

February 2024 Newsletter



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Message from Rev Paul DuVal

It comes as a bit of a surprise to me that I have spent much of my adult life befriending favourite authors. One of these is Parker J. Palmer, whose latest book, “On the Brink of Everything”, describes approaching the age of eighty, and finding new perspectives on past, present, and future, and new insights into life, both inner and outer.

Not always, but often, the phrase “On the brink....” precedes something negative like “On the brink of collapse”, or “On the brink of disaster”. Yet it could just as well fit with, “On the brink of a new understanding”, or “On the brink of new possibilities”.

This newsletter comes to you at the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent. Yet, in a few weeks we will be “on the brink of spring”. It will be a new season of life and growth. As a congregation, we are “On the brink of a new adventure in collaborating with and building with, our neighbouring United Churches in the North-East part of Winnipeg. The details of who we are becoming, are still a mystery, but they will be much clearer before we enter the next season of Advent.

So, let’s delight in being “On the brink of something new”, and savour every moment of the journey!

Worship in Lent ~ Sometimes a theme or an idea sets the tone of a liturgical season. This Lent, we are going to let the lections create the context. Starting with God’s covenant with Noah, the rainbow will be our backdrop, and God’s promises will set the theme. As always, Jesus will move from Galilee towards the power centre of Jerusalem. In so doing, he will challenge the forces of control that characterize human authorities. Clouds might cover the rainbow from time to time.

During Lent we will all have a chance to physically manifest our prayers for the world, for those close to us, and for ourselves. Let us see where this journey leads!

A Room with a View

I enjoyed the Staff Appreciation on January 28th, I felt the warmth and caring from you all.

Always feel free to contact me in the office either by phone or email.

Looking forward to the Spring!

Sharon Vandenberg, Office Administrator



Immanuel Food Bank Update

Immanuel's Food Bank (as agency of Harvest Manitoba) continues to serve our community; 40 households, split between two Mondays a month.

While Harvest Manitoba provides us with as much food as they can donations from the congregation (whether food or money) is much appreciated. The clients are very appreciative of what is provided to them.

Thank you to all the volunteers running the Food Banks.

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The Ministry and Personnel Committee were pleased to welcome the congregation to a recognition of staff, with coffee and cake after worship on Sunday, January 28. As it turned out, folks from John Black attended as well, bringing cookies and joining in the conversation. We were delighted that all staff members were able to attend: Sharon Vandenberg, office administrator; Fahima Fazely, caretaker; Eileen Metcalfe, choir director; Peter Fyne, accompanist; and Paul DuVal, minister. We are so grateful for the thoughtful dedication each staff member brings to their work.

In less exciting news, M and P continues to meet the first Wednesday of every month. Each committee member contacts their staff member prior to the meeting to see how things are going. Staff and members of the congregation may share concerns with M and P. Issues are dealt with confidentially and we work to find resolutions. In March and April, we will once again be asking some members of the congregation to participate in the annual review process. We thank you in advance for your thoughtful contributions.

M and P committee members are Jennifer Antymis, Sharon Doerksen, Anne Duncan, Bob Tate and Dianne Tucker.



Mission & Service

Your continued support through Mission & Service makes a difference - Thank You!

Each year incredibly generous donors like yourself reach out and make gifts to Mission and Service. We hope this year is no different. There are dozens of different causes and ministries that your Mission and Service gifts support.

Think of what your gift means to a hungry child who is homeless due to war, an earthquake, or flood. Think of the family that will be provided with shelter because people like you decided to continue your support of our Mission and Service partners. Think of the blessings of food, shelter, medical aid and safety that can be shared, in Canada and around the world.

These are the gifts you are sharing when you decide to give to Mission and Service.

Even though we have blown out the candles of Advent, we all know that for many there is no peace, little joy, faltering hope, and little love from their neighbours.

Your gifts to Mission and Service can bring love, knowing someone cares. Your gifts can bring joy. The joy of a good meal. The joy of relief from pain and hunger. Your gifts will bring peace. The peace of mind that food will be there and that someone cares. The gift of hope. Hope that the future will be brighter.

When you make a gift to Mission and Service we are reminding people they are not alone.

Remember making a commitment to both Immanuel and Mission & Service is part of our Stewardship journey.

Thanks to all who continue to support our Mission and Service fund!

Respectfully,

Judy Gierys, Mission & Service Enthusiast

Looking Ahead Working Group Update

The Looking Ahead Working Group met at Immanuel in October with other N.E. Winnipeg area United Churches. We had followup meetings with Grey Street UC, Gordon King UC and John Black UC. After those meetings we found that John Black and Immanuel communities of faith were each ready to begin discussions to see how we could collaborate to share ministry personnel. We met once in January to begin to determine a process for making decisions about how we will collaborate and to figure out what a reasonable timeline might be. We are still in the initial phase of discussions.

