



MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

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HEART WORDS

You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. ~ Deuteronomy 11:18-19

Learning to read is complicated. There are twenty-six upper and lowercase letters, many with several sounds that make words. Then there are words you cannot sound out. Important words like *said, the, where, could*.

My son's grade one teacher calls these "**heart words**". These are words to learn by heart. Though it's slow going at first, once you are able to understand the letter sounds and the heart words, you have the foundation for your whole education.

The season of Lent brings stories of struggle from the scriptures. We read the story of Abraham and Sarah being called to move to a new place well into their eighties, the story of young Jesus being tempted by power and wealth in the wilderness, the story of Jesus trying to stand up to tyrants and being killed. The story of the prodigal son reminds us how hard it can be to ask for forgiveness and how painful it is when we don't feel connected to one another.

These stories invite us to reflect upon our own wanderings, struggles, and need for forgiveness. But knowing the stories does not provide the foundation for our whole faith.

We need our heart words! The Lord is my shepherd, this little light of mine, now I lay me down to sleep... Prayers we know by heart well-up in times of struggle to remind us we are not alone, that we will get through.

The Psalms are the heart words of the bible. They help us connect to the deep love of God in every situation.

This season at McClure, we are remembering our heart words.

- ♥ We remember that angels are near to us (Psalm 91),
- ♥ that we do not need to be afraid because God is our light (Psalm 27),
- ♥ that those who sow in tears, will soon reap with shouts of joy. (Psalm 126)
- ♥ We remember that God's love is steadfast, that God's love endures forever. (Psalm 118)

May we write these words upon our hearts.

May the promises of God give us comfort and courage, compassion and peace as we look forward in hope to the new life of Easter.

Emily



IN LOVING SYMPATHY

Holding you gently in prayer...
All who have experienced grief & loss in its many forms

Carol Martel on the death of her husband Louis.



McClure United invites you to a
Community Bible Study in the Gospel of Luke for the Season of Lent.
March 6th-April 17th

Thursday mornings 10:30-11:30am

Coffee and Muffins on at 10:15am.

Printouts of scripture will be available, but bring your favourite Bible if you can.

All welcome as we read, reflect, pray and discuss the second half of Luke's gospel among friends.

NEWS FROM THE MCCLURE CHURCH BOARD

"During Lent, let us find concrete ways to overcome our indifference." - Pope Francis

Throughout the 40 days of Lent, McClure Church continues to be vibrant and busy with many congregational events as well as activities of those renting space in the church.

April 1 – the deadline for all AGM reports to be sent to the Church Office.

April 5 - McClure's Women's Retreat

April 17 – Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Service

April 20 – Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at 6:00 am.in Donna Birkmaier Park AND Easter Sunday Service 10:00 am.

April 26 – McClure Book and Puzzle Sale

The Board has been updating the Terms of Reference and website information. The refresh of the former Senior Youth Lounge (See motion below re: Community Room) is moving forward. Many thanks to Project Manager, Charlotte Campbell and her family members, who have done such a great job in preparing the space for the painters. New flooring will be laid soon.

At the February 25 Board meeting the following motions were passed:

- * "That a door plaque inscribed "Reverend Jason Richards Community Room" (hence known as Community Room) be procured."
- * In addition to in-person meetings for Annual General/Congregational meetings, Zoom will be used.
- * Reverend Debra Berg was granted Sabbatical Leave request for 5 months (February 1, 2026 to June 30, 2026).

At the end of March there has been a brainstorming meeting organized by the Property Committee to look into various solutions to the washroom drainage problems that exist in the McClure Church building.

After several months of contacting members of the congregation, there has not yet been anyone willing to accept nomination to the Co-Chair position. This has been very discouraging for the Board, as well as for the committees that are also looking for members.

"Then he said to his disciples 'The Harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the Harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' – Matthew 9:37-38

May the season of Lent, that represents renewal, help us look inward at ways in which members and adherents may serve McClure United Church.

Co-Chair – Joy McFarlane-Burton

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday Service – April 13th – 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday &

Good Friday Service April 17th – 7:00 pm



Easter Sunrise Service -April 20th - 6:00 am at Donna Berkmaier Park



Donna Berkmaier Park is a 5-minute drive from the church east on Taylor Street. The parking area is left at Slimmon Road. This area is easily accessible and there is a spot to view the sunrise.

Please join us for Coffee and muffins back at the church after the service.

