



# MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER MAY 2025

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## Last words!

*"The rivers do not drink their own water; trees do not eat their own fruit; The sun does not shine on itself, and flowers do not spread their fragrance for themselves. Living for others is a rule of nature. We were all born to help each other. No matter how difficult it is... life is good when you are happy; but much better when others are happy because of you." Pope Frances*

This is one of my favorite quotes from Pope Frances.

On Easter Sunday, just one day before his death, Pope Francis made his final public appearance at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Still recovering from bilateral pneumonia, he was too weak to deliver his Easter message himself, so Archbishop Diego Ravelli read it aloud on his behalf.

"I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas," he said.

The message felt fitting as the Pope's last words — reflective not only of his legacy as a leader who cared deeply about those on the margins of society, but also as a heartfelt plea in a time when the world feels desperately in need of greater compassion and understanding across divides.

It is my prayer that Pope Frances' last words will linger — inspiring acts of kindness, acceptance, and love.

Pope France's last words got me wondering about my own.

**What do you want your last words to be?**

**What do you want of your life to echo into the future?**

Important questions to ask ourselves, not easy questions, but important.

Wishing you peace along this path of faith,  
Debra

Photo: **Our Covenant Partners - Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Parish.**

May— Prayer Intention

God who calls us to serve one another. We give you thanks for your servant, Pope Francis. We celebrate his legacy of care for the poor, love of creation and hope for the future. We pray for our siblings of Holy Spirit Roman Catholic parish who feel Pope Francis's death deeply. Fill us all with a servant heart O God. Amen

## IN LOVING SYMPATHY

### Holding you gently in prayer...

All who have experienced grief & loss in its many forms

Norm Woodcock and family on the death of his wife Sharon Woodcock.  
Ernie Wooff and family on the death of his sister-in-law Roberta Wooff.  
The family and friends of Marlynn Rogstad.  
The family and friends of Rowena "Rene" Foster  
The family and friends of Lorraine Kowblich



## Friday, May 2nd Haven House Fundraiser - Dessert Night

there will be a Dessert night from 6:30 -8pm to raise money for Haven House!

We are needing donations to make this event work! Any sweet treat from cookies to squares to pies would be fantastic! Store bought donations will also be graciously accepted! All donations need to be at the church by 4:30 on Friday. Please contact Eden at [mcclureucprograms@gmail.com](mailto:mcclureucprograms@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

This event is going to be entry by donation! Be sure to bring some extra cash for the chance to win a gift card or treat from a local eatery! Community sponsors are The Griffin Takeaway, Moxie's, Prairie Ink Restaurant, Sobey's, and Taverna Italian Kitchen. Special thank you to those wonderful places for their donations!  
A country rock band will perform at 7pm! You won't want to miss out on this great event!

Haven House, formerly known as the Crisis Nursery, is located on Victoria Avenue! It is an incredible group dedicated to helping children 24 hours a day and 365 days a year! It provides shelter, clothing, food, and care for children ages 0-12 that are escaping domestic violence, poverty, and other difficult circumstances.



## Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> for Camp Sunday.



The Outreach Committee wants to remind you about a very exciting season we are entering into!

Is it the Easter season or the NHL playoff season? No! **It is Camp season** and we are hosting a **Hot Dog lunch** right after the service next Sunday. If you feel like you want to get into the camp feeling, you may want to wear an old camp shirt OR your favorite hockey team jersey (to make the conversation interesting around your table!) The cost of the hotdogs and chips (and this year, cookies!) will simply be by donation and all funds raised will go to Camp Tapawingo. A huge Thank You to Coop for sponsoring our lunch and they have asked if we would provide them with several photos of our event so please come with your biggest smile and enjoy a delicious Harvest hotdog (there will be veggie dogs and gluten free buns, as well). Thank you and we hope to see you next Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> for Camp Sunday.

## Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup> McClure's Annual General Meeting (You Don't Want to Miss It)

Please join us for McClure's Annual General Meeting in the sanctuary right after church on Sunday May 25. The meeting will be available via Zoom so watch for information about signing up, soon. We will be discussing the budget, the upgrades and replacement of the washroom facilities, and welcoming new folks to the Board. We will hear some highlights from the work of each committee and how 2024 shaped up. Refreshments will be served so please take an hour to attend the meeting and hear about our progress. Life at McClure is worth celebrating!!

