



October, 2019 Newsletter



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The minister's message ~ Rev. Ha Na Park

1. *Prajna*

Last night, before going to bed, my younger son Jah-bi told me something he had been thinking about lately. I said to him, affirming his words, "The truth is relative." I was not sure if he understood the word, "relative", but I trusted that he would remember my words in the future. Then, I also went to bed, and had a dream just before waking up the next morning. In the dream, I saw different forms of gods just like I was watching a slide show, while the dream vividly communicated the word "*prajna*" to me through visualized intuition. *Prajna* means the highest and purest form of knowledge, intelligence, understanding or wisdom in Buddhism and Hinduism. I wondered why I had come across this word, '*prajna*' in my dream. The last time I read or studied about *prajna* would have been when I was researching for my Master's degree in religion nearly 16 years ago. Have I been seeking some form of the "highest" or the purest form of wisdom these days? Have I dreamed it because I am seeking it internally and also need it? What can be the *prajna* in my life and in my ministry, as something I can share with people? God visits us as Wisdom, the purest and highest form of understanding. We should look for *prajna*, in our life's journey, our walk as a pilgrim to find the place of wisdom.

2. There's no Absolute *Prajna*

I pondered why I dreamed about *prajna*. I enjoy dream work and often get insightful benefits from it. *Prajna* means the supreme wisdom, knowledge and understanding about how we truly find ourselves, our happiness, the purpose and the meaning of life. The key is, I interpreted after my dream, that even if it is *prajna*, the highest truth, there's no single perpetual truth that is the same to everything, to every person, in every place, in every culture. Truth changes over time, and what is considered 'truth' is different and unique dependent on who has reached it, in which era, in which culture, in which part of the earth. This diversity is beautiful. No absolute claim of a single universal truth should exercise dominion; that rigidity has functioned as a vehicle to displace through colonization the truth that other societies possess. Some teachings are land-based, and they belong to the people who have passed them from generation to generation on their ancestral land.

3. God's Wisdom ... in Our Life

We have so much grief and sorrow going on in our Immanuel community right now. Grief, loss, death and deep sadness, so often a part of our life, seem more prevalent today. Someone has lost their best friend. Someone just let go of her youngest sister whom she cared for like her own child. Someone's dying and the family's gathering to help her go, bringing their love, watching her with loving eyes. Someone was grappling with questions about his own life's meaning, before he chose medically assisted dying and slipped away. We all try to accept death, to understand it with our hearts and carry on with love, yet it is not easy. We rely on our hope and faith in God, or the Holy Mystery, for answers and guidance.

When I ministered at Chemainus United Church, one church member really struggled with the blows of losses that kept coming one after another; she got very tired of wrestling with the deaths of her beloved friends and relatives. She came to prayer meetings with her husband, who suffered from multiple sclerosis and had difficulty walking; they never missed a session. One day she said, "I used to go square dancing with this group of lovely people and came home with the flowers of laughter. And none of them is any more. I counted. I let go of 21 people only within the last year. Grieving is very hard." Her name is Marion. I met her 6 years ago. And she's still as active as she used to be, and is on Facebook! She has grieved, but her reliance on God has stayed strong.

4. Griefwalker

Seeing Marion's grief, I suggested a film for her to watch. I think if you have someone dying and you care for them and your heart aches, you might be interested. The film is *Griefwalker*, a National Film Board of Canada feature documentary film. It is a lyrical, poetic portrait of Stephen Jenkinson's work with dying people. "Filmed

over a twelve-year period, Griefwalker shows Jenkinson in teaching sessions with doctors and nurses, in counselling sessions with dying people and their families, and in meditative and often frank exchanges with the film's director while paddling a birchbark canoe about the origins and consequences of his ideas for how we live and die." (from Orphan Wisdom's website) A few of the themes appearing in the film: Where does our culture's death phobia come from? Is there such a thing as good dying? Who are the dead to us? How can seeing your life's end be the beginning of your deep love of being alive? You can watch this film free (and safely), if you go to: <https://www.nfb.ca/film/griefwalker/> (1 hour and 10 mins.) Jenkinson says,

"Grief is not a feeling, it is a capacity. It is not something that disables you, we are not on the receiving end of grief - we are on the practising end of grief."

