be our new Administrative Assistant in the church office. Arron started with us on November 13th.

Arron Bahry is delighted to be the new Administrative Assistant in the McClure United Church Office. Arron was an Administrative Assistant, then Promotions Officer, with Parks Canada for several years before finding her way to McClure. Arron loves music, enjoying nature, cooking, baking and fixing up her first home near Ashworth Holmes Park in Caswell Hill. Her priorities are spending time with family and friends and digging into outdoor activities in every season. Arron looks forward to meeting you!



Welcome Our New O.5 Minister Reverend Emily Carr has accepted our O.5 ministerial position. Emily is currently serving as a chaplain with the Northern Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy and as a minister for a rural United Church community of faith. She has worked in a variety of ministries including churches, prison chaplaincy, children's ministry, and hospital chaplaincy. In July 2021, she was admitted to the United Church of Canada from the Anglican Church of Canada where she was ordained in 2012.

Emily has a great passion for outreach – one of the many reasons the Search Committee feels she is an excellent fit with McClure's community of faith. She strives to be an advocate for the inclusion of all people, and we are notably impressed with her dedication to serve members of marginalized groups.

Emily has a strong commitment to ecumenism. Through her work with the hospital chaplaincy, she is part of a Spiritual Care team that includes other denominational chaplains and First Nations Metis Health Services elders and knowledge keepers. As an ecumenical chaplain, she has had many opportunities to connect with other denominations and to participate in special services and events.

Pastoral care is a very important part of Emily's ministry. She seeks to be a loving and compassionate presence among the people she serves, and her devotion to her work as a hospital chaplain alone is evidence of that. On Sunday mornings, she is keen to gather with others and to share inspiring worship with groups of any size.

Emily will officially join our McClure Family as of January 1, 2024. Welcome Emily!



Another McClure Thank you

The Socks for the Homeless collection was another success this year. But of course, we need volunteers to lead and organize the projects with which our community of faith is involved. This year Carol Claypool again, as in the past, stepped up to lead us. Also, Peggy Shier joined Carol to help plan the event. We thank both these women for their dedication and passion for helping the vulnerable in our community.



Dinner Theatre News!

Thank you to everyone who auditioned for the McClure Dinner Theatre production of *Mary Poppins*!

Roles will be assigned and shared shortly. Rehearsals will commence on December 1st!

Holiday Movie

- doors open at 6 pm.
- games and crafts from 6-6:30 pm.
- movie starts at 6:30 pm.

Christmas Kids Books

Christmas children's books are available for loan from the McClure library! Please visit the library table in the foyer after Church on Sundays!





Advent I - HOPE Sunday December 03 - 10am - Communion

-Transfer of membership

11am -Tree decorating

-Coffee & snack to welcome our new members

Advent II – PEACE Sunday December 10 - 10am - White Gift Sunday

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE - Sunday December 10 - 7pm

<u>Advent III</u> - JOY Sunday December - 17 - 10am "Love Came Down at Christmas" Cantata Shirley Blackburn conductor

<u>Love Came Down at Christmas</u> - Sunday December 17, 2023

Once again, our choir invites you to a new cantata based on the beloved poem of Christina Rossetti, first published in 1885 and used many times in many ways up to the present. The music focuses on the four themes of Advent and is filled with many carols and new compositions by Joel Raney. The cantata form is a musical composition for singers and instrumentalists with narration pertaining to the scriptures.

We do hope you will join us for this cantata and in the words of Joel Raney, "It is my sincere desire that hope, peace, joy and love flood your Christmas season this and every year."



At McClure we share this wish with our hope, peace, joy and love for everyone

Advent 1V - LOVE Sunday December 24 no morning service

CHRISTMAS EVE: Sunday December 24 - 7pm and 10 pm - Communion

Christmas Eve offering will again be donated to the Food Bank and Friendship Inn.

December 3 - Newcomers & Transferees Sunday

Please stay after the 10:00 am church service for coffee and a snack to meet and welcome our new members

STAYING CONNECTED

Women and Men's Gathering

These two gatherings provide opportunities for deep connection, interesting conversation and loads of fun.

A new season has begun and new folks are welcome to attend
January 20, 8am.
Next gatherings:

Feb 24 -Mar 16 -Apr 20 -May 25 -June 15

Confirmation/Membership Classes are planned for January 2024.

January 14, 21, and 28. Sunday afternoon from 11:15 to 12:30. Let Debra know if you are interested or if you require more information.



FAMILY MINISTRY

Milestone Moments are now on the Website.