Easter Sunday – April 20th - 10:00 am



Easter morning Breakfast

Please plan to join with your fellow early risers for breakfast and warm beverages at the church following the Sunrise Service. It is a good opportunity to share the joy of feeding your body and your soul.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



BOOK and PUZZLE SALE

Saturday, April 26, 2025.

8:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m

Sanctuary: PUZZLES, Games, Records, DVDs, CDs, Audio Books
Multipurpose Room: BOOKS



As always, we rely on your donations to make this a successful sale.

Books/puzzles etc. may be dropped off at the church:

April 20 until noon

April 21: (Easter Monday) 9am-3pm

April 22-24: 9am-8pm

April 25 until noon



Preferred book donations include:

Autobiography, Biography, Crafts, Cookbooks, Fantasy, Gardening, General Fiction, History, Humour, Literature, Mystery, Romance, Science-fiction, Nutrition, Action/Thriller, Westerns, Children's, Youth

PLEASE, NO : textbooks, National Geographic, atlases, dictionaries, computer books, Readers' Digests, encyclopedias of any kind including DYI, and magazines.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available April 06, April 13

Please consider helping. We cannot have a successful sale without you.

Contacts: If you are unsure of what we prefer in the way of donations, please contact:

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

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

WAYS TO SUPPORT

CAMP TAPAWINGO

SUMMER 2025

CANADIAN TIRE WISH LIST_

SEND A KID TO CAMP FUND_

RENOVATE OUR BATHROOMS CAMPAIGN_

MORE INFO: WWW.CAMPTAPAWINGO.NET

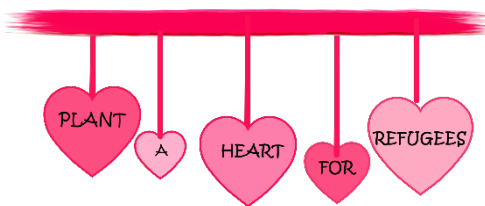
AMY MCCLURE HOUSE

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.

STAYING CONNECTED



A Heartfelt Thank you

The Hearts for Refugees project has wrapped up, with many hearts hanging in the bushes in front of the church. Thanks to Outreach member, Carol Dionne for hanging all the hearts in the cold February /March weather! The donations were so generous, with \$1925.00 given to Refugee projects at church and in the community. Well done, McClure!!

Support for Wildwood School

March 17th - Muffins on the March

What an amazing experience to meet Mr. Glines (principal) and his students from Wildwood School, when they came to pick up the muffins and books. I believe I counted 52 dozen muffins!

The kids exclaimed... "oh wow" – oatmeal chocolate chip, or "yum" – raspberry streusel!

Mr. Glines just said, "This is amazing!"



There were so many books donated that they didn't all fit in Mr. Glines truck. I went along with books in my vehicle. When we arrived more "helpers" came out of the school to carry boxes! They were so grateful and a bit overwhelmed.

I think our church community has established a wonderful partnership with Wildwood School. The Outreach Committee is so thankful and blessed by the response of people at McClure. You truly are showing in a real way, your "new and right spirit within." (Psalm 51:10) Terry Clark on behalf of the Outreach Committee



March 19th

To the wonderful residents and members of McClure United Church, Words cannot express how impressed and grateful we are for all your hard work in preparing the muffins for our students' book and muffin programs! Your kindness is amazing, the giving of your time and energy is so much appreciated.

The children will truly enjoy having the books to keep them captivated.

Yours sincerely, Wildwood School

Post Cards Across Canada

We wrote and sent out 31 postcards to other United churches across Canada to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada. And now we will wait for our mail coming soon. Thank you to all those who took the time to write a post card, telling others about our wonderful McClure church family.

The post cards (created by Eden & Arron in the office) were so popular, that folks are asking to buy them to send to friends. If you would like to buy one, they are available at the office for \$1.00. Come and get one or two!!!

Watch for the display of the postcards we receive so that all can read them.



McClure United Church



**Women's
Retreat Day**

**SAT. APRIL 5
10AM - 3PM**

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF
FELLOWSHIP,
CONNECTION, REFLECTION
AND REJUVINATION.

BRUNCH WILL BE SERVED.

SPEAKERS AND ACTIVITIES

COME AS A GROUP OR AN
INDIVIDUAL. ALL ARE
WELCOME

**TICKETS:
\$20**

**TICKETS ON
SALE:**

AFTER CHURCH:
SUNDAY, MARCH 2
SUNDAY, MARCH 9
or call 306-373-9891 after March 9

*“She is clothed with
Strength & dignity,
& she laughs
without fear of the future.”*

Our Covenant Partners - Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Parish.

