



## SUNSET UNITED CHURCH Summer 2012

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# Summer 2012

## Summer Sabbath

By Russell Mitchell-Walker

This spring, Kathy invited a number of people from our Sunset community to reflect on Sabbath and put these reflections together in a Sabbath booklet. Sabbath is a time of rest, to sit and renew ourselves, that we might be closer to God. We hope that this is what happens for folk on Sunday morning through worship. However, worship is not the only place that Sabbath can take place. The important thing about Sabbath is that it should bring us closer to or make us more aware of God; however we define God in our lives. Taking Sabbath brings us more in touch with our surroundings, more alive in ourselves and to those around us, more in tune with what is happening around us, being aware that we are part of a much larger creation and universe. All of these things are connected to becoming closer to God, that Divine presence in our lives. This can happen through worship; through quiet time of meditation or just silence and breathing; through being in nature - by a lake, in wide open prairies or in the mountains; through a meaningful conversation with friends or family over a meal or drink. The list can go on and on as there are many ways we can experience Sabbath, rest and renewal. This is evidenced by the wide variety of experiences shared in the booklet. This may also reflect that there is a changing understanding of what church and spirituality is and what connects us to God. Years ago most would have thought that the way to spend the Sabbath had to include going to church on Sunday. Today this is not the case. I have found myself doing a lot of thinking lately about the church, society, spirituality and people's changing needs and issues. The church is not viewed the same as it used to be. People are seeking spirituality but it may not be through the church, or they have been jaded by their opinion of the church and religion so they don't believe they can find it there. I believe we in the church, need to reflect on how we

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### Summer worship - time change:

**Beginning June 3, our services will begin at 10 am.**

**We will be worshipping at Whitmore Park United Church in July.**

might need to adapt and change to address these changing views and perspectives. There is opportunity for us, if we are willing to learn, adapt and take the risks involved in finding new ways of being church in the future. According to Anthony Robinson, author of Changing the Conversation, A Third Way for Congregations we need to be clear about our purpose and put God at the Centre. Finding and making the time for our Sabbath, including but not limited to being committed to gathering in community Sunday mornings is part of that change. So as we take Sabbath this summer, in whatever way is nurturing for you, may it be renewing and restful, bringing you closer to God. May we come back with renewed energy and vigour as a community of faith to be clear about our purpose, living it out to reach out to the community around us who are thirsting for spirituality and God, but not wanting religion. I offer you many blessings, as you celebrate this season and may you experience God in meaningful and powerful ways.

### **Plans underway for 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spiritual Retreat**

Plans are well under way for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spiritual Retreat to the Rockies. We have 10 people signed up this year. We will be away August 8 - 14<sup>th</sup>, sleeping in our wee little tents for four nights in the back country. This year we will be hiking in the Mount Assiniboine area, near the ski hill at Sunshine. As always, we will come back with many stories, and pictures, which we will be eager to share with the rest of our community in the fall!

- Kathy Platt

### **Beverages and Beliefs**



Do you:

Wonder if your beliefs are out of sync with the church?  
Wonder what other people or the ministers really believe?  
Have questions of faith and spirituality?  
You are invited to come out to gather on a summer patio for a drink and discussion. Invite your friends!  
First gathering, June 4, 7pm at Bonzinnis  
4634 Albert Street.

**Let Russell know if you are interested:  
sunsetunited.russell@sasktel.net**

### **Ministerial Staff during the Summer at Sunset and Whitmore Park**

One of Kathy and Russell will be available during the months of July and August. Russell will be away on vacation from July 2<sup>nd</sup> until August 6<sup>th</sup>. Kathy will be leading the hike from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, then on vacation until September 11<sup>th</sup>.

We will again be joining Whitmore Park congregation for the summer. Worship services will be at Whitmore Park during July and at Sunset in August.

While both Kathy and Russell will be in their offices during July and August, respectively, they will be "in and out" so it might be best to contact the church office by telephone - 586-3613 - if you wish to contact a member of the ministerial staff. If no one is there, a recording will provide you with contact information. - **Ross Macnab**



**The office will be closed during the month of July,  
regular office hours resume on August 1<sup>st</sup>.**

## Affirming Ministry Working Circle

Well? What do you all think? About the posters, I mean. Have you seen some of the posters on display at the church from the Sunset Perspectives Poster Project? Some of the committees have engaged in this creative process around differing perspectives and they have posters on display to prove it! So look for the posters when you are at the church and give us some feedback. We hope that the posters raise more questions than answers and keep a conversation going about the many valid ways that we each see the world from our own place and how diversity in our community is a celebration. If you haven't submitted your poster ideas or met with our committee to start that process....well....giddy up... because we have a worship service planned for June 3<sup>rd</sup> to wind up the project.