- Immanuel's Profile Team is still in place after being formed last year and the members of that team attend the Looking Ahead meetings. The Profile Teams at Immanuel and at John Black will initially work separately to create a Living Faith Story for each community of faith. The Profile Teams will then work together over the coming months to create a Ministry Position Description.
- Our broad plan is to hire one full-time minister who will be paid in equal shares between the two communities of faith.
- We plan to worship together. One service will be offered each week, either at John Black or at Immanuel, altering locations weekly or monthly.
- The timeline we are currently envisioning is to hire a full-time minister on a one-year appointment beginning either July 1st or Sept 1st, 2024 when Paul's term ends at Immanuel and Laurie Howard's ends at John Black.
- We are choosing to have one more annual term appointment to give our two communities of faith time to develop and evaluate a more accurate job description in preparation for a longer term call and to determine how we can best use our buildings. During that year we would put out a call to hire a full-time minister beginning July 1st, 2025 whose job would be to work with John Black and Immanuel in a collaborative relationship.
- We are thinking we would keep both buildings for now and use the next year to evaluate how best to use the properties belonging to both communities of faith. Both congregations have indicated an interest in considering how to serve the community by working with a, yet to be determined, social enterprise.
- This is already a multi-phase approach. An additional future phase might involve collaboration with other communities of faith in N.E. Winnipeg.

This plan will continue to evolve as we meet monthly with the committee from John Black. As one might expect, the journey ahead fills us with excitement and trepidation.

Ruth Campbell, Ian Donnelly, Anne Duncan, Paul DuVal, Teri Gartner,
Connie Kryschuk, Cindy Smyth, Lynne Strome, Bob Tate

Sharing Christmas Report 2023

Your generous gifts were gratefully received and distributed as follows:

Harvest Manitoba -	\$400	
LITE inner city employment	\$350	
1 Just City inner city supports	\$350	plus 2 car loads full of winter wear
Interfaith Immigration (refugees)	\$632	(\$400 to general fund, \$232 to Welcome Place)
Agape Table hot meals	\$350	

Thank you letters received show once again how very much your kindness shares the Spirit.

Thanks be to God

It's Party Time with REWIND! February 24th from 7-9:30 pm come to a TBJIGGN night of entertainment here at Immanuel with the great **Show Band REWIND**. Fabulous music of the 50's, 60's, 70's, fun, snacks, and dancing. See Lynne Strome for tickets or call the church office at 204-669-0220. Tickets are \$20 each and all proceeds go to 1Just City.

What once was old is new again!
Northeast United Churches
present
*Music to warm your cold
Winter's Night!*
Hosted by Immanuel United Church in support of
1JustCity

featuring
REWIND the Show Band

For Tickets -
Contact:
(204) [redacted]

Saturday, February 24th ; 7:00 – 9:30 pm
755 Golspie Street at Kimberly Avenue Tickets - \$20

Worship Exchange March 3

It is Immanuel's turn to have worship at John Black at 10:30am on March 3rd. John Black is inviting us, as we did for them, to join their worship on March 3 while Paul DuVal takes a study leave.

Please mark your calendars accordingly, NOTE: time is 10:30am, also note Immanuel's doors will be closed Sunday March 3.

Car pooling can be arranged as necessary. Please see the sign up sheet for drivers and for rides and Leslie Donnelly and Lynne Strome will answer any questions you may have.

FYI John Black always serves coffee and tea following worship, which gives us more time to get to know our new collaborators.

Finance Team Report

Thank you to everyone who picked up their 2023 tax receipts or delivered receipts to family and friends. The balance of the receipts will be mailed on February 19th. If you do not receive your receipt by the end of February, please contact either Pat Schulz or Connie Kryschuk to make arrangements for a duplicate to be issued.

Yours in Faithful Stewardship

Your Finance Team: Pat Schulz and Connie Kryschuk

PLANNING AHEAD: AN UPDATED CONGREGATION LIST

As Immanuel United Church looks forward to some coming changes, one of the things we need to do is update our directory.

In the next few weeks we will all receive a contact information update form. Please fill it in and return it to the church so we can confirm your information.

**You are important to the church. You have a place in our sanctuary,
and on our contact list!**

TBJIGGN Lenten Worship and Other Events Calendar

GSUC Lenten Bible Study Group facilitated by GSUC Ginny Coleman.

Tuesday Evenings @ 7:30 pm via Zoom

February 13, 20, 27 and March 5, 12

To receive study material and participate in the Zoom discussion, please register with Ginny (kvcoleman@me.com)

BRC Lenten Bible Study Group facilitated by Patrick Woodbeck.

Wednesdays 10 – 11:30 am

February 21 to April 3, 2024

127 Cobourg Ave

Calling All TBJIGGN Singers!

Community Choir

Sundays from 6:30 to 8:30 pm

February 25 to March 17

At the Big Red Church

Final concert March 24 @ 7:30 pm

Lenten Challenge – Building Community

Plan to attend collaborative worship throughout Lent with the other TBJIGGN communities of faith.

Maundy Thursday - March 28 at 5:30 pm (potluck dinner and worship)

Grey Street United Church

World Day of Prayer

Transcona Memorial United Church

extends a warm invitation to all TBJIGGN Communities of Faith to attend the World Day of Prayer service

Friday March 1, 2024 @ 1:30 pm

Reception to follow