April – Prayer intention

God as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus may we be reminded of his words “that they all may be one...” We celebrate that new life is your gift to all people. Help us to honour each other’s uniqueness as we strive to fulfill your desire for us to be one witness to your abundant life.

Celebrating 25 years of Covenant Relationship between Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Parish and McClure United Church



Worship leaders for the March 16th celebration

STAYING CONNECTED

Young Adult Supper

For all those 20 to 35 years of age.

Thursday - May 22nd - 6pm

Contact Debra if you can come.

debra.b@shaw.ca

Supper by donation

Church Family Fun Night

April 11th, 6pm EASTER

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.

Email Debra to tell her you are coming

debra.b@shaw.ca

Next Gathering June 6 PICNIC

Men's Saturday Gathering

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

Please join us!

Next gathering

April 12th - 8:00 am

Next gathering: May 10

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

Women's 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.

Next Gathering April 12th at 8:00 am

Future gatherings: May 10

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

Art Time Together

If you like to paint or draw or colour, please join with others who share your passion.

We'll have a visit while working on our projects.

We can share ideas and see what others are working on too!

Friday afternoons at 1 pm.

Call Terry Clark at 306 227 7008

if you need more information



MCCLURE PLACE



"THE BIG SHRED"

Confidentially shred your Papers that are taking up space.

Saturday, May 3rd, 2025 - 9 am to 12 noon

at McClure United Church parking lot
4025 Taylor St. (off Heritage Way)

Protect against identity theft by safely destroying old confidential, private, and personal papers. At this secure site, watch as your documents:

- Old bank statements
- Tax returns (2018 and earlier)
- Utility statements
- Dated invoices, receipts

... are shredded in the Shred-it truck!

Shredding is by donation...

(Suggested \$10 per paper box or \$5 per grocery bag)

Proceeds will help the McClure Place Foundation in enhancing seniors' living at Amy McClure House, our personal care home.

Visit our generous sponsor at www.shredit.com

Questions? Call 306-955-7677



McClure Place Happenings



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

Our garden committee will soon be collecting donations for our garden fund. Donations can be made at the front office. Also, the Committee for "McClure is Our Home" will launch the new edition at our Newcomers Tea on June 18th. Residents can still purchase a binder by bringing \$20 to our front office. Our thoughts are with those who have been in hospital or have lost a friend or a loved one.

Two Spring SSCL classes are available: one is psychology – "Adult Development and Aging" by Dr. Janel Ferguson; the other is a history class "Resurgence of the Right, Part III" by Dr. Clay Burlingham.

This time, an in-house class "Easter Paint with Elaine", you the artist will be making a decorative Easter piece. Check out a sample bunny in the display cabinet, and sign up as soon as possible on Elaine's Salon door. Lastly, an outside speaker presented an interesting informative presentation on Meditation of how to keep our minds quiet and relaxed.

Our February charity raised \$1295 for Telemiracle. Van trips were weekly to the grocery store and once to Gibson's Fish & Chips for lunch. If anyone would enjoy driving seniors in the Van to an outing or two, please contact Lisa at our front office

Coming up on Saturday, May 3rd the Big Shred is happening on the church parking lot. The funds raised help McClure Place Foundation in enhancing senior living at Amy McClure House. Also in May, our yearly Treasure Swap will take place on Thursday May 8th which is a Free event. We'll scrounge through our cupboards to find new or gently used items to donate. If there is something that you'd like, you are welcome to it. Leftovers will be taken to St Martin's Garage Sale.

Decorative cookies were made by our kitchen staff for St Patrick's Day celebrations. Following coffee & cookies in our Hospitality Room, we moved to the Sanctuary where we were entertained with several Irish melodies by our Choristers, led by Elin on the piano. Our Irish Resident Joan Brown, presented Irish information with humor.

Eleanor Elliott

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.

Many of us wonder what we can do given recent threats to Canadian sovereignty and our economy coming out of the United States. The Men's Saturday morning group with Norm Biram's leadership talked about ways to take constructive action by writing to American friends and organizations. One of their members, Bill Shank wrote a letter on behalf of Canada to the BOSTONIA, the Alumni Magazine at Boston University where he studied. Bill is a retired United Church minister who was an active part of McClure before moving to Victoria where he now lives with his wife Carol. He remains part of the McClure Men's group through Zoom. The Men's group asked for the letter to be shared.



March, 2025

My name is Bill Shank. I graduated from BU with a Master's in Sacred Theology in 1970. I am Canadian.

I write this letter to my Alma Mater regarding the US President's policy of tariffs and its implications for Canadians.

