



October, 2018 Newsletter



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Weaving the Web!

Have you ever seen a spider weaving its web? I have seen it happen a few times, but even though it's rare to see and observe the mystery of weaving, I never spent longer than three to five minutes to stay there quietly and witness the superb craftwork of my small creature friends. Sometimes I think about how many people are scared of spiders. We like to display black spiders on our windows or on the wall as we get close to Halloween. We do that because we have the idea that most people are scared of spiders. This fear has a fancy scientific name: Arachnophobia. Arachnophobia, or the fear of spiders, is the oldest and most common phobia in Western culture.

In the coming months, Immanuel United Church will engage in a counterArachnophobia project to generate a meaningful channel of communication between people who are already inside the Immanuel community and others who are curious about us and want to check us out on-line. Yes! We are going to re-weave or newly-weave Immanuel's church website – It's not a scary project; it is not about the spider, it's about the web! Imagine the beautiful, delicate work a spider makes meticulously with every little stitch... Our ad-hoc three-member communication team (including myself) has just started their work to make the new cobweb. We have our sticky legs, (i.e. skills, experience, passion and interest.) and we need you! You and your contributions (stories) will be our proteinaceous spider silk! Try to pronounce Proteinaceous! It certainly sounds nutritious!

The concept and principles by which our team will weave the web are centered on the power of stories.

First, we will need to think about the goal: What do we want to achieve through our new web content? What overarching story will help us achieve our goal? Who needs to hear our story? What do we know about them, and what will grab their attention?

Jennifer Aaker tells us in her YouTube video, *Harnessing the Power of Story*, "Everyone needs a signature story. It's a story that, after you tell it ... people look at you differently. And the most powerful stories are those that take the audience where you want them to go."

As the minister and member of my beloved community, Immanuel, I hope we can use technology to tell stories about ourselves, especially

how we find joy in what we do
how we find happiness,
how we find meaning,
how we find connections how we become part of something bigger.



I believe the most recent great example of a community-wide significant, signature story was Orange Shirt Day, with the stories and the group photo that was taken on Sept 30th, right after Sunday worship. On that day, honouring the Indian Residential School survivors and remembered those who did not survive, we, Immanuel United Church, wore Orange Shirts and showed our colours. Then after tea, about 22 people stayed to watch the second episode of First Contact together. The conversation we had after the showing was invaluable, truthful, and connectational. Heart-to-heart Conversation is what makes the community strong!

By the way, our group picture has been widely shared through Facebook and Twitter, just within the three days following its posting. We've got a total of 17 shares and reached more than 1000 people. More than 100 people engaged with us, taking a close look at our picture. Some were trying to find their friends and were glad to spot them.

Spiders often amaze us with their ingenious creation of their webs. They know how to shape their home to be both strong and attractive. Humans are set up to understand stories and re-tell them. Stories take the community a long way. This fall, let's be a Spider-community, building our beautiful, durable, web!



A Room with a View



I had a wonderful summer and now fall is upon us and I am back into the swing of things. I have been busy in the office and look forward to the Fall Supper. Any questions/ concerns please don't hesitate to let me know.

*Sharon Vandenberg,
Office Administrator*



New Phone Directory

The Pastoral Team along with Sharon Barbour and Sharon Vandenberg are working at publishing a new telephone/address directory for the church. If you have any of the following:

- 1) Changes in your present listing that needs to be updated
- 2) An email address you would agree to be included
- 3) Or if you've moved from the city and would like to remain in the directory

Please be in touch with Sharon in the office by phone or email.
It is long overdue, so we would appreciate your help! Thanks!

Joan Macdonald, Muriel Kenyon, Sharon Barbour and Sharon Vandenberg.



Congratulations to Ha Na on her appointment to the Denominational Council Executive of the United Church of Canada. The Denominational Council Executive, also referred to as the General Council Executive, is a national committee of the United Church of Canada which works to decide how the United Church lives out its mission. Ha Na understands the role of the Executive to be visionary, a place for learning and discussion and growth. Ha Na has been appointed as one of 15 representatives from applicants across Canada. It is indeed an honour for Ha Na to be chosen.

Membership on the Executive requires Ha Na attend meetings in Toronto a few times a year; other work can be done remotely. Any costs incurred and any coverage for Sunday services are paid for by the national church. Ha Na is still our full time minister; work like this in the wider church can be a part of a minister's job. The position on the Executive is a three year term, beginning September, 2018, and it is a commitment which Ha Na did not enter lightly. Each step of the process involved reflection on Ha Na's part, discussions with her M and P liaison, and discussions at meetings of both M and P and the Immanuel Council. Work in the national church is a big commitment when Ha Na has been at Immanuel for only one year. At the same time, Ha Na has much to offer and has many contributions to make at Immanuel and in the national church.

