



# MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2023

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Sometimes when your heart burns for peace  
and your soul is overloaded with grief,  
and you struggle to express your heartache,  
words come from another in the form of a poem or a song.

**Let us join together in a solemn prayer for peace** with this simple but earnest message from poet John Roedel.

Sheila Krueger

### A poem written by John Roedel

I can't make the  
world be peaceful

I can't stall tanks  
from roaring down roads

I can't prevent children  
from having to hide in bunkers

I can't keep a madman from  
creating heartbreaking headlines

I can't convince the news to  
stop turning war into a video game

I can't silence the sound of bombs  
tearing neighborhoods apart

I can't turn a guided missile  
into a bouquet of flowers

I can't make a warmonger  
have an ounce of empathy

I can't convince diplomats  
to quit playing truth or dare

I can't deflect a sniper's bullet  
from turning a wife into a widow

I can't stave off a schoolyard being  
reduced to ash and rubble

**I can't do any of that  
the only thing I can do**

**is love the next person I  
encounter  
without any conditions or  
strings**

to love my neighbor  
so fearlessly that

it starts a ripple  
that stretches from  
one horizon to the next

I can't force peace  
on the world  
**but I can become a force  
of peace in the world**

because  
sometimes all it takes  
is a single lit candle  
in the darkness  
to start a movement

**oh, Spirit,  
let me be a candle  
of comfort in this world**

**let me burn with peace**

(love is bigger than war)

## OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES

### Holding you gently in prayer...

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

Linda Gatrell and family on the death of her husband Wilf Gatrell  
Janet Caldwell and family on the death of her husband Bill Caldwell  
The family and friends of Eloise Cherry  
Rosemary Wasylyshyn on the death of her grandson Oliver (Cole Strange) Wasylyshyn  
Evelyn & Ron Ryerson on the death of their daughter Maureen  
The family and friends of Eugene Sonmor  
Ray Penny and family on the death of his wife Elizabeth (Betty) Penny



## CELEBRATIONS

### MARRIAGES:

October 28 - Derek James Senger and Michelle Dawn Kukurudza



## MCCLURE BOARD NEWS

### A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRS OF

#### MCCLURE PLACE ASSOCIATION INC. AND MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH

OCTOBER 26, 2023

As some will already know, work has been underway between the Church and the Place to have the van transferred from the Church to the Place. This decision, which was mutually agreed upon between the Church Board and the Board of McClure Place Association, was based on what has transpired to be the principal usage of the van. For some time, the primary user of the van has been McClure Place for activities in support of its residents. Of course, the Church does use the van for its members on Sunday mornings, and perhaps occasionally at other times, and that will continue. It seemed, however, that it made more sense for McClure Place to assume ownership and responsibility for operation and maintenance of the van given that the Place usage is perhaps three or more times that of the Church. An agreement describing the terms and conditions of the transfer and of the ongoing usage of the van has been duly signed (or will be by about the time this news item is published) so that there is, hopefully, no confusion between the two parties as to the nature of the future use of the van. Donations in support of the van can continue to be made to either McClure United Church or to McClure Place Foundation, with assurance that all donated funds will be used as intended.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Kells, Chair of McClure Place Association Inc.

Michael Gorniak/Heather Muirhead, Co-Chairs of McClure United Church

#### **Worship Tech Team**

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

## McClure is Hiring!

### McClure Community Engagement and Event Coordinator - Job Description

**Title:** McClure Church Community Engagement and Event Coordinator (CEEC)

**Rational:** For several years McClure United Church has participated in the Government funded "Summer Employment Program". The church has benefited greatly from the creativity and ability of these employees to open the church to new opportunities to serve and to welcome different groups.

It is our hope to continue this work throughout the church year and to continue to deepen our Christian service and community engagement.

**Purpose:** to initiate, oversee and facilitate events, with a focus on family and children, for members of the church (building Christian community) and the surrounding community (living the gospel through welcome).

**Main Goal:** to encourage connection and community through events and gatherings.

**General Summary:** The Community Engagement and Event coordinator will plan gatherings at the church, keeping in mind the needs of McClure families. The CEEC will be aware of opportunities in our surrounding community for opportunities for the church to participate in activities and host events in support of current justice work.

The CEEC will meet regularly with ministry staff and communities to identify needs and put into motion events. Planning may include, research, advertising, planning, recruitment of volunteers.