Milestone Moments is a new resource to help Parents and Grandparents nurture the spiritual life of children. Milestone moments are short, 5min. moments that encourage a thoughtful conversation, a word about God, a possible act of service and a prayer.

A New moment has been posted for December for the setting up of your Christmas Tree. Keep an eye on the website. For more information contact Debra.

Still under construction:

- 1. After 8 Parent connect once a month zoom call to talk about issues of parenting.
- 2. Pamper your marriage. We will cook for you and your partner and provide a speaker on topics relevant to relationship care.

What do you think? Have you got other ideas? Get in touch with Debra if you have questions or ideas. debra.b@shaw.ca



FAMILY MINISTRY

We are so **blessed to have Eden Polischuk** back to provide a fun and creative ministry for kids Sunday mornings.
Please join Eden Sunday at 10am.
If you have any questions, please call Debra.

Saskatoon United Churches Youth Ministry

Youth - Grades 6-12
Fun activities + Social connection + Faith conversation.

Please contact Saskatoon Youth Coordinator: Kyle Feader 306-361-2759 kyle@yxeyouthunited.ca

Nursery

I love the sound of baby gurgles Sunday morning. 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.

Our Nursery is open for you if you need it. There is a speaker in there for you to turn on so you can still hear the service.

Please communicate your needs to Debra.

Worship Tech Team Two more volunteers would make sound management even easier. Call Debra if you can help.

OUTREACH



SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS

Once again, the generosity of this congregation overwhelms me. Thank you to all who have contributed socks, items for socks or money to purchase items or gift cards. I ask you to watch the weekly announcements and the bulletin board to find out how many socks were collected and will be distributed to the homeless in our community. We will be putting the items together on Monday, December 4 in the Craft room from 6-8 p.m. and will have a total at that time. Hope that you can join us to do that as well. God Bless you all. Your generosity will make sure that many who are often forgotten will have a blessed Christmas. C. Claypool

Crocus Co-op Cards that Care

During the month of December, greeting cards made by the clients of Crocus Co-operative will be for sale in the lobby after the service, and at the church office during the week. Crocus Co-op is a local, non-profit organization that works on behalf of people with mental health disabilities. The members of the co-op can find companionship, understanding and support at the center. They prepare greeting cards for sale, to support their facility and programs. Come check them out. Many seasonal designs and other occasions too. \$3.00 a card.



Help Sweeten a Chokecherry!!

Chokecherry Studios is a new, non-profit organization with a focus on Indigenous youth, however all are welcome. The studio provides a safe place to come and enjoy art-based programming, support and culture. **During the month of December, there will be a small Christmas tree in our**

church lobby. We will collect art supplies and non-perishable snacks for the Chokecherry studio. The art supplies could be colouring books for young adults, crayons, acrylic paints (unusual colours), water paints, canvases of different sizes, markers, etc. Snacks could include granola bars, candy, bars, or water, juice. etc. If you donate, please pick up a small bow (located in the basket beside the tree) and place it on the tree.

Now some folks have already brought hygiene products and winter wear to the church in anticipation of our past support of Egadz, and that is so wonderful. We have supported Egadz for many Christmases. We thought we would support Chokecherry Studios this year, and any donations of hygiene products or winter wear will be welcomed by Chokecherry.

We will accept donations to Chokecherry Studios through the church office, as well. Donation deadline will be Monday Dec. 18. Let's all trim our little tree and make this a sweet, art-filled Christmas at Chokecherry Studios.



Hi My name is Don

Hanke and I have been a member of McClure for 30 years. In February of 2013 a group of 21 McClure members embarked on a trip to Nicaragua to visit the Bosowas Biosphere Reserve region to attend an opening ceremony of a school in the village of Pamkawas.

In 2012 a member of McClure left a sizeable legacy gift to our church and within the mandate a portion of this gift must go to outreach. Members of the committee searched for a deserving charity and came upon a Canadian organization in Edmonton called Change For Children. This organization has been around for 48 years and have done work through out Central America, South America and Africa. Some of their projects include building schools, water wells, food security projects, Dental Brigades and most

recently education programs such as Teach The Teacher and education programs for young girls. Dental Brigades are comprised of volunteer dentists, dental hygienists and volunteer helpers from all over Canada. This group can be as large as 15 to 20 people. We usually visit three to four villages and can see as many as 30 to 40 patients in a day. This service is provided free of charge and the volunteers usually pay for their transportation.

I am currently serving my third term on the Change for Children board of directors and see the great things that they do . Over the last ten years I have had the opportunity to return to Nicaragua five times and hope to return in February for a dental brigade to the Nicaraguan Caribbean coast .