"Grief is the midwife of your capacity to be immensely grateful for being born."

"Grief is not a feeling. Grief is a skill and the twin of grief as a skill of life is the skill of being able to praise or love life, which means wherever you find one, authentically done, the other is very close at hand. Grief and the praise of life, side by side."

5. *Prajna*

Of course, some of the wisdom in Griefwalker is *prajna*; supremely wise, but not an absolute, prescriptive truth for everyone. Yet, I hope if you are interested, you can watch the one-hour film, Griefwalker, and see if someone else's *prajna* can accompany your grief walk ... and help you find your own wisdom and truth.

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. Any questions/ concerns
please don't hesitate to let me know.

*Sharon Vandenberg,
Office Administrator*

Remembering the Fowl Suppers

Even though we are not having a Fowl Supper this year, please come to Sunday Worship, October 27, 11 **am** as we celebrate and reminisce the past 49 years of sharing community with a turkey dinner.

If you have a memory send it to lynne.strome@gmail.com by Saturday, October 19 or put it in the Chicken Charlie box in the AMEN corner by Sunday October 20.

Surprises and laughter guaranteed!

MISSION & SERVICE

The restructuring of the church has strengthened Mission & Service. With the new funding formula your gifts to Mission & Service will continue to fund only our mission and ministry. Your gifts will continue to fund the important partners across Canada and around the world that we have grown to love. The unified funding approach means that one gift supports the work of all our programs. We have established strong long-term, trusting relationships with organizations that we fund. We know when we provide core funding that it will be put to the best possible use. When we respond to an emergency we know that the response will be there through our partners. So please give with a grateful 🍂 heart! Thank you to all who have already made giving to Mission & Service a regular part of life. Making a commitment to both Immanuel and Mission & Service is part of our Stewardship journey! *Respectfully, Judy Gierys, Mission & Service Representative for Immanuel United Church*



Immanuel's Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank

We operated during the summer. Supplies from Winnipeg Harvest were very sparse. We were able to add from items in the sharing basket. Thank you for your donations. Sept 9 we had a visit from the new Winnipeg Harvest liaison officer, Anthony Santoro. He was with us an hour and a half. He has some good ideas for improving delivery from Winnipeg Harvest. He was impressed with how we run our food bank. We welcome Ian Donnelly. The men are always happy for another pair of hands. We are always in need of protein items such as canned chicken, salmon, tuna etc. as well as pasta and pasta sauce. We have a good supply of baby diapers but are short of feminine hygiene products. Toilet paper is always in short supply. In closing, please continue to save all plastic bags. The bags that the Free Press and Sun come in are very useful to us.

Thanks for all your help! *Joyce Smyth*



River Elm School Breakfast Program

Immanuel sends up to four volunteers to the Breakfast Program every Wednesday morning.

There has been an increase in the number of children this year and at times we are serving up to seventy children.

The school has given us two of their T.A.'s (teacher assistants) to help us serve breakfast. We are very appreciative of the help as some of us are not as spry as we were several years ago.

The financial commitment has never been increased and it is still \$100 per month for the school year from September until June which totals \$1,000.

We have paid \$400 in September which covers payment till the end of December 2019, which leaves us with a balance of \$200 plus what will be received in the envelopes until the end of December.

