



MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2023

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Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.

-Psalm 148

October is a month of Thanksgiving for us here at McClure. October 1st we give thanks for the gift of God's nourishment by celebrating World Communion Sunday together. The following week is Thanksgiving and the weekend after that is a time when we celebrate and give thanks to God for the gift of our pets.

Thanksgiving is on my mind and heart these days and so when I sat down at the McClure Church Board meeting this past week, gratitude overflowed.

I think I have seen Heather Muirhead, the co-chair of the Board everyday this week and Michael Gorniak the other half of the co-chair team, every other day. Most recent, Heather and I attended the meeting of the Saskatoon and area Cluster gathering at Mayfair United Church.

Gaylene Gorniak is another person I have seen around the church most every day. Gaylene is the Chair of the Ministry and Personnel committee, and she is working to figure out our office staff configuration and she has jumped in to the job of sorting out the rental situation.

Bryan Hamp is the Property chair and he and the Property committee keep on top of Church repairs and also work with McClure Place as together we coordinate projects. Maureen Sinclair and the worship committee found preachers this summer to cover when I was on holiday and created "guide for hosting" these visiting preachers. Sandy Hoenecke is a "member at large" of the Board (not a large member) and gathers all the committee reports and sends them out to Board members and then takes minutes at the Board meeting which she then sends out to folks a day or two later. Carol Dione just started on the Board and had a big first meeting as she is representing the Outreach committee. Carol shared the Outreach Committee's proposed job description for a new contract position. Elaine Niebergall our Treasurer always has a detailed financial report for the Board and frankly she knows so much more than she should (wow) because she has been covering for our paid financial person who is on a slow return to work path.

Ed Tymchatyn represents the Stewardship committee, that wonderful group of folks who understand numbers and who lift up issues of good stewardship. Brenda Zuk, Chair of our Trustees understands insurance, investments, and the capital budget. The Capital budget is pulled together by a committee of one, Julie Jones, who then vets it through Property, the Board and then Trustees and finally brings it before the congregation at the Annual General Meeting. Naomi Yeun is the Chair of Congregation Care which makes sure the coffee is on, people who cannot get to church are cared for and our commitment to Amy's house is fulfilled. Those who **serve** on the Board are an extraordinary gift.

Then there is Celeste and Tamara who not only offer their musical gifts but who change the banners and decorate on special occasions. Elaine keeps the plants watered and does a dozen little things to keep us organized. Carol does the cradle roll and sends birthday cards to the little ones for three years, and both write sympathy cards to those experiencing loss. Rick changes the sign out front. Ebba puts the coffee on every Sunday. Karl sets the chairs for the choir for practise and for Sunday mornings. Three different women take turns programming the cameras for worship; Tamara, Celeste and Natashaia. Two guys share the operation of the cameras: Gary and Gord and two other guys share the sound board operation, Jim and Joel.

I can't even imagine how many hours Diane and Sheila have put into making sure we all had our pictures taken. Then there is all the work done by committee members. And I know just by making this list I have left out dozens more who in big and small ways **serve**.

(continued on next page)

How we chose to **serve** is an act of praise and thanksgiving for the gift of God in our lives. I am reminded in these weeks of Thanksgiving how much we need each other and how generous we are toward each other.

I pray that our service, our generosity, and our gratitude will soak into the world to make it a more beautiful place for all.

Giving Thanks for You,
Debra

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES

Holding you gently in prayer...

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



CELEBRATIONS

MARRIAGES:



October 01 -Ryan Tyler Honsinger-Panamaroff and Sydney Emily Short

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 24, was a very important day
in the life and work of McClure United Church!

About 90 congregants gathered to hear the Search Committee present to us, a wonderful candidate for the .5 ministerial position.

The ministerial candidate was approved by the congregation.

As the days unfold, we will be bringing you more information about this fantastic person.

The Search committee has been working since spring and throughout the summer months.

They have taken training for interviewing and have met many times together and with candidates. Some members of the committee took the opportunity to attend worship services conducted by the candidates.