**Roles, Responsibilities, and Tasks:**

- plan at least one congregational activity per month and one community focused event.
- be in communication with the ministerial staff and committees, to identify possible event ideas that require enthusiastic promotion
- plan social activities of interest to our community of faith; especially for our families and children as primary participants.
- reach out to the surrounding city communities to promote events
- consider the details of the event, and its impact on other groups within the church; weekly community, other event bookings of facilities, weekly exercise groups, the workings of the church office. etc.
- organize events to encourage McClure volunteers to participate. i.e.) organizing sign-up sheets, making phone calls, etc.
- events could be fund raisers but do not necessarily need to be.
- creative ideas are welcome.

**Remuneration:**

- This is a contract position with the assumption of approximately 8-10 hours of work per week.
- September through to June – 10 months
- \$800.00/month

Please drop off application to the McClure United Church office or via email: [mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca](mailto:mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca)

Deadline for Applications November 20, 2023



## Decision Making in the United Church of Canada

(Not a boring topic!)

### Or.... Commit to the Remit

Do we have your attention yet?

Sometimes we spend our time and energy thinking about the future of our own McClure Community of Faith.

However, in the next few weeks, the United Church of Canada (UCC) is asking the Boards of each faith community, to be a part of the **national decision-making process**. And you are invited to participate.

After church on Sunday, November 26, you are invited to watch a short (5min.) video clip about the proposal from UCC.

**The proposal states its purpose is to remove structural barriers that prevent the establishment of a self determining Indigenous church within the UCC.** After the video, Debra, Sheila Lavender, and Heather Muirhead, will give some remarks and context for the decision to be made. The Board meeting on Tues. Nov. 28, will be our vote time, and anyone who would like to join in the conversation at that time, is welcome to attend the beginning of the meeting. Plan to attend the discussion time on Nov. 26, to listen and to let your thoughts be heard about this very important time for the United Church of Canada.

## Update on the Saskatoon United Church Cluster Meeting

Perhaps you have heard that before Covid there was work being done to have all United churches in Saskatoon meet together to discuss a wide range of topics and concerns common to us all. On September 27 the cluster group met again!! It was a well-attended meeting with many folks, including McClure, sharing a bit about their community of faith. A number of issues were discussed, including how best to share our resources. Another meeting is planned for Thursday, Nov. 16. All are welcome. Anyone want to come?? If this interests you, please let Debra know and we'll give you the details

Rehearsals get underway this week for the Christmas Cantata, "**Love Came Down at Christmas.**"

### Invitation to Singers

We invite singers who would like a short rehearsal schedule, as opposed to all year, to join our choir for this lovely new awe-inspiring music being presented Sunday, December 17.

Choir practices are held every Wednesday at 7:30pm in the Music Room, with the cantata rehearsals likely to begin at 8pm.

Please contact Shirley at [sblackburn@sasktel.net](mailto:sblackburn@sasktel.net)



### Nursery News: Do You Have a Just-Right HAIR ?



As some of you may know, our nursery has been in a bit of a flux over the last few weeks. During the summer, the nursery had some lovely renos done. Cailey McCulloch, a young mom, organized the toys and refreshed the environment in the nursery. Unfortunately, several weeks later, an overhead pipe had a leak and some things were damaged. Well, we are pleased to have the pipe fixed now and Cailey has returned to reorganized the toys once again. All is getting back to normal.

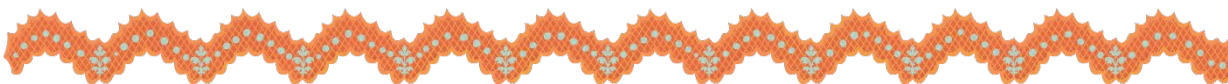
However, one very important piece of furniture was damaged beyond repair - **a rocking chair for parents** who want to sit with the kids, or for nursing moms. Now this chair needs to meet a few criteria:

- needs to be small, just the size for an adult and baby, but not massive to take up the whole space in the nursery.
- needs to be a comfortable, padded seat kind of chair, perhaps a glider
- needs to be safe, not too many places for little fingers to get caught.

If you think you have a "Just right kind of chair" might you think of donating it to the nursery?? However, please do not bring the chair to the church. Take a photo of it and send that to [cailey.mcculloch@gmail.com](mailto:cailey.mcculloch@gmail.com). We will get back to you and pick it up if it is a suitable chair.

Thanks for your consideration to this matter.