Please set aside June 23 on your calendars for the upcoming **Pride Parade**, as well. This is a fun event, again, a celebration of diversity, and we would love to share the experience with as many from Sunset as possible. We walk with folk from St James and Eastside United Churches and meet with them before the Parade to decorate our "float". Watch for details in the bulletin in June as we approach the date. We hope to see many of you there, carrying our banner and announcing publically that at Sunset we believe that "God's Love Includes All"!

- Kelly Warden on behalf of the AMWC



### Sunset Ladies Fellowship Garage Sale

Items may be dropped off at the Church the remainder of May & June. We want only small items; no clothes.

For information, call Merle, 585-1970 or Jessie, 586-0211.

This year we are raising money for our usual budget items, which include Lumsden Beach Camp, Carmichael Outreach, RAPM and Mutchmor Lodge. We are asking for both items and person power to make this event successful.

**June 28- 10 am to 8 pm**

**June 29- 1 to 8 pm**

**June 30- 10 am to 1 pm**

## Sunset needs your voice!

Sunset United Church has started its **Needs Assessment** process. This process includes several steps, each step building on the previous one to guide us as we go deeper into our consultation.

### *So what have we accomplished so far?*

- ❖ On April 30, both ministers (*Kathy and Russell*) met with the Join Needs Assessment Committee to share their own insight regarding their experiences of Sunset.

- ❖ On May 27, the church service focused on a ***Congregational Consultation***. Together, we named and celebrated the aliveness of our church (*Where do I see our mission in action...; Where do I feel involved...; What support my sense of connection to this church*). We also took time to name some our growing edges (*What new actions would help reach our mission...; What barriers interfere with my involvement...; What would enhance my sense of connection to this church...*). Responses collected on sticky notes will be posted on the back wall of the church. Over the following 2 weeks, it will be possible to add to these notes as well as help identify themes emerging from our answers.

***This is only the beginning.***

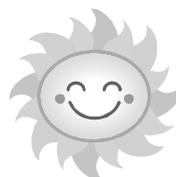
The Join Needs Assessment Committee (*J.N.A.C.*) has identified other ways to assess the needs of our congregation:

- ***Individual Contacts (by phone or in person)*** will be made to reach those who may be a bit less connected to Sunset at this time as well as to hear those who may prefer to have “one on one” conversations. Please contact Daniel Dumont if you wish to have such a contact.
- Using threads identified through the process, ***a Questionnaire (Electronic and Paper versions)*** will be created and used to survey the congregation in September.
- ***Town Hall*** types of gatherings will then be used to have group discussions about the church and go deeper in the exploration of our needs.

By the end of September, J.N.A.C. hopes to have all the information needed for its report which should be completed by early November. Please contact Daniel Dumont, Chair of J.N.A.C. if you have any questions, concerns or/and ideas about this needs assessment process.

- **Daniel Dumont** *Chair of J.N.A.C., Sunset United Church* Contact: 757-3080 or [daniel.dumont.ma@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.dumont.ma@gmail.com)

**Summer Worship Schedule:**



**Starting June 3rd, summer worship is all at 10:00 a.m.**

- June 3 - 2 baptisms, and a celebration of the Poster Project with the Affirming Ministry Circle. Emma Cameron will be our guest soloist that day.
- June 10 - Kathy & Russell away at the annual meeting of Saskatchewan Conference. Worship will be led by Ross Macnab and friends. Bill and Nancy Edwards will be our singing duo that day.
- June 17 - Regular worship.
- June 24 - Celebrating communion; receiving new members that day.

**For the month of July**, we invite people to worship with Whitmore Park United Church - 336 Durham Drive - 10:00 a.m.

**For the month of August**, Whitmore Park congregation will join us for worship. Tricia Gerhard is the new minister at Whitmore Park - we know that they will want to hear her, and our congregation will want to celebrate with her, and so we have invited her to share in the worship leadership for the month.

- Aug 5 - Regular worship with Kathy
- Aug 12 - Regular worship with Tricia
- Aug 19 - Regular worship with Russell
- Aug 26 - Regular worship with Tricia

- **Kevin Perrey**