I wish to thank McClure congregation and the Outreach committee for their continued support over the years to this much needed origination.

On behalf of the board members and staff of Change for Children; THANK YOU!

Are you a morning person? This may be the perfect way to start your day. AMY MCCLURE HOUSE

As many of you know, we have a group of volunteers that help serve breakfast at Amy's at 7:30 each morning. This is our opportunity to let those who once were active in our church know that we care about them. Due to the fact that some of our volunteers are snowbirds and will be away this winter or are taking winter holidays, we are desperately in need of more volunteers. Please give this worthwhile project some prayerful thought. If this is something that you feel called to do we would love to have you join us. You would not be on your own until you are comfortable in doing so. Let me warn you, once you have a chance to spend time with the wonderful folks at Amy's you will be hooked.

If you are interested, please call Carol Claypool at 306-664-2285 or email at cclpool@sasktel.net.



REMEMBERING A CHRISTMAS LESSON FROM LONG AGO.

The excitement was growing as a group of 30 first year nursing students anxiously waited in the lobby of the Winnipeg General Hospital Nurses residence for their rides to arrive. We were heading home for Christmas; home to our families for the first time in four months. I stood, with my suitcase and a large shopping bag of presents, waiting for my cousin to arrive.

A taxi pulled up and four gals from Yorkton jumped in with their luggage. They were off to the bus depot to take the Greyhound home. Finally, my cousin and her boyfriend arrived and I reached down to pick up my suitcase and bag of presents. Where is my bag of presents? It was here just a few moments ago. Now it is gone. It is no where in sight. Others were saying "the taxi driver must have picked it up with the Yorkton luggage." We jumped in the car and rushed to the bus depot only to find we were too late. The classmates had checked their luggage in a locker and had gone downtown for something to eat.

I was devastated. I was in the depths of despair. I was going home for Christmas with nothing to give. The train ride should have been a fun experience because it was full with university students from Quebec and Ontario heading home for Christmas. Everyone was partying except one very distressed student nurse and my cousin's best efforts to cheer me up came to naught.

When Dad picked us up in Regina, I was in tears and cried the whole way home to Estevan. He was a problem solver but I didn't know the names of the gals from Yorkton (there were 154 in my class and at that time I didn't know them all). I had no way of contacting them and I wasn't even sure they had my gifts.

Mom and Dad were very supportive and Mom said she would give me some money and we would go shopping in the morning. More tears flowed. I couldn't imagine replacing the Barbie clothes I made for my little sister, the Beatles cap for my brother and the jumper I made for my Mom. I did not have the heart to get new gifts. I knew then that the months of sewing and shopping for my family had been life giving in the time of homesickness and loneliness prior to Christmas. Preparing for Christmas helped me to focus outside of myself. Now it was all gone. I was home with my family but I had nothing to give.

In the meantime, my bag of gifts traveled to Yorkton. It was only then that the Yorkton gals realized that the bag didn't belong to them. Judy took it home and started to read the gift tags to see who owned this bag. My nursing cap was on top with my name label inside. And by some miracle Judy remembered that I was from Estevan and the next day she started to phone the Perrys in Estevan. That is a phone call I will never forget; tears welled up again when I realized that my gifts had been found. Judy's parents packed up the gifts and put them on the bus bound for Estevan.

On December 24th, Christmas Eve, as our family headed for church to mark the birth of Jesus, we stopped at the bus depot to retrieve my lost presents. The relief was overwhelming and I knew then that Christmas for me would always be about sharing and giving.

On that marvelous, miraculous, Christmas morning I experienced the awesome joy of love and contentment. A gift of God, I will never forget.

May God's generous spirit fill your heart this Christmas season.

Peace Sheila Krueger



MCCLURE PLACE RESIDENTS

McClure Place Happenings

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

We love the mild weather thus far!

Halloween was alive in our building; great creativity was displayed on each floor. On October 31st at morning coffee, a prize was given for best costume. Guesses were taken for the weight of a large pumpkin & the winner was awarded a homemade pumpkin pie. Several adorable preschoolers wearing costumes were brought over from Day Care. Led by Joyce Lenz with her ukelele, they entertained us with their singing.

A well attended Remembrance Service for our Residents was capably led by Dave Cross. Stories of families during war times were read by Jean Warner and Alice Gibson; special music by Carl & Lily Krause was enjoyed; the poem, Flander's Field was read by Dave Cross. The Last Post was heard on tape and we observed a two-minute silence. The McClure Choristers, under the direction of Shirley Blackburn shared several familiar songs from the war eras.