# Holy Week Memories



Photo Shirley Blackburn

**Palm Sunday Preparations**  
with Emily and choir members  
Gord Cobb, Joy McFarlane-Burton,  
Rosemary Cobb.

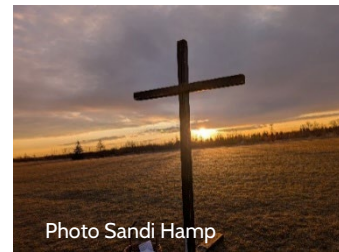


Photo Sandi Hamp



Photo: Angie Bugg

## NEWS FROM THE MCCLURE CHURCH BOARD

### What's New At the Board Meeting??

On Tuesday April 22, the McClure Church Board met to discuss many items. Our church is a hubbub of activity once again, and it is so wonderful to be a part of seeing how things are planned and how they unfold.

On **Sunday May 25**, we will come together right after church, for the **Annual General Meeting**. This is your opportunity to ask questions about how the church operates, the projects of 2024 and into the future. All are invited to attend and a Zoom connection will be set up. At the meeting you can get details about any issue that concerns you. Please come and spend an hour with us talking about your church.

At the Board meeting the following were discussed:

- the terms of references continue to be worked on to ensure clarity and accuracy on our website. There will be a motion about this at the AGM.
- we accepted a report from the McClure Players about the success of the Dinner Theatre.
- we welcomed information about events upcoming, including the Dessert Fundraiser, the Community Room dedication, and Fill the Bins for the Food Bank.
- we received an in-depth report from the Property committee about the state of our washrooms at McClure and a plan for the future. There will be a motion about this at the AGM.
- as always, we discussed the budget and going forward. Motions will also be coming to the AGM.
- we discussed the new recruits who will be on the Board for next year and how we encourage folks to volunteer to join us on committees –the backbone of all we do at McClure. There are motions about our Board membership coming to the AGM.

As you can see, there are many reasons to attend the upcoming AGM, and keep informed about activities and finances of the church. We sincerely hope to see a terrific turn out on May 25.

Heather Muirhead- co chair

## Ministry & Personnel Reviews

It's that time of year again, when the Ministry & Personnel Committee reaches out to our McClure Church community to ask for your feedback regarding Reverend Debra's and Reverend Emily's ministry over the past year. We are also looking for feedback regarding our church office personnel.

Please contact Gaylene Gorniak, M & P Committee Chair, at: [mggorniak@shaw.ca](mailto:mggorniak@shaw.ca) by Friday, May 23rd with any comments you might have about how our ministers and church office personnel have supported individuals, families, or groups/committees over the past year.

Comments will be kept anonymous and confidential. We look forward to hearing from you!

Thank you!  
Gaylene Gorniak, Chair  
Ministry & Personnel Committee

## The Reverend Jason Richards Community Room Dedication

If you have been following your newsletters this past year, you will know that the former Senior Youth Lounge has been redeveloped. It has been cleaned out, repainted, and new flooring has been installed. It is looking like a space you might rent for a meeting, a gathering for church, a bridal shower, etc. And yes when we have youth in our church, they are welcome to use this room too.

However, the former Senior Youth Lounge has an historic significance to many of us who were here at McClure in the 1990's and beyond. (Reverend) Kent Mohn led youth activities and they met in a very relaxed and welcoming lounge area, complete with soft couches, large pillows, and many games. One of the young people, who grew up in McClure and attended youth activities, was Jason Richards (and his sister Tracy), children of Bruce and Margaret Richards. Jason loved his days of Youth Group and eventually began leading the groups with Kent.

As Jason's life journey unfolded, he enrolled at St. Andrew's College where he began his education as a United Church minister. Jason had the opportunity to study in Seoul, Korea, where he met his wife, Young. The couple married in 2015 and later welcomed their son, Lincoln. Jason received his Masters of Divinity Degree with the United Church of Canada in 2016. He served at St. Paul's United Church in Estevan and St. Mary's United Church in St. Mary's, Ontario.

