

The Script



Lent 2016

SUNSET UNITED CHURCH

177 Sunset Drive, S4S 6Y7; Tel. (306)586-3613; Fax. (306)586-3099

Email: sunsetunited.office@sasktel.net www.sunsetunited.ca

Ministers: All of Us! With Kathy Platt and Michelle McConkey

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A Blessing to Ease Us into Spring!



*May the Sun bring you new energy by day.
May the Moon softly restore you by night.
May the rain wash away your worries.
May the breeze blow new strength into your being.
May you walk gently through the world – and know its
beauty all the days of your life.*

(Apache blessing)

Sunday School!

This year is going great with Sunday School! We rarely have under 10 kids attending each week, which is fun but busy. I try to incorporate different styles of learning so we aren't always just doing a craft.

In April, we are going to look at the wonders of creation. I will use the creation story and, as long as the weather cooperates, the outdoors to see all the wonders right outside the window! The kids will use games, art, cooking and a puppet show to explore the story!

Our Sunday School wind-up this year will be on May 15. During the first two weeks in May, the kids will create a prayer and learn a song to share with the congregation on May 15th. I will send out more information when it is closer.

Remember that the family camping weekend is June 10-12! We always have fun and I plan something for the kids to give their parents a break.

Kathy's Sabbatical: **August 15 – November 15, 2016**

The United Church of Canada has a policy that every five years, a minister is entitled to a three-month sabbatical. The theory is that the minister needs time to focus on their own ministry – to learn, to rest, to replenish the soul. The sabbatical policy arose out of the reality that many ministers were finding themselves burned out by the heavy demands of pastoral ministry. In earlier years, ministers tended to move around every 5 or 6 years. The reality of today's world, is that many ministers are staying in one place for longer periods of time, which can lead to a tired out minister. It benefits both the congregation and the minister to take the notion of "Sabbath" seriously so the ministry that is provided can continue to be vital and life-giving for everyone. Five years ago I was on sabbatical, and part of that involved 6 weeks in Africa. This year, my plans are much less radical. My focus truly is on allowing myself to rest for a wee while. I will be going to Halifax for about 8 or 9 weeks. I have a place to stay while I am there. I intend to immerse myself in East Coast life, spending time with a family I know quite well from Manitoba days. I will read, I will write, I will do some volunteer with an inner-city ministry – and I am hugely looking forward to exploring the hiking trails around Halifax. Imagine the pictures I will bring back for our worship power points! I have been working with a small group of people from our community to put worship plans in place for the 3 months that I am gone. I think you will find the worship experiences quite invigorating. I am very happy at the response of those who are being asked to step forward to share their leadership on the Sundays that I am away. To lead in worship can be a very vulnerable experience, and so I truly hope that you will come forward to support these folk – many of whom have not shared their faith in this way before. I look forward to hearing about how it all went when I return on November 15th!

EASTER SERVICES AND MORE...

March:

- Thursday, March 24th - Maundy Thursday (6:00 p.m.)
- Friday, March 25th - Good Friday (10:30 a.m.), followed with hot cross buns
- Sunday, March 27th - Sunrise Easter morning service (6:30 a.m.) Gathered round the fire pit, at the church (sunrise at 6:45)
- Sunday, March 27th - Regular Easter morning worship (10:30 a.m.), crafts & games for children



April: Special Appeals month with guests from our chosen organizations

- Sunday, April 3 – Ruth Blaser to speak about Astonished!
- Sunday, April 10 – Bonnie Morton to speak about Regina Anti-Poverty Minister (RAPM)
- Sunday, April 17 – update from Lumsden Beach Camp

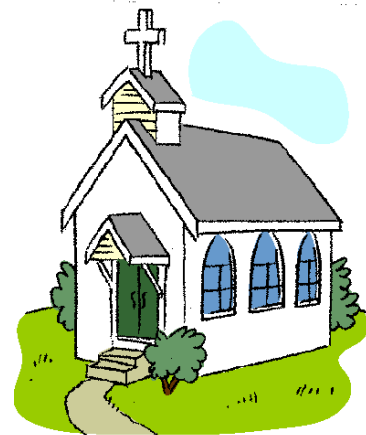
May: Regular services each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

June:

- Sunday, June 5 – **no service at Sunset.** We will be joining the Conference of Saskatchewan for their worship service at Westminster United Church – 10:00 a.m. - Guest preacher is the moderator of United Church of Canada-Reverend Jordan Cantwell
- Sunday, June 13 – Kathy away at family camp. Ruth Blaser, Brenda MacLauchlan and the Singers of the Sacred Web will lead in worship.