Ha Na, we have been blessed in the first year of your ministry and we look forward to deepening our relationship with you. We congratulate you on your appointment and will continue to work with you to support you as our minister and, also, to support you as a member of the General Council Executive.

Fowl Supper

Yes, it's our opportunity to invite our friends, neighbours and family in for dinner. This year, we are preparing for 500 guests. That's the number we've served the last couple of years.

We are available for sign up in the Amen corner after worship or contact me at **204-793-1286** or by email afryza@msn.com . We can always use young legs to serve! Do you know any "young-older" grandchildren, nieces, nephews or friends who would like to join in the fun and give us a hand.

Mark it on your calendar, invite folks by telephone, or through your e-mail list. We'll be ready to provide hospitality for our guests who want to enjoy a delicious dinner.

Alison Fryza



Fowl Supper

**Saturday, October 27, 2018
4:00 to 7:00 pm**

**\$15.00 per person
\$8.00/children 14 years of age and under
Children age 7 and under Free**

**\$40.00/Family
Includes 2 Adults with children (under 14 years of age)
Immanuel United Church 755 Golspie Street 204-669-0220**



Immanuel's Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank

By the time you read this, our 15th anniversary special service has already been held (October 14, 2018). We celebrated 15 years of supporting Winnipeg Harvest in our community. The Sunday school children and our volunteers took part in the service.

History. Winnipeg Harvest was started in 1983 by Lee Newton who lived in East Kildonan. She was watching a documentary called "City Hunger" which showed line ups of people at New York City Food Banks. She thought if they can do it, why can't we do it here in Winnipeg. She made it her mission and organized volunteers and funding. David Northcott joined her crusade and later became the CEO of Winnipeg Harvest. The first Winnipeg Harvest was held on July 1, 1985. They had a small truck and a few volunteers. They set up shop in the core area. Lee was involved for 25 years until she retired in 2010. She passed away on Feb 8, 2014. She received many tributes and awards during her lifetime and there is a sculpture of her in the Citizen Hall of Fame at Assiniboine Park.

Kae Lovelace from Immanuel was a volunteer in the office at Winnipeg Harvest. Kae approached the church board about starting a food bank. Kae recruited other members of Immanuel including Kay Follows, Kay Scott, Joyce Smyth and Paul Hendricks and together they organized the first food bank at Immanuel which was on July 14, 2003. Kae drove her car to the Winnipeg Harvest warehouse, loaded up the groceries and brought it to the church. We started by helping 5 families. Later, Dick Korman joined the group and used his van to pick up the items. We gradually grew to serving 20 families every 2nd Monday. In 2016 we offered a friendship table where clients could have a coffee or tea and something to eat while they waited. Volunteers offer friendly conversation. In 2017 the sharing basket was introduced where members of the congregation can bring food items which are then used to help the families who come to our food bank. This has been a blessing especially during times where the supplies from Winnipeg Harvest are low. Winnipeg Harvest distributes donated vegetables, fruit, bread and other items. Winnipeg Harvest includes 1 item from each category for a family, soup, fruit or vegetable, pasta or rice and a protein. At a recent harvest, the 1 protein item was 1 can of pork and beans for each family. The sharing basket becomes an important support at those times.

We have had a number of volunteers come and go over the years but a special thanks to Jim Ross for his service and friendship.

Current Volunteers: Judy Bartlett, Marlene McNabb, Eileen and Ron Metcalfe, Darlene Hefferton, Connie and Orest Kryschuk, Joyce and Bruce Smyth, Dianne Tucker, George Stevens, Jack Turk, Meg Yahiro, Linda Gibson, Gloria Lyttle and Linda Pihulak.

Winnipeg Harvest's Mission:

1. Share food with hungry families
2. Offer learning and training opportunities for clients
3. Focus attention on hunger within our community and move towards long term solutions.

Submitted by Joyce Smyth

Mission & Service

As the current Mission and Service representative I would first like to thank Lynne Strome for her many years as our M&S Enthusiast ! Great job Lynne ! I would also like to thank those of you who have made M&S giving a regular part of your life.

As I start to read and learn about the many ways M&S givings change lives, bring healing, justice and hope, in Canada and around the world, I can only start to imagine what else M&S givings can accomplish.