On November 16th, residents and staff decorated our lobby and hospitality area for the Christmas season. On November 18th, we enjoyed a piano concert by Martin Janovsky. High tea and crumpets were served. Admission was by donation with proceeds to our Van maintenance. On November 22, a tea/bake sale and silent auction was held in the Hospitality Lounge.

Many folks enjoyed a Chinese supper while watching the Grey Cup Game on the big screen.

An excellent detailed fire presentation was given by a Saskatoon Fireman to inform all residents of the procedures to follow in the event of a fire.

Several seasonal events will be coming up: Festival of Trees November 30th, Glow Saskatoon December 6th, and Men's Chorus December 10th. Our Van will transport residents to these events and will also be available for Christmas shopping.

Season's Greetings to all!

Eleanor Elliott



BACK PAGE

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
 - $\underline{donations} \underline{\textbf{\textit{o}}mcclureunited} church.org$
- 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

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



FINANCIAL DUE DATES FOR 2023 TAX RECEIPTS

NOVEMBER 22 - Commitment cards and Faith in Action slips will be sent out

DECEMBER 8 - Requested return of commitment cards and Faith in Action Slips

DECEMBER 20 - Due date to make change to PAR for January

DECEMBER 22 - Due date to make contributions to be included on income tax receipts for 2023

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

February Newsletter Deadline:

Sunday, January 28, 2024



MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH

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www.mcclureunitedchurch.org www.facebook.com/McClureUnitedChurchSktn/



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Ministry Personnel

Rev. Debra Berg Rev. Emily Carr (January)

Office Administrator Irene Lacoursiere

Administrative Assistant
Arron Bahry

Data Entry Clerk
Pam Turner

Music Coordinator
Shirley Blackburn
Pianist
Elin Sletmoen



December 2023



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday				
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3 First Sunday of Advent—Hope 8 AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Sunday Worship— Transfer Membership Sunday—and Rainbow Village 11 AM Christmas Tree Decorating 7 PM Saskatoon's Clarinet Choir Concert	4 4 PM Fit After Fifty— Forever in Motion 7 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	5 7 PM Outreach Committee Meeting	6 11 AM Congregational Care 7:30 PM Choir Practice	7 10 AM Choristers	8 7 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	9 2 PM Christmas Bake Sale				
10 Second Sunday of Advent—Peace 10 AM White Gift Sunday and Rainbow Village 7 PM Blue Christmas Service	4 PM Fit After Fifty— Forever in Motion 7 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	3:30 PM Property Committee Meeting	13 7:30 PM Choir Practice	14	15	16				
17 Third Sunday of Advent—Joy 10 AM Cantata and Rainbow Village 6:30 PM Holiday Movie	18 4 PM Fit After Fifty— Forever in Motion	19	20 Choir Practice TBA	21	22	23				
24 Fourth Sunday of Advent—Love No 10 AM Worship Service 7 PM Christmas Eve Worship 10 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 Merry Christrmas! Church office closed	26 Church office closed	27 Church office closed Choir Practice TBA	28 Church office closed	29 Church office closed	30 31				



January 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Happy New Year! Church office closed	2	3 Choir Practice TBA	4 10 AM Choristers	5 7 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	6 1 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal
7 8 AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Sunday Worship and Rainbow Village	8 4 PM Fit After Fifty— Forever in Motion 7 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	9 3:30 PM Property Committee Meeting 7 PM Outreach Committee Meeting 7 PM Worship Committee Meeting	10 7:30 PM Choir Practice	11 10 AM Choristers 4 PM Fit After Fifty— Forever in Motion	7 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	13 1 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal
14 10 AM Sunday Worship and Rainbow Village 11 AM Confirmation Class	4 PM Fit After Fifty— Forever in Motion 7 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	16	17 7:30 PM Choir Practice	18 10 AM Choristers 1:30 PM Quilting Group 4 PM Fit After Fifty— Forever in Motion	19 7 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	20 8 AM Men's Gathering 8 AM Women's Gathering 1 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal
21 10 AM Sunday Worship and Rainbow Village 11 AM Confirmation Class	4 PM Fit After Fifty— Forever in Motion 7 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	23 7 PM Board Meeting	7:30 PM Choir Practice	25 10 AM Choristers 1:30 PM Quilting Group 4 PM Fit After Fifty— Forever in Motion	26 7 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	27 1 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal
28 10 AM Sunday Worship and Rainbow Village 11 AM Confirmation Class	29 4 PM Fit After Fifty— Forever in Motion 7 PM Mary Poppins Dinner Theatre Rehearsal	30	31 7:30 PM Choir Practice			The best is yet to ome". Frank Sinatra