The issue for me is not just that tariffs are costly for both the targeted country and the recipient country, it is that the reason given by President Trump is to weaken the Canadian economy and enable his goal of making Canada America's 51st State. I doubt that a significant portion of US citizens share this goal, but it may be that in the midst of so much other political turmoil in your country the implications of this policy for Canada might be overlooked by many in the US.

In Canada, taunts of our Prime Minister becoming "Governor" of America's 51st State are demeaning, insulting and childish. Canada is the USA's largest trading partner. We have supported America in times of need. In 1980 it was the Canadian Embassy in Tehran that orchestrated the rescue of six American diplomats who were sheltering in the Canadian Embassy in Iran. On Sept 11th, 2001, Gander Newfoundland, a town of 10,000 received 38 overseas flights and 6,900 stranded passengers, mostly Americans, and sheltered them for 5 days when American airspace was closed. As allies, Canadian troops fought and died in Afghanistan in support of America after 9/11.

Canada might have expected threats to our safety, security and sovereignty from Russia, China, or North Korea, but never from America. Canadians to a person are angry, and it is difficult to separate that anger at your Government from the individual American citizens that we have known.

My experience as a student at BU was friendly, supportive and academically excellent. It was also a time of considerable turmoil. Student protests of the Vietnamese War were causing considerable upheaval for both students and faculty. Graduation Ceremonies in 1970 were cancelled because of student unrest. I was in the crowd at a demonstration at the State Capital in Boston after the Kent State killings. I was impressed at the resourcefulness of the student protestors and the wisdom of the Governor of Massachusetts at a time of extreme danger. Political astuteness and willingness to act were among the many qualities that I witnessed and learned from during that significant time. I am hopeful that those qualities still exist among students, faculty and Alumni of BU today.

So I ask the BU community to advocate through professional, business and community connections for a reversal of your Government's actions against Canada. Any serious issues that exist can certainly be negotiated in a responsible manner between the parties involved, as has been done in the past.

Respectfully,
William E. (Bill) Shank, STM BU 1970

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
- 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

**May Newsletter Deadline:
April 27th, 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

MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH

306-373-1753

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



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Ministry Team

Rev. Debra Berg
Rev. Emily Carr

Office Administrator

Irene Lacoursiere

Administrative Assistant




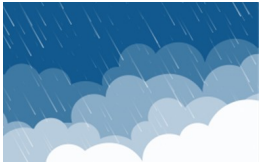







Data Entry Clerk
Arron Bahry

Music Coordinator

Shirley Blackburn

Pianist

Elin Sletmoen

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Annual Reports Due 7 PM Outreach Committee Meeting	2 10 AM Congregational Care Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Practice	3 10:15 AM Coffee and Muffins, Community Bible Study 1:30 PM Quilting Group 4 PM Forever In Motion 7 PM M&P Committee Meeting	4 1 PM Art Time Together 	5 10 AM Women's Retreat 
6 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast 10 AM Sunday Worship and Rainbow Village	7 4 PM Forever In Motion	8 	9 7:30 PM Choir Practice	10 10:15 AM Coffee and Muffins, Community Bible Study 1:30 PM Quilting Group 3 PM Property Committee Meeting 4 PM Forever In Motion	11 1 PM Art Time Together 6 PM Family Fun Night 	12 8 AM Women's Gathering 8 AM Men's Gathering
13 Palm Sunday, Communion 10 AM Sunday Worship and Rainbow Village 	14 4 PM Forever In Motion	15	16 7:30 PM Choir Practice	17 Maundy Thursday 10:15 AM Coffee and Muffins, Community Bible Study 1:30 PM Quilting Group 4 PM Forever In Motion 7 PM Maundy Thursday Worship Service	18 1 PM Art Time Together  <p>-Good Friday-</p>	19
20 Easter Sunday 6 AM Sunrise Service at Donna Birkmaier Park 10 AM Sunday Worship and Rainbow Village	21	22 7 PM Board Meeting 	23 7:30 PM Choir Practice	24 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:30 AM Worship Committee Meeting 1:30 PM Quilting Group	25 1 PM Art Time Together	26 8 AM Book and Puzzle Sale 
27 10 AM Sunday Worship and Rainbow Village 5 PM May Newsletter Deadline 	28 4 PM Forever In Motion	29	30 7:30 PM Choir Practice 	31 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:30 PM Quilting Group 4 PM Forever In Motion	"Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song—God is my strength and my song." Exodus 15:1-2a (paraphrased)	