Sadly, Reverend Jason Richards passed away after a courageous battle with cancer in 2023, at the age of 41. We would like to remember and celebrate Rev. Jason's life and his involvement with McClure. As part of our worship May 18th, we will dedicate the former Senior Youth Lounge and rename it the Reverend Jason Richards Community Room. Following the church service, we will have the opportunity to walk up the stairs, (or take the elevator) to view the newly renovated room and continue to celebrate Jason's legacy. Refreshments will be served as part of the celebration. It will be a special time of remembrance.

If you know some McClure folks who knew Rev. Jason, we are asking you to reach out and invite them to come and share in this dedication. Jason the boy, the young man, the youth leader, the husband, the father, and the Reverend was very special to us at McClure. All are welcome to attend to share in this event.



### Toilet Troubles

As some of you will know, we've been having toilet troubles at McClure for a while.

The **washrooms by the office and Multi-Purpose Room (MPR)** have been backing up frequently. This is due to a sag in the drain line under the MPR floor. We have a proposed solution to this and hopefully these will be fully functional again in a couple of months.

At the end of March, a **toilet in the men's room near the Nursery** backed up. At the same time, the flush valve stuck open, so a lot of water leaked. Thank you to the housekeeping staff who got the water shut off and cleaned up a big mess!

The water damaged materials in the Library and the washrooms have been removed. This includes carpet, and the bottom bit of drywall and insulation. The walls in the washrooms have been temporarily covered and the washrooms are back in service. As the rebuilding/ repairs proceed, these washrooms may be intermittently unavailable.

Note that the Library bookcases and their contents were not damaged. We plan to leave the Library out of service for a

few months, while other planned work in that area is completed. In the meantime, we will work hard to keep washrooms available.

#### Did you know we have washrooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor?

Go up the stairs by the nursery to find them.

Besides the sag in the drain line that affects the office/MPR washrooms, the main issue is the things people have been flushing.

#### Please NEVER flush the following:

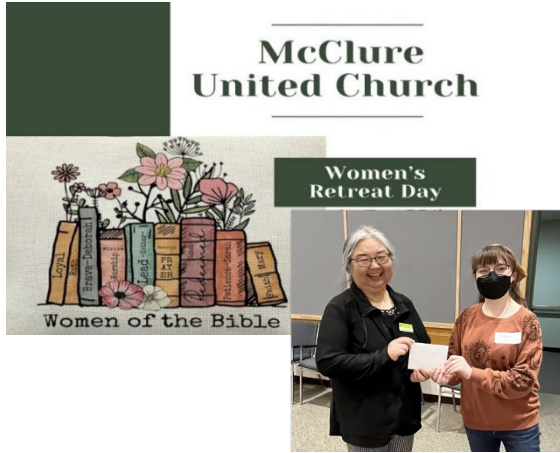
- Flushable wipes
- Feminine products – including tampons
- Paper towel

Please ONLY flush things produced by your body and a reasonable amount of toilet paper. No exceptions, not even one time.

We are very fortunate to have a variety of washrooms in the building. If we only had one set of washrooms, and had to shut them down for repairs, we'd be in deep doodoo.

In the meantime, **your Property Committee and the McClure Place maintenance staff are working hard to get our washrooms fully functional again.**

# THANK YOU



The McClure Church sanctuary was a buzz with the activity of the 2025 Women's Retreat on April 05. It was another success with 58 women attending. There were door prizes, interactive games, painting blessing stones, a women's health & exercise session, and a great discussion time about some of the "salty" Women of the Bible with Nobuko Iwai, the keynote speaker. Naomi Yuen



## BOOK and PUZZLE SALE



You did it again!! Our many thanks go to those who donated books and puzzles, all those who volunteered throughout the week, the office staff, and those who purchased items on Saturday. (End result was again \$8000.)

Sandy Hoenecke and Marlene Kells 😊

(Marlene and Sandy are retiring from this sale as of this year. If you think you might be interested in taking this on next year, please leave your name and phone number at the office. We could share what we have learned over the years.)

A special thank you to **Sandy Hoenecke and Marlene Kells** for the fabulous work they have done over several years to organize and set up and run the Book and Puzzle Sale. Your hard work is very much appreciated not only for the funds raised but for bringing our church community together.





## FILL THE BINS

May 5-11

Drop off in the church lobby

Monday- Friday

9-3 pm & on Sunday Morning.