P.S. The Barbies in the nursery have no clothing. Oh dear!! Feel free to donate an outfit or two if you can.



**AMY MCCLURE HOUSE** As many of you know, we have a group of volunteers that help serve breakfast 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. We can always use more volunteers, as some of our volunteers have holidays planned in the new year. 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](mailto:cclpool@sasktel.net).



# BIG MCCLURE THANK YOU

On Friday, Oct. 13, about 80 people gathered to visit, dance, bid on some fantastic baskets, and enjoy a fun night.

We had approximately 20 children and young people in the crowd so that made things even more exciting.

Thank you to all the folks who baked, created baskets, organized, sold tickets, worked the concession and many more tasks to make this a very special evening

Of course, every event needs folks who buy tickets and attend. So, another thank-you to those who came out, danced, and bid on baskets. The photo booth was a hit with many, who got their picture taken with an "almost real" horse!!! The kids were treated to a fish pond, and door prizes. Bill Webster and his team at Night Owl Entertainment provided the music and we were able to enjoy songs from many eras. A big McClure thank you to them too. **All in all, it was a great evening.**

**Your donations helped us to raise over \$3000 for refugee projects. Well done, McClure!!!**



## Meals on Wheels – Thank you to Will Arcscott and call for volunteers

Will Arcscott will be retiring in December after delivering meals to clients for over 10 years. During Covid due to SHA age restrictions on drivers, he alone faithfully delivered meals every Friday for 15 months for McClure. We are so grateful for his faithful service. Be sure and thank him when you see him.

McClure delivers meals on wheels on Fridays from Preston Extendicare which is across from Market Mall. Pick up for meals is at 11:30 a.m. and delivery usually takes about 1 hour. Right now, there are not very many meals to deliver (about 4 or 5). We are in need of one other person or couple to deliver meals. Volunteers typically deliver at the most once a month. If this is something that you would like to participate in, please call Carol Claypool at 306-664-2285 or [cclpool@sasktel.net](mailto:cclpool@sasktel.net). We would love to have you join our team!

# 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**

**November 18, 8am.**

**Next gatherings:**

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 a topic 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

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.

Please contact Saskatoon Youth Coordinator:

Kyle Feader 306-361-2759

[kyle@yxeyouthunited.ca](mailto:kyle@yxeyouthunited.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.

**ic Sunday Morning, December 3 – 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 backlog. Letters will be sent to those already transferred but not yet recognized in worship. 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.

The first step is to contact the congregation where your membership currently resides and ask them to send to McClure a letter of transfer.

Once we receive it we will let our Board know you have officially made McClure UC your home and then your membership will be recorded in our membership log.

## Name Tags

We are thinking about good ways to welcome Emily to ministry among us and wearing a name-tag would be most helpful. If you would like to purchase a McClure specific name-tag please contact the office and order one.

Cost is

\$9.50 for tag with a pin,

\$12.50 for a tag with a magnet.



## December Worship News

December 3 – Transfer of membership

December 10 at 7pm -Blue Christmas Service

December 17 10am– Cantata – Special Christmas music by our McClure Choir.

December 24 No worship service in the morning

December 24 - two Christmas Eve celebrations: 7pm with children in mind and 10pm communion



## Pet Blessing Memories





## **SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS**

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

If you are looking to do an act of kindness, and/or an alternative to gift giving this Christmas, consider filling a sock for a homeless adult in Saskatoon. Make it a family affair!

Fill the socks and bring them to the church on Sunday, November 19 or 26 or any time that the office is open during those weeks. Collection bins will be placed inside of the **East doors**.

Community Support Officers will hand out the socks to adults living on the street leading up to Christmas.

*For ease in distribution, please mark the socks:*

- *for either a woman or man, or gender neutral and*
- *designate that a gift card is enclosed if you have done so. We will have extra money to purchase gift cards to add to the socks which do not yet have one.*

*If you are unable to fill a sock, cash donations or supplies for additional socks are greatly appreciated.*

Cash/cheque donations may be made at the office; specify it is for the Socks for the Homeless project. Make cheques payable to McClure United Church. We will use this money to purchase gift cards or items to put into other socks.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS**

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, etc.