Although their work is not quite complete, we would like to thank these dedicated volunteers for all their efforts on behalf of our community of faith.

The Search committee consists of Eden Polischuk, Jonathan Gorniak, Elin Sletmoen, Boyd Godfrey, Diane Hogg, Jim Krueger, and chairperson, Tamara Ferguson. Hats off to all of you!!



BIG MCCLURE THANK YOU

A Huge McClure Thank you

Can you believe that we almost have a new pictorial directory for McClure?

By now you probably have your photo taken and your information updated and all is ready for you being in the directory. But of course, this directory did not produce itself.

Our wonderful volunteers,
Sheila Krueger and Diane Hogg
have been hard at work, calling folks, booking appointments, studying technology, sitting at a table each Sunday answering questions and being kind and patient with all of us.

Even though there are a few details to wrap up, we are overjoyed to have a new directory thanks to these two dedicated volunteers.

Thank you so much Sheila and Diane!!!

If you see this dynamic duo, make sure to tell them how much you appreciate their efforts.

McClure's Photo Directory 2023

You know the expression “many hands make light work”. This has certainly been the case as we have been putting together the Church Photo Directory.

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who volunteered to be hosts for photographer, those who helped us set up on Sunday mornings and to those who took time in their day to get their photos taken. We have been overwhelmed with the fabulous response.

Well Done McClure family!
Thanks, from
Sheila Krueger and Diane Hogg



Worship Tech Team Thank you

Thanks to those who have volunteered recently!
A few more volunteers would make sound management even easier.

Call Debra if you can help.



Administrative Assistant

McClure United Church seeks an experienced and efficient Administrative Assistant for general and specific administrative duties in support of a full range of ministries, activities, office and building management typical of a multi-staff large congregation.

The Administrative Assistant will support ministerial and other staff and volunteer leaders and supervise and coordinate the work of office volunteers. As the front-face of the congregation through front-desk reception, telephone, e-mail and social media communications, the Administrative Assistant will possess strong interpersonal relationship skills, empathy, discretion and confidentiality, and an innate sense of when something is a pastoral relationship matter requiring involvement of ministerial staff.

The successful candidate will have demonstrated in their previous experiences they are internally motivated, able to function without day-to-day supervision, and are able to organize and prioritize multiple demands on their time and attention. They will demonstrate a high level of attention to detail in all communications, including listening, reading, writing and speaking. The applicant must have:

- exceptional computer skills
- be proficient with the Microsoft suite of products
- have experience with Canva or a willingness to learn
- have experience posting information to multiple social media platforms
- are able to navigate and learn new software, including church-specific programs

Experience with standard office software, specifically Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook (or webmail), is essential. Familiarity with basic accounting programs such as QuickBooks and/or Simply Accounting would be a benefit. Preference will be given to individuals who are prepared to work 30 hours/week. The position comes with a competitive salary and benefits package. Start date for the position – as soon as possible.

Specific Duties:

- Work hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with a one-hour lunch break. Front-desk office hours at reception, from Tuesday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (the office is closed from 12-1 p.m. over lunch). Hours for the Administrative Assistant need to cover the office hours, but additional hours required of the position can be flexible, provided the additional duties can be fulfilled.
- Management of a reception desk in a busy office, including in-person interactions, multiple phone lines, email, and social media requirements.
- Administrative and communications support for ministerial staff.
- Close collaboration and liaison with the Administrative Officer who manages the bookkeeping and supports the Treasurer.
- Liaison and collaboration with communications staff and volunteers.
- Coordination and supervision of church office volunteers.

Salary Range:

Starting at \$19.25 per hour for 30 hours/week, plus benefits as per United Church of Canada guidelines.

To Apply:

Please submit a cover letter and resume to careers@mcclureunitedchurch.org by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 2023. Thank you for your interest, however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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

October 21st 8am.

Next gatherings:

Nov 18 -Dec(?) -Jan 20 -Feb 24 -Mar 16 -Apr 20 -May 25 -June 15

FAMILY MINISTRY

In the Spring Newsletter I talked about a new resource to help Parents nurture the spiritual life of their children.