Each and every day Mission & Service givings are making a difference in somebody's life. The funds are distributed to a very large variety of projects and programs in Canada and overseas. A portion of the fund is also annually allocated for emergency response to allow an immediate and initial response to world crisis. Thousands of meals are served, unemployable people find new hope in work programs, and people in need of housing find shelter.

So imagine along with me what else could be accomplished and if you have not yet given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life. Consider also, a Mission & Service emergency relief donation as requested by the United Church of Canada at times of disaster as disasters will require funding over and above the regular commitments. Donate with great confidence that your giving will be used as intended to make a difference.

Respectfully, Judy Gierys

The position of Sunday School Director is filled!



The Search Committee for the Sunday School Director is pleased to announce that **Aisha Tahir** has been hired for the period of October 1, 2018 to May 12, 2019, for up to 8 hours per week. Aisha will work collaboratively with Ha Na to evaluate curricula, integrate the children's program into the life of the church and explore and coordinate other activities as agreed upon. She will be accountable to the Ministry and Personnel Committee through her liaison and to Ha Na.

Welcome to Immanuel, Aisha! We look forward to getting to know you!

Anne Duncan, for
Kerry LaRoque and Leslie Ross of the
Sunday School Director Search Team

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The United Church of Canada requires every church to have a Ministry and Personnel Committee and the committee at Immanuel meets monthly. M and P provides support for the staff and congregation with respect to any issue affecting the staff of the church; the staff includes the minister, secretary, organist, choir leader, caretaker, and Sunday School director. M and P acts as a liaison between staff and the congregation, and each staff member has a designated liaison person on the committee. The committee works to build positive and trusting relationships between staff and members of the congregation. Staff can raise issues and concerns with M and P, as can any member of the congregation. Issues are dealt with confidentially; we listen and do our best to find resolutions.

If you have praise for or concerns about staff, you may speak with a committee member: presently serving on the committee are Jennifer Antymis, Sharon Doerksen, Anne Duncan, Marian Mathews and Dianne Tucker.

Immanuel United Church is blessed to have committed staff and we are thankful for their work in our congregation.

Submitted by Sharon Doerksen for M and P

Finance Report



Our financial picture as of the end of September is not as good as it was the same time last year. Here is a comparison of our operational numbers to September 2017

	September 2017	September 2018	Difference
Income	\$40,842.28	\$37,751.16	Down \$3090.63
Expenses	\$29,733.67	\$40,836.75	Up \$11,103.08
Deficit	+\$11,108.61	-3085.10	Up \$14,193.71

Our income is down from the same time last year. Our envelope givings are down \$2753.86 and our open offering is down \$476.05. Our expenses are generally up from the same time last year. The biggest increase is in the pastoral ministry expenses. We need to remember that last year was unusual in that we did not have a minister for 2 months.

We are grateful for the gifts of the people of Immanuel towards the local operations of the congregation.

Our givings to M&S are also down. M&S last year was \$8660.06 and this year is \$7401.50, this is a decrease of \$1258.56. Many thanks to everyone who supports the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church.

Just a reminder that Immanuel's Red River Co-Op number is 193228 and can be used at any Red River Co-Op gas bar or grocery store.

Should you require envelopes or have any questions regarding your givings to Immanuel, they can be directed to a member of your finance team of Pat Schulz, Connie Kryschuk and Debbie Bilous.

Yours in Faithful Stewardship

Your Finance Team: Pat Schulz, Connie Kryschuk, Debbie Bilous

“JUST” CHRISTMAS NOV.4, 1:30-4PM
AT GORDON KING MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH



“JUST SUSTAINABLE SHOPPING”

“Just” Christmas is a cooperative justice project, for people to experience an alternative to “consumerism Christmas” shopping and at the same time support non-profit vendors to provide funding to worthwhile projects locally and globally, organized by the United Churches in the Northeast corner of the city. The location of the Market rotates to all the churches.

The gift items are attractive and varied. An example of the merchandise is aprons, bags, bird houses, knitted articles, greeting cards, jewelry, woven scarves, placemats, some clothing, delicious baking and many novel gift items, to name a few. Shopper's will support Grandmothers in Africa raising their orphaned grandchildren, initiating small businesses in Senegal, an orphanage in Swaziland, Winnipeg Harvest, Christmas L.I.T.E., L'Arche in Winnipeg, Rossbrook House and more.

Come to support these projects, enjoy a cup of tea, coffee and a cookie, and to meet the community. (By the way if you are able to donate a couple of dozen cookies for the refreshments, there is a signup sheet in the AMEN corner at the church. Thank you in advance!) Hope to see you there!

Any questions, contact Cindy Smyth or Muriel Kenyon