Summer Tri-Church Community

This is the third year of our summer worship schedule where we become a closer community with two other congregations in this part of Regina – with Whitmore Park United Church, and with Wesley United Church. We have done it in a 12 weeks per year, 3 year cycle. The first year, Sunset hosted for the last 4 weeks of the cycle, the second year we hosted the first 4 weeks, and this year we are going to host the middle 4 weeks of the cycle. What has become clear, is that for the most part, people really look forward to seeing each other for those 3 summer months. Our numbers stay pretty steady around 100 per week – which is roughly 40 or so per community. And it does seem to be equally supported by all 3 congregations. As a worship leader, it is a huge treat to enter the summer months this way. It is lovely to feel the energy of so many United Church folk gathered together in the heat of the summer. And it truly does feel rest-full to know that I am going to be able to enjoy more Sabbath time myself during the summer months – each minister only leads worship for 4 of the 12 weeks. We still only take a month of holidays, but to be able to relax on those other weekends is a very nice treat. We begin this year at Wesley United Church on Sunday, June 19th – for that service all 3 ministers will be present, and members of our Board will be taking part in a covenant where we agree to become a tri-church community for 12 weeks. Come and join us if you are able!



Summer Tri-Church Schedule

June – September, 2016

June and into the summer:

-Everyone in their own churches for June 5 & 12

-June 19, June 26, July 3 & July 10 – Wesley United Church, 10:00 a.m.

-July 17, 24, 31 & August 7 – at Sunset United Church, 10:00 a.m.

-August 14, 21, 28 & September 4 – at Whitmore Park United Church

-Kathy will preach at Whitmore Park on August 14 – the last Sunday before she begins her three-month sabbatical. We have a great line-up of worship leaders for the weeks that Kathy is away this fall, and will provide you with that information before the end of June.



Special Appeal time –

April 3 through May 1, 2016

The Sunset United Church Community Service Committee works at coordinating projects for a number of agencies during the year. In some cases our best contribution is time and energy, and in some cases our best effort is to provide funding to agencies that are mission and service oriented through our annual “Special Appeal”.

This year our Appeal will be directed towards three important causes:

- Astonished
- Regina Anti-poverty Ministry
- Lumsden Beach Camp

You will receive more information about these organizations and their purpose throughout April. The Special Appeals envelopes requesting that you consider making a donation will be made available at the church office during the campaign period. If Sunset has your email we will send you the brochure via email, if you have consented to receive electronic correspondence.

The committee thanks everyone in advance for any and all support that you are able to provide these worthy agencies. **Please make any donation cheques out directly to the agency you wish to support.**

Thank you from your Community Services Committee.

Sunset Ladies Fellowship



Bakeless Bake Sale

During the month of May, Sunset Ladies Fellowship are asking the congregation to support "The Bakeless Bake Sale". All donations are gratefully accepted. Donation envelopes for the Bakeless Bake Sale will be available at the church office or in the front lobby on Sunday mornings in the month of May.

Thanks for your support...

Family Camping Adventure

Friday, June 10 - Sunday, June 12

Our group site has been booked once again out at Rowan's Ravine. It's always a bit of a gamble on whether we will have sun or rain - but we seem to find a way to make it work whatever the weather may be! It is fun to see our community deepen a little bit when we gather in a new context, in a new setting. So, please, consider coming to join us this year. And if camping is not your preferred mode - you could always come and join us for the pot-luck supper on the Saturday evening. Campfire, skits and smores - can't get much better than that!

Whether you want to come for one night of camping or two....or whether you just want to come for the potluck supper, please let the church office (at sunsetunited.office@sasktel.net or at 306-586-3613) know what your plans are so we can sign you in at the camp office prior to your arrival and make sure that everyone who wants a camping spot has one! More details will follow about activities we have planned.....





Family Dance

I hope you can find your dancing shoes, cause we are about to dance up a storm at Sunset United Church! On **Friday, April 22**, we will have a family dance in our worship space from 7 - 9 p.m. The band will be **Squeeze of Scotch!!** What a treat for us! Please - invite your friends - the more the merrier.

There will be a minimal cost (we haven't figured that out yet!!), and there will likely be a snack (we haven't figured that out yet!!). If you would like to help Heather Nelson and I figure that out, please let me know! Otherwise - stay tuned - more details will follow in due course.

Electronic Correspondence from the Church

If you are interested in receiving electronic correspondence (like weekly updates, newsletters, etc.) by email from Sunset United Church and are not doing so at this time, please send an email to the church office at sunsetunited.office@sasktel.net. We will forward you the appropriate approval/consent form. Once we have received your consent, we would be delighted to send you this information. Without your prior consent, we are unable to send you this information.