## Save the Dates:

**Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>** - Affirming Sunday! Celebrate love for ALL!

**Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>** - 100<sup>th</sup> United Church Anniversary Sunday - 10am

**Tuesday June 10<sup>th</sup>** - National 100<sup>th</sup> UC Anniversary Livestream - 3:30pm in the Sanctuary

**Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>** - Rainbow Village Wind Up - 10 am

**Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Pride Parade at 12 noon - will need to be there at 11 am to participate in Parade

## Interested in the Pride Parade?

Come and help be part of the planning! All are welcome!

After church on Sunday,  
May 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:15am  
in the Gathering Room

Have a cookie, a cup of coffee,  
and let's talk about how we can  
be part of Pride this year!

2SLGBTQ+ People are loved  
here. Let's spread that love.

Email Eden at [mcclureucprograms@gmail.com](mailto:mcclureucprograms@gmail.com)

## Help Wanted.

Dishwashers for Funeral Hospitality  
If you can help, please contact

Fay Peters [fepeters@sasktel.net](mailto:fepeters@sasktel.net)  
or Eleanor Elliott [elliemay1949@outlook.com](mailto:elliemay1949@outlook.com)

## STAYING CONNECTED

### Church Family Fun Night June 6, 6pm – Picnic

Come for a simple supper, be part of a brief worship (10min) then enjoy some games and crafts. Supper and fun for all ages. Come if you are single or a double, younger or wiser. Supper by donation.

### Young Adult Supper

*For all those 20 to 35 years of age.*

**Thursday - May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6pm**

**Contact Debra if you can come.**

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

**Supper by donation**

### Men's Saturday Gathering

McClure men and friends also gather on Saturday mornings once a month.

Please join us!

**Next gathering**

**May 10th - 8:00 am**

June 14 Optional - Possible brunch at a restaurant??

### Ministry with Children – Rainbow Village Sunday Morning.

Eden Polischuk is our beloved Rainbow Village leader. Eden has a B.Ed. degree and a heart for kiddos.

Thank you for trusting us to teach and learn with your children.

If you have any wonderings or suggestions about how to make the Rainbow village experience even better, please contact Debra:  
[debra.b@shaw.ca](mailto:debra.b@shaw.ca)

### Women Saturday Morning Gathering

McClure women and friends are invited to a Saturday Morning gathering which provides opportunities for deep connection, interesting conversation and loads of fun. Everyone is welcome.

**Next Gathering – May 10, 8:00 am**

### Nursery

The nursery is open and well equipped. There is a TV for viewing worship, loads of toys and a comfy rocker. Please remember babies and toddlers are very welcome in the worship space and the nursery is for your convenience when needed.

### FAMILY MINISTRY

**Milestone Moments are on the McClure website under media and resources.**

Milestone Moments are a 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. Keep an eye on the website for the new postings.

For more information contact Debra: [debra.b@shaw.ca](mailto:debra.b@shaw.ca)

# MCCLURE PLACE

## McClure Place Happenings

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

Pretty Easter/Spring displays are featured in our Display Cabinet at the front entrance.

McClure Place Garden Committee appreciates your support given towards the purchase of flowers which will be planted around the front and south side of McClure Place, and in front of Amy McClure House. A list for individual raised garden beds is posted on nurse Nicole's office door.

Food events this past month:

1. A waffle/sausage brunch was enjoyed in early April. Following the brunch, an Easter concert by Michael Swan on violin accompanied by Gillian Lyons on the piano was lovely and well attended.
2. A delicious Easter Banquet of ham was prepared by our kitchen staff on April 16<sup>th</sup>. It was attended by approximately 100 people, who are mostly residents. Entertainment following the meal was by the band “Saltwater Joy” which played a variety of music suitable for listening/dancing.

Our Recreational Director, Jamie is presently on maternity leave, awaiting the birth of her baby daughter. We welcome Erin Smorodin who is taking over Jamie's position for 18 months.

To cut down on steam from regular water that may affect our smoke alarms, Foundation funds were used to purchase a new water distillation unit. Distilled water is used in humidifiers at Amy McClure House and in the Tower, and also in CPAP machines. Users are encouraged to use the distilled water carefully and to donate to the Tower fund.