We are running about \$200 short of what is needed to support the Breakfast Program till the end of the 2019-2020 school year. We need \$50 more per month for four months to complete this shortfall. Thanks to our faithful volunteers; Marlene McNabb, Connie Kryschuk and Dianne Tucker.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Gibson

Sharing Sunday

for Christmas - formerly White Gift
November 24th 2019

**This United Church Tradition brings an annual Advent
opportunity to prepare the way for Christmas and reach out
to our community.**

Gifts to bring: **money – use your envelope number**
 non perishable food items
 infant supplies
 children gifts and clothing (unwrapped)
 hygiene products

Recipients: **LITE (inner city employment)**
(as we are able) **Winnipeg Harvest**
 Interfaith Immigration (refugee support)
 One Just City (Stella and other ministries)
 Mission and Service (global outreach)
 Agape Table (breakfast & lunch programs)

Volunteers: **bring various gifts**
 children to present gifts at offering
 helpers to sort and pack
 drivers to deliver gifts

Inquiries: **Lynne Strome**

Finance Report

Here is a comparison of our operational numbers to August 31, 2018

	August 2018	August 2019	Difference
Income	\$23,907.95	\$27,179.74	Up \$3271.79
Expenses	\$31,929.80	\$36,608.13	Up \$4678.33
Deficit	-\$8,021.85	-\$9428.39	Up \$1406.54

Our income is up compared to the same period last year. This is likely due to having services here in August when last year we did not. However, our expenses are also up from last year which leaves us with a deficit that is \$1406 higher than the same period last year. Expenses are higher in several areas: Administration, Building and Property, Ministry Personnel and Support Staff. At our Annual Meeting in May, we forecast a deficit of \$36,043 for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. With a deficit of over \$9000.00 in the first 4 months of the year, it appears that our forecast will prove to be accurate.

Our M&S givings are up \$826.00 from last year.

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

A Celebration of the Life of Rev. Bill Hickerson

Our condolences to the family and friends of Bill Hickerson who died on [September 13](#), 2019 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Bill was the minister at Immanuel United Church from 1985 until his retirement in 1994, after which he remained an honoured elder in the church.

A Celebration of Life will take place at Immanuel United Church, 755 Golspie Street, Winnipeg, MB on [Sat, Nov 16](#), 2019 at 2 pm.

See the obituary for more info: www.immanuelunitedchurch.net/events/obituary-of-bill-hickerson/

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, Jim Jost, 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

Kimberly Terrace September 24, 2019

Since our last report, Kimberly Terrace has changed from a Condominium project to a Rental project. There will be one building with an elevator and twenty-nine units.

Also over the summer, Discovery Homes (Division of Gateway Construction) has been sold to a group of four Home Builders who have added Discovery Homes to the group and called them – Discovery Homes Ltd.

Gordon Gray is the representative of the new group and that is who we are dealing with now.

They are in the process of getting the land appraised and then will present us with a new proposal.

We will present the new proposal to our Council and if acceptable we will have it checked out by our lawyer and hopefully present it to the Congregational Meeting on October 20th after Worship.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend if possible. It will be an important meeting.

Bob Kenyon on behalf of the Kimberly Terrace Committee

“JUST” CHRISTMAS NOV 3rd, 1:30-4PM
AT TRANSCONA MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

209 Yale Avenue West



“JUST SUSTAINABLE SHOPPING”

"JUST" CHRISTMAS

Immanuel has been involved in the planning of this event with the five other United Churches in the northeast corner of Winnipeg for the past eleven years. It is an opportunity to shop for Christmas while benefitting people both locally and globally. For the most part the vendors are all volunteers who donate all the money to the project they support. For example, Grans' N more support Grandmothers in Africa who parent their orphaned grandchildren. Across Borders provide grants to women in 3rd world countries starting small businesses. Local groups such as Winnipeg Harvest and L.I.T.E. also benefit by groups donating their earnings. There will be a few new vendors this year so the merchandise is more varied. Watch for signs as we get closer to the event.

The location moves each year, among the participating churches. So, mark the date. Hope to see you there! Beverages and cookies are served.

Any questions, contact Cindy Smyth or Muriel Kenyon

The Refugee Community Support group at John Black Memorial United Church invites any interested neighbours to attend an information meeting. The family from Afghanistan's arrival is delayed in government processing but the efforts to be ready for the five new Canadians continues.

November 13, Wednesday supper time, at John Black an information meeting will update the situation and hopefully extend planning to help the new comers.

Details will be announced and a sign up sheet made available in the next while.

Lynne Strome