### **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. Everyone likes a treat!

**Gift Certificates from a place that is open 24 hours (like Tim Horton's, McDonald's) = a place of refuge at -40 °.**

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.*

For further information, please contact Carol Claypool at 306-664-2285 or [cclpool@sasktel.net](mailto:cclpool@sasktel.net)

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





### The Big Blue Food Barrel Project

As a very little girl, my mother taught me to try to begin prayer with a word of thanks. My bedtime prayer always began with, "Thank you God for food, clothing and shelter." Even three quarters of a century later I still find myself beginning with those words. Such basic things and yet we see all around us the hurting lives of those who go without such necessities of life. They are all within humankind's ability to provide, but the will to do so seems sadly wanting.

Here at our church, we keep a big blue "Food Bank" barrel in the front foyer. We still have enough people attending our worship to be able to fill that barrel each and every Sunday.

I encourage you to create a habit of bringing a non-perishable gift of food every Sunday, especially as we approach the time of year when we thank God for the gift of a special wee baby born many years ago. Could not an item or two of food brought to weekly worship be a way to thank God as we care for those in our community who are in need?

We have all grown used to scanning the grocery prices these days. For under five dollars each week, it is possible to find a healthy food item for the barrel. Yes, it might mean one less coffee a week, but the feeling of giving will more than make up for that. Please join Rob and me in bringing an item or two for the food barrel each Sunday through the rest of this year.

Sheila Lavender

### Support for Young and Lincoln Richards

If you have been on Facebook  
"Go Fund Me" page started by  
members of our congregation and

you will have noticed a  
Bruce and Margaret Richards,  
parents to the late Jason Richards

a candidate for ministry from McClure.

Jason's partner, Young and son Lincoln now live in Ontario and they are facing financial challenges. Young was diagnosed with cancer herself just weeks before Jason died. Young's treatments continue and thus she is unable to work at his time.

e- We are publishing her address and her email address for transfer purposes for those who would like to lend a hand financially or by sending cards, and notes of support and love.

This information is shared with  
permission.  
Young Richards  
Box 2993  
St. Mary's ON N4X1C1  
Revyoungucc@gmail.  
com

# MCCLURE PLACE RESIDENTS

## McClure Place Happenings

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

This past October, we have been grateful for the beautiful fall colors and the calm warm weather which was especially enjoyed by being outdoors.

The Annual General Meeting of McClure Place Residents Association Inc was held on September 25, 2023. Tribute was paid to 5 residents who have passed away in the past year. We are grateful to the Board for serving, and for looking after the affairs of McClure Place.

On October 4<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed a delicious Thanksgiving Banquet prepared by our kitchen staff. Over a hundred residents enjoyed a meal of ham, a variety of foods, and pumpkin pie. Following the meal, the Old Tyme Rhythm Makers entertained us with toe tapping music while some couples enjoyed dancing.

Our parking lot looks great following the application of re-surfacing complete with bright new yellow lines separating the parking spaces. Thank you to our volunteer gardening committee who tidied up and prepared the flower beds for winter.

Fitness classes are ongoing, as well as yoga and the Fit after Fifty classes. Other activities continue with SSCL classes, movies, cribbage, chorister practice, knitting and writing circle. Canasta has recently been added; several people attended the “learning classes” and will meet every second Thursday evening.

Newcomer’s Tea is a special time when we welcome those residents who have made McClure Place their home during the past year. We heard a short life history from each new resident, enjoyed pumpkin squares with whipped cream, and songs by our Choristers. Thank you to the Member Relation and Support Committee for all their work and planning, and for the two beautiful roses that each newcomer was given.

A flu and covid immunization clinic was held on our premises on October 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Nurse Kara and Nurse Nicole for organizing the clinic, and for guiding everyone through it on the clinic days, and most importantly, thank you to Alana, the pharmacist, who very capably injected our arms.

Eleanor Elliott

## 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](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

## Newsletter Format Options:

Our monthly newsletter is available at the church website & it's also e-mailed directly to everyone on the e-mail list.

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

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



## Passionate about the work, ministry & mission of the wider United Church of Canada?

Please check out these links for news & updates:  
**UCC National Newsletters:**

<https://united-church.ca/e-newsletters>



**UCC Mission & Service:** <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/generosity-through-mission-and-service>

## 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](mailto:eskrueger@sasktel.net)

## December/January Newsletter Deadline:

Sunday, November 26, 2023

## 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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## Ministry Personnel

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## Office Administrator

Irene Lacoursiere

## Administrative Assistant

Eden Polischuk

Data Entry Clerk

Pam Turner

## Music Coordinator

Shirley Blackburn

Pianist

Elin Sletmoen

Pianist