Milestone Moments are now on the website.

Milestone moments are short, 5min. moments that encourage a thoughtful conversation, a word about God, a possible act of service and a prayer.



The first Moment, of many, was posted to the website in September.

A new Moment will be posted each month.

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 **excited 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.

Nursery

Our usual Nursery is currently out of order due to a "Glycol" leak.

We are waiting for the all clear.

A temporary Nursery has been set up in the Chapel.

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.

There will be some soft toys available in the lobby for little ones while our Nursery is repaired.

Please communicate your needs to Debra.

Saskatoon United Churches Youth Ministry

Youth - Grades 6-12

Fun activities + Social connection + Faith conversation.

Meet once a week with other youth from across the city.

Schedule Each Month

1st week - Tuesday – 7-9pm – St. Martin's

2nd week - THURSDAY – 7-9pm – Mayfair

3rd week - Tuesday 7-9pm – McClure

4th week – Tuesday 7-9pm – St. Paul's

Questions:

Please contact the new Saskatoon Youth Coordinator:

Kyle Feader 306-361-2759

kyle@yxeyouthunited.ca



Still under construction:

1. After 8 - Parent connect – once a month zoom call to talk about issues of parenting.
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What do you think? Have you got other ideas?

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debra.b@shaw.ca



WORSHIP

Confirmation/Membership Classes are planned for January 2024.

January 13, 20, and 27. Sunday afternoon from 11:15 to 12:30. Let Debra know if you are interested or if you require more information.

November 1 - All Saints Worship 7pm

Many cultures and faith traditions have a day to remember those who have died. In the Christian Tradition that day is ALL SAINTS DAY and it lands on the first day of November each year.

Please bring a photo and a few mementos that represent the person or persons you would like to remember. You will place these photos and items on the tables provided in the worship space.

We will share in worship together and then spend some time enjoying conversation, coffee and cookies.

For more information contact Debra at debra.b@shaw.ca or call the office during the week.

TRANSFER OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Sunday Morning, November 26 – We will recognize those who have formally transferred their memberships to McClure.

We have not done the public acknowledgement of transfers or several years. We have a bit of a back log which is delightful.

Letters will be sent to those already transferred but not yet recognized in worship. But if you have been thinking about transferring your membership and you haven't gotten to the paperwork yet, you have several weeks to get things started.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE



Tickets are being sold after church in the foyer and can also be bought from the office during hours of operation!

Volunteers needed!

If you would be interested in working concession, doing the fish pond, or leading a good "skirt swishing" dance; please contact Heather Muirhead at hl.muirhead@shaw.ca

As part of the October 13th family dance activities, we are asking people (individuals or groups) to put their thinking caps on and have fun creating themed baskets to be part of a silent auction at the dance!

Ideas for themes are limitless; music, crochet, kid's craft supplies, tea/ coffee, books - let your imagination run wild!

Baskets can be dropped off at the church office starting September 19th with a deadline of October 10th at 3:30PM.

Baskets handed in before the deadline will be displayed on Sunday Mornings before and after worship!

Bidding is now OPEN!

Thank you for your contributions,

McClure Outreach Committee

OUTREACH FAMILY DANCE GIFT BASKET DONATIONS!

**ALL BASKETS MUST BE
DROPPED OFF
TO THE CHURCH OFFICE
SEPT. 19TH - OCT. 10TH**



Please include the following:

- Title of your Basket
- List of Items in Basket
- Name(s) of People Involved in Creating Basket
- See through Covering your Basket

REFUGEE UPDATES



The Refugee Committee was recently approached regarding **support of an Afghan family** that is currently living in Pakistan.

The urgency is high because the family is at risk of being sent back to Afghanistan, where they would be in significant danger due to courageous stands they have taken protesting Taliban injustice.

Based on our commitments to families currently in the sponsorship process, the Refugee Committee is unable to help this family in a timely manner.

However, a **local relative** is currently looking to initiate a sponsorship with support of local community members. If anyone from McClure would be interested in participating in this community sponsorship of a family in great need, please contact Joel Reid (joelwreid@gmail.com) for more details.

