



# SUNSET UNITED CHURCH

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Ministers: All of Us! With Kathy Platt



## Advent Reflection - *from Kathy Platt*

Every Thursday morning there is a small group of faith-filled women who gather for prayer and Bible study in the room that is appropriately named “Hope”. At the end of their educational time, each person is given a page of a prayer to read. It is a very thoughtful and compassionate prayer about our church, our community, our world. Included in the prayer are the names of people in our church community, or their friends, who have asked for prayers – people who are struggling with a wide variety of issues from health to grief to family issues. It is heart-warming to sit there and listen to the names of people, many whom I know; some whom I have never met. Although I sometimes have more questions about prayer than I have answers, one of things that I hold as truth is that prayer is often about connection – connection with God, connection with a Spirit of life and love, connection with stranger & with friend. It is good to be intentional and to pause for a moment to bring to mind those people and places that are in need of prayer. It is also good to be bold in asking for others to hold us in prayer when we are going through a difficult situation. It is one of the ways that we build community with each other and it is one of the ways that we remind each other that we have companions on this journey of life. Just to say the name of the person is prayer enough – we don’t need to have answers – we are not being asked to fix or even understand whatever may be wounded or broken. We are just asked to take the time to say the person’s name out loud and to trust that there is a Spirit at work that will strengthen the person to walk whatever path they may be on. As you know, Sunset United Church is in a time of transition. We are doing our best to simply walk the path, one step at a time, and to trust that the way ahead will

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become more evident as time goes on. As we wait to see what will be born in terms of our own lives, and the life of this church community, I hope we will take the time to hold each other in prayer. This past Sunday we had a bit of a spontaneous flash mob moment as I invited people to come and join me if they knew the song that I was singing: “*If you’re happy and you know it...*” Carter, six years old, led the way as he literally leapt to his feet to run up and show his happiness in clapping along with me. His enthusiasm was contagious, and we were soon joined by a multitude of people who were ready and willing to clap along with us. Sometimes prayer involves quietly mentioning the names of those we care about; sometimes prayer involves leaping to our feet to sing about those things that make us happy. However it is that you live out the prayers that you hold in your heart this Advent season, may you know your connection to this amazing community of Sunset United Church. And may we continue to feel the Spirit at work, calling us into life – enabling us to move out into this messy, chaotic world to be the faith-filled presence that God calls us to be.

## **Join us for Worship...**

### **Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> : *First Sunday in Advent***

- Celebrating with the sacrament of communion
- Regular Sunday School – learning the Christmas story through making ornaments and building a nativity scene

### **Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> : *Second Sunday in Advent***

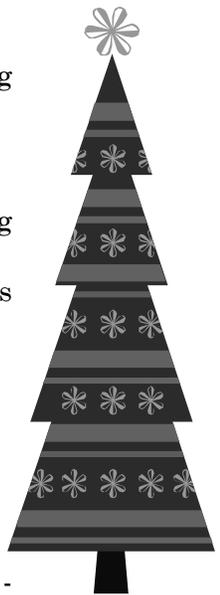
- White Gift service with Sunday School and Sunset Choir jointly leading worship
- Gifts collected to donate to the Rainbow Youth Centre for their Christmas Stocking Project

### **Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> : *Third Sunday in Advent***

- Sunset Choir Cantata – hearing the Christmas story through music
- Whisper table for children

### **Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>: *Christmas Quiet***

- Sometimes the pace leading up to Christmas can get a little bit out of hand - shopping and decorating and shopping and visiting and shopping - and however else it may unfold in your life. We invite you to pause - to take an hour to come and just **be** for a little while. Shirley Hill is going to play some music for us while we sit in a circle, have a cup of tea if so inclined, and contemplate some of the quotes that we have gathered together - but mostly just sit and breathe for a spell. It is not a concert, and it is not an educational conversational event. It is an hour of Christmas Quiet in Community.



**Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>: *Longest Night/Blue Christmas service – 7:00 p.m.***

- A service of hope for anyone who finds Christmas a difficult time – a promise that you are not alone and that you have companions on the journey
- Invitation to light candles for anyone you may be missing this season; or as a prayer for strength for whatever loss you may be experiencing this season
- Followed by a time of refreshment and conversation

**Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>: *Fourth Sunday in Advent***

- Celebration of Baptism
- Whisper table for children

**Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: *Christmas Eve***

- **4:30 p.m. – *interactive all-ages service (a wee bit noisy!)***
- **9:00 p.m. – *reflective, candle-light service (a wee bit quieter!)***



**Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

- Regular Sunday morning worship
- Whisper Table for children

**This year, for the four Sundays in Advent (Dec 2, 9, 16 & 23), Kathy is looking for people who might have a nativity/creche that has a story you would be willing to share with us.** A few years ago, Diether Peschken brought his nativity scene to the Church for a Sunday morning. It was built by Diether's father and was one of the few things Diether still has from his childhood. Do you have a creche that you set up every Christmas that has particular significance to you? It may be that when you set it up it reminds you of a dog who chewed away on the wings of the angel; it may be that you bought it somewhere and it reminds you of that holiday place; it may be that it is one you had when you were young...who knows what stories we hold in this community? There are only 4 Sundays this year, but there will be another 4 Sundays to do this again next year! So...if you have a nativity scene and a story you could bring on one of those four Sundays in December, please let Kathy know as soon as possible. Either call her at the office, or send an e-mail to: [sunsetunited.kathy@gmail.com](mailto:sunsetunited.kathy@gmail.com).

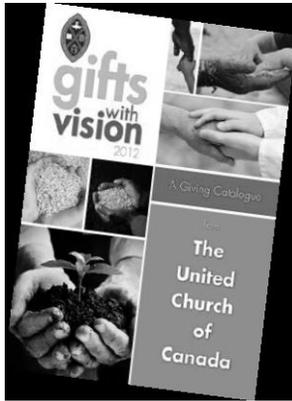
## 2013 Canadian Church Calendars

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" ... Psalm 122:1*



**Perfect as a gift for a loved one this holiday season, perhaps for a shut-in who wants to feel connected to the church or for yourself, no matter for whom ...**

**Visit Marci in the office to get a copy today! Only \$5.00**



**Gifts with Vision** - The United Church of Canada developed the giving catalogue *Gifts with Vision* in response to member requests to be able to give gifts to relatives, friends, and loved ones that are in direct support of the church's Mission and Service Fund partners across Canada and around the world.

If you are seeking inspiring new gift ideas or perhaps would rather not give family and friends the same old clothes/toys/chocolates, *Gifts with Vision* presents a new way to celebrate special occasions. Give a gift that can help change people's lives!

The 2012 catalogue is the first to be widely offered by the national church. This *Gifts with Vision* follows successful local catalogues developed in Bay of Quinte and London Conferences, as well as last year's positive first-year pilot test of *Gifts with Vision* in Bay of Quinte, Montreal and Ottawa, and Saskatchewan Conferences. (Note: To support London Conference's existing successful catalogue, *Gifts with Vision* will not be circulated to London Conference. Also, during this test phase, the catalogue will be available in English only.)

Gift funding raised for partners through the catalogue will be over and above the regular member-supported, stable core funding that these partners receive.

Everyone will find something in *Gifts with Vision* worth sharing with the special people in their lives. Gifts are available in a range of dollar amounts, as well as for many areas of need (hunger, shelter, education, health, safety, mobility, and more).

***Catalogues are available at the west entrance and in the church office.***



If you have automatic debits from your bank account to pay for insurance, cable TV, taxes, fuel, or a mortgage, then you understand the PAR principle. It means regular contributions throughout the year that make it easy to donate to the United Church.

PAR, or Pre-Authorized Remittance, is a direct debit program that allows people to support their church through an

automatic monthly withdrawal from their bank account. The United Church administers the program following the giver's wishes (e.g., X amount for local church expenses and X amount for the Mission and Service Fund). Once a month, all PAR givings are debited from givers' accounts and then the total, less a service fee, is electronically transferred to local church accounts.

PAR was introduced in 1976 as a convenient way for members and adherents to provide consistent, year-round financial support for their local church. It's now growing at a rate of about 15 percent every year. Increasing numbers of people find that monthly direct debiting allows them to more intentionally plan and honour their financial commitments to their local church especially throughout the summer.



***To sign up for PAR, see the displays in the Church. Your PAR donation can be changed or cancelled at anytime simply by advising the office.***



Sunset's White Gift Sunday will be December 9. Please consider the following as your gifts will be going to the children & youth at Rainbow Youth Centre. Sandra acknowledges that they can't make this happen without the ongoing support of Sunset. They are sincerely grateful for all we do!

## Christmas Stocking Project for Infants, Toddlers, and Youth

Rainbow Youth Centre is a multi-cultural, community-based organization providing support services for young people aged 11 to 25 years in the City of Regina. Programming at the Centre includes: educational, social, and recreational activities for youth 11 – 19 years; and employment preparation, and parenting programs for youth up to 25 years. Please go to [www.rainbowyouth.com](http://www.rainbowyouth.com) for more information about services.