Many residents attend & participate in the current events sessions led by Clay on Friday mornings after coffee. This helps us to sort out the world news. Our March charity raised \$300 for the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

Eleanor Elliott



### AMY MCCLURE HOUSE

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity? McClure United Church provides volunteers to serve breakfast daily at Amy McClure House starting at 7:30 each morning. We are usually done by 9:30 at the latest. We are always needing more help. You would not work more than one day a week unless you wish to.

If you would like to join the team, we would be glad to have you. 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](mailto:cclpool@sasktel.net).

### MCCLURE PLACE ASSOCIATION INC. AND MCCLURE PLACE FOUNDATION INC.

#### **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

The annual general meetings of McClure Place Association Inc. and McClure Place Foundation Inc. will take place as follows:

**Date: Sunday, June 1, 2025**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.** (immediately following the church service)

**Place: Church sanctuary**

All members and adherents of McClure United Church are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting as voting members. Guests are also welcome to attend. Hardcopies of the annual reports will be available by no later than May 9 from the McClure Place office and the Church office, and in electronic form from the McClure Place website (<https://mcclureplace.ca>). Please mark your calendars and make an effort to attend these important meetings of McClure Place.



# BACK PAGE

## To support 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](mailto: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

Sheila Krueger – Editor

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

Please e-mail newsletter submissions directly  
to [eskrueger@sasktel.net](mailto:eskrueger@sasktel.net)

**June Newsletter Deadline:  
May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

## Newsletter Format Options:

Our monthly newsletter is available at the church website & it's also emailed directly to everyone on the email list.

But, if you prefer to receive a paper copy **or** you need to update your email/contact info, please contact the office at:

306-373-1753 or [mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca](mailto:mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca)

## Flowers and Christ Candle

Have you wanted to light the Christ Candle or are you thinking you would like to bring flowers to enhance our worship experience but aren't sure how to make these things happen?

There are sign-up sheets in the hallway near the office door

## MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH

306-373-1753

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



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Saskatoon, SK S7H 5N7  
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Email: [mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca](mailto:mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca)

## Ministry Team

Rev. Debra Berg  
Rev. Emily Carr

## Office Administrator

Irene Lacoursiere

## Administrative Assistant


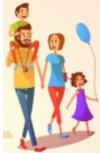



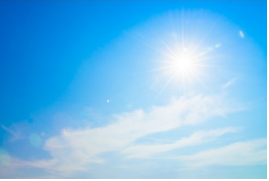



Data Entry Clerk  
Arron Bahry

## Music Coordinator

Shirley Blackburn

## Pianist

Elin Sletmoen

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			<p>Praise God! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for God is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Psalm 147:1</p>		<p><b>1</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship Committee Meeting 1:30 PM Quilting Group 4 PM Forever In Motion</p>	<p><b>2</b> 6:30 PM Dessert Night</p> 	<p><b>3</b> 9 AM Big Shred</p> 
<p><b>4</b> 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Sunday Worship and Rainbow Village 11 AM Hot Dog Sale</p>	<p><b>5</b> <i>Fill the bins</i></p>	<p><b>6</b> <i>Fill the bins</i> 7 PM Outreach Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>7</b> <i>Fill the bins</i> 7:30 PM Choir Practice</p> 	<p><b>8</b> <i>Fill the bins</i> 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:30 PM Quilting Group 3:00 PM Property Committee Meeting 7 PM M&amp;P Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>9</b> <i>Fill the bins</i></p>	<p><b>10</b> 8 AM Women's Gathering 8 AM Men's Gathering</p>	
<p><b>11</b> <i>Fill the bins</i> 10 AM Sunday Worship and Rainbow Village</p> 	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> 	<p><b>14</b> 10 AM Congregational Care Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>15</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship Committee Meeting 1:30 PM Quilting Group</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p> 	
<p><b>18</b> 10 AM Sunday Worship and Rainbow Village <b>11 AM Jason Richards Room Dedication</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>22</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:30 PM Quilting Group <b>6 PM Young Adult Supper</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	
<p><b>25</b> 10 AM Sunday Worship and Rainbow Village <b>11 AM AGM</b> 5 PM Deadline for June Newsletter Submissions</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> 7 PM Board Meeting</p> 	<p><b>28</b> 7:30 PM Choir Practice</p>	<p><b>29</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:30 PM Quilting Group</p> 	<p><b>30</b> 5:30 PM Potato Bake</p>	<p><b>31</b></p>	