Co sponsoring McClure UC with St. Martins UC

We are preparing for a family we are co-sponsoring with St. Martin's, who were recently issued visas. This means that they could arrive sometime in the next few weeks, after a very long wait.

We are looking for **donations towards a mattress fund** for the family, if you are interested in donating, please contact Brandy at the St. Martin's office (phone: (306) 343-7101, or email: office@stmartinsuc.com).

During the waiting period, we have been busy collecting and storing furniture and household goods and communicating with federal constituency offices. If you have items you would be interested in donating to this family, please check out the following website dedicated to donations:
<https://volunteersignup.org/YHFAR>

For people interested in helping, there will be another meeting of the **task group on Tuesday, October 10th** at 6:15 p.m. at St. Martin's. Please attend or speak to Keith as soon as you are able.

We are confident that the good people of McClure and St. Martin's will rise in support of this family who have been **waiting almost 6 years** to come to Canada.

Please prayerfully consider how you can help.

phone #306-343-7101

keith@stmartinsuc.com

OUTREACH COMMITTEE



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 19 or November 26** 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, band aids, 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.

If you wish you may also make a donation to the office and specify for the Socks for the Homeless Project, we will use this money to purchase gift cards to put into the socks.

For further information, please contact Carol Claypool at 306-664-2285 or cclpool@sasktel.net

**God bless you and thank you
for thinking of our most vulnerable citizens
during the holiday season.**



CAROL NEEDS SOME HELP WITH SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS

I have been organizing the Socks for the Homeless project for some years on my own with the help of the Outreach Committee. I would like to have someone to help me with this project. If you are interested, please contact me, Carol Claypool at 306-664-2285 or cclpool@sasktel.net. The time frame is usually October 1 – November 30, so a short time period. I feel that a new person will give the project some new perspective and I would appreciate any suggestions as to how the project can be improved. Thanks for considering this.

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 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

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>

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

November Newsletter Deadline:

Sunday, October 29, 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



MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH

306-373-1753

www.mcclureunitedchurch.org

www.facebook.com/McClureUnitedChurchSktn



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Email: mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca

Ministry Personnel

Rev. Debra Berg

Office Administrator

Irene Lacoursiere

Administrative Assistant

Eden Polischuk

Data Entry Clerk

Pam Turner








Music Coordinator

Shirley Blackburn

Pianist

Elin Sletmoen

Pianist

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1. 8:30am Men's Breakfast  10am Worship & Rainbow Village <i>World Communion Sunday</i>	2. 4pm Fit After Fifty 7pm Youth Night Starlight Picnic Brighton Core Park Brighton BLVD	3.	4. 7:00pm Outreach Meeting 7:30pm Choir Practice	5, 4pm Fit After Fifty	6.	7.
8. 10am Worship Long Weekend— No Rainbow Village	9. Thanks Giving 	10. <i>Deadline for Auction Basket Donations for the Family Dance</i> 	11. 7:30pm Choir Practice	12. 4pm Fit After Fifty 7pm Youth Night Craft Night @ May- fair United Church	13. 7pm Harvest Jamboree Outreach Family Dance 	14.
15. 10am Pet Blessing Service —Worship & Rainbow Village 	16. 4pm Fit After Fifty	17. 10:30am Joint Facili- ties Meeting 7pm Youth Night — Movie Night @McClure United Church	18. 7:30pm Choir Practice	19. 4pm Fit After Fifty	20.	21. 8am Men's Gathering Group 8am Women's Gathering Group
22. 10am Worship & Rainbow Village	23. 4pm Fit After Fifty	24. 7pm McClure U.C. Board meeting 7pm Youth Night— Green Screen Tech Night @ St. Paul's United Church	25. 7:30pm Choir Practice	26. 4pm Fit After Fifty	27.	28.
29. 10am Worship & Rainbow Village	30. 4pm Fit After Fifty	31. Halloween! 	 <p><i>"Thank you' is the best prayer that anyone could say. [...] Thank you expresses extreme gratitude, humility, [and] understanding"</i> - Alice Walker</p>			