On **December 19, 2012** Rainbow Youth Centre will be holding its **Annual Christmas Celebration** for participants. The celebration includes a traditional Christmas supper and the distribution of Christmas Stockings to the youth and the young adults (including their infants and toddlers) who are regularly involved with programming. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 350 Christmas stockings given to participants this year.

The success of the Christmas Stocking Project relies heavily on donations. Each Stocking is filled with various hygiene products valued at about \$29.00 per bag. We invite your business/organization to make a donation and contribute items that are greatly needed by young people in our community. Christmas ***"Shopping Lists"*** are included. A charitable tax receipt can be issued for your monetary and merchandise donations. Your contributions will be acknowledged in Rainbow Youth Centre publications.

For more information about Rainbow's Christmas Stocking Project please contact Sandra Pfeifer at 757-9743 or email [spfeifer@rainbowyouth.com](mailto:spfeifer@rainbowyouth.com). Deadline for donations is Monday December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for considering our request. Best wishes for the ***Christmas Season!***

Sincerely,  
Sandra M. Pfeifer  
On behalf of Rainbow's Christmas Stocking Project



*~ Please see the Shopping List on page 6 ~*



**SUNSET LADIES FELLOWSHIP** invites all women in the congregation to our Annual Christmas Potluck at 5:30 p.m. on December 10, 2012 at the church. Bring your favourite dish and enjoy fellowship and an inspirational message from Wynn Edwards. This is an opportunity to make new friends. We will be making a donation to a charity, watch for this announcement in the bulletin.

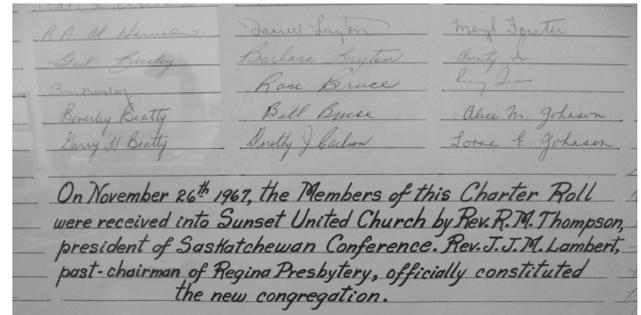
**2012 Shopping List**

- ☆ Toques (sizes: infant, child, and adult)
- ☆ Mittens (sizes: infant, child, and adult)
- ☆ Socks (sizes: infant and child)
- ☆ Socks (sizes: adult, white sport socks)
- ☆ Toothbrushes (children's and adult)
- ☆ Toothpaste (children's and adult – 75 ml)
- ☆ Deodorant (male and female)
- ☆ Shampoo (baby, children's and adult – 500 / 710 ml)
- ☆ Soap (bar soap, not liquid)
- ☆ Coloring Books (children's)
- ☆ Reading Books (infant, children)
- ☆ Crayons (wax crayons)



**Sale**  
**Crafts, Christmas decorations & preserves will be sold after Church on December 9th, 2012. We encourage you to invite your friends to stop by!**

**If you prefer to let Rainbow Elves do the shopping, please consider donating a Gift Card from Shoppers Drug Mart, Superstore, Giant Tiger, or Wal-Mart.**



**DEADLINE DATE**

Donations for stockings need to be received on or before  
 Monday December 10, 2012.

**Happy 45<sup>th</sup> Birthday to us! November 26<sup>th</sup> marks the beginnings of our church community. Thank you to those whose vision chartered our path and to all who sustain it today.**

**Speaking of Rainbow Youth Centre -**

Rainbow Youth Centre hosted its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on September 15th. Over 450 people attended and as a Sunset volunteer, I handed out 400 bags of candy floss to many happy (sticky) children! There was food; music, games and the heart-warming touch of having a young woman speak to how Rainbow Youth Centre has impacted her life. The emcee for the day was a woman I first came to know as the RYC cook; she is now working in a role there with the KidsFirst program. In chatting with her and some other staff, we guesstimated that I first became involved with Rainbow almost 25 years ago (how is that possible?) and really tuned into their needs after meeting Sandra Pfeiffer. I brought Rainbow to the attention of a group I was involved with at this time and we took up regular baking bees, among other projects, at the Centre. All of the crispy cookies and lopsided muffins were enjoyed by the kids just as though they had come right out of the Cake Boss' oven. Knowing that we were providing a snack and a smile to a child on any given day, was so *very* rewarding – and while it sounds cliché, proved that by doing just a little bit, together, we can really make BIG differences for those who need it the most. – Marci Brisbane





## A note about our Sunday School

This year we are using a new curriculum called *The Workshop Rotation Model*

(worm for short!). The curriculum began in the United States, but is used by more and more Canadian churches all the time. All of the resources are found in “forums” on the internet – people will post ideas that have worked in their particular setting, and then we can adapt their ideas so that they will work in our context. We pay an annual membership cost of \$30, which means that there will be more money in our budget to spend on materials needed for the various workshops. The theory is that the children will hear a Bible story as part of children’s time one Sunday, and then for the next 3 or 4 Sundays they will work with that same Bible story in different workshops such as drama, art, cooking, wood-working, computer/audio-visuals, or music. We launched the first session with the story of Moses being hidden in the bull-rushes. Kathy told the story with a bit of Improv theatre – meaning with no rehearsal and no script! We had Miriam and the Princess and the Mother of Moses – plus we had a live baby Moses! Abel was baptised that morning – grandson of Stuart & Irene White. When we put him in the basket he just lay there and grinned up at us as we hid him behind the pot of sunflowers (our version of the bull rushes)! We then talked about how the story reminds us of how important

it is that we value the babies in our community and that we do what we can to help them feel safe and warm and loved. The “workshop” that we used to explore that story for the next couple of weeks was making fleece blankets, which the Sunday School kids are going to give to all the families who have had children baptised here in the last two years – that will happen Sunday, Nov 18<sup>th</sup> when those families have been invited to join us for worship. The second week that the kids were working with the story, they went to Sunday School and their teacher had them acting out the story, but didn’t tell them ahead of time what the story was. She got to the part about putting the baby in the basket and one of the kids piped up, “Hey – that’s the story we heard in church last week”! Which is exactly what we are hoping for – that by working with the story for more than one week, they will actually come to recognize the stories when they hear them. Our hope is that as we continue to get familiar with how to use the website that we will get ever more creative with the workshops that we offer. Who knows when you might get asked to help our kids cook or build or sew? We do it all with the goal of continuing to build community across the generations. The co-ordinators for our Sunday School this year are Lana Orban and Colleen King. Please speak to either one of them if you would like more information – or if you want to find out how to get involved!



**Christmas office hours – closed from December 22<sup>nd</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>; reopening January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kathy will be away from the Church December 25<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup> but will be available by phone for pastoral care.**

## Memories of a very successful 'Sunflower Siesta'

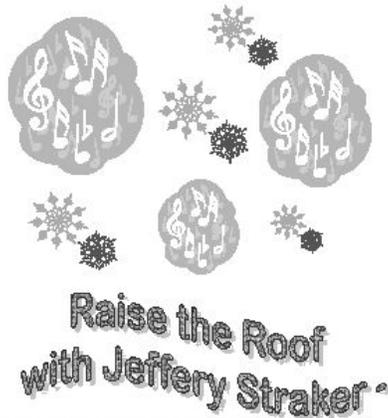


Photos courtesy of Jessie Carlson

On October 12, Sunset Ladies Fellowship hosted their first ever – and perhaps, first annual – fundraising noon luncheon, “A Sunflower Siesta.” With elegant sandwiches, delightful desserts and the sounds of Jeannie McKillop, the sold out event was received with much acclaim. Added to the delight of the afternoon was the beautiful display of sunflower art by three generations of one very talented family; grandmother, mother and daughter. For the daughter Lori Glier, this was the first time her art had been exhibited alongside her Mom’s and Grandma’s. A very special thank you goes to the artists for their gift of time and talents to the event and hats off to Ladies Fellowship for far exceeding their goal of “maybe, just maybe, selling eighty tickets” for this new endeavour.

So, as we move from the season of sunflowers to the season of snow, we reflect on the success of one event and look forward to another – one that brings the Centrum to life with the season of Christmas through the music of Jeffery Straker.

**Tickets for Jeffery Straker are available in the church office during regular hours, at Avord Chiropractic - 2300 McIntyre St, or by contacting Dave Millar – 586-5326**  
*~Remember to bring your donations for the Food Bank~*



**December 1, 2012  
7:30 pm  
Sunset United  
Church  
177 Sunset Drive**

This evening of song with Jeffery Straker will kick start your heart and lift your soul into the spirit of Christmas, so gather your family & friends and plan now for December 1!

**Tickets: \$20 advance  
\$25 at the door**

*Singer-songwriter-pianist Jeffery Straker tours 100+ shows a year across Canada and has had a top 10 music video on Much More Music. He recently performed his sold-out orchestral debut with the Regina Symphony Orchestra and released his latest recording 'Vagabond' to critical acclaim.*



*~In the spirit of the season, donations of non-perishable food items for the Regina Food Bank will be gratefully accepted~*



Sunset United Church – 586-3613 [www.sunsetunited.ca](http://www.sunsetunited.ca)