



November, 2024 Newsletter
Immanuel United Church
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Minister's Message

In the Midst of Uncertainty, God still comes!

Paul DuVal

Advent has come around again. Much of what we see around us is like what we experienced last year. War, famine, and upheaval, continue. Yet with elections and unexpected weather events, there is much that is uncertain.

Closer to home, Immanuel United Church and John Black United Church have begun our collaborative journey in earnest. There is excitement, and I detect some trepidation about how things will turn out.

Our worship planning team has suggested that our Advent theme should be:

“In the midst of uncertainty, God still comes!”

Deep down we may be nervous about how things will unfold. At the same time, we know that we cannot turn back the clock. What we really need this Advent is to nurture courage to face what is ahead, to embrace with enthusiasm the opportunities that we see, and to support one another in creating a future that will benefit us all.

During the season of Advent, we will observe many of the familiar traditions, candle-lighting, carols, stories, Blue Christmas, and both congregations will host a Christmas Eve service. Watch the announcements for times of special events.

In the midst of these “uncertain times”, I am reminded of Thomas King’s mantra from a radio program some years ago: “Stay calm, be brave, and watch for the signs!”

Blessed advent and Christmas!

A Room with a View

It's been a busy start since September.

Please feel free to call the church office or email me if you need anything.

I am in the office Tuesday to Thursday mornings.

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas!



Sharon Vandenberg, Office Administrator

Worship Cluster

Paul DuVal, Leslie Donnelly, Edith Treller, Lynne Strome Peggy Aitchison

The Immanuel-John Black worship cluster has been working well together since late August. September 22 we began taking turns having worship at each other's church and using 10:45 as our mutual starting time. You will notice we take turns having communion near the beginning of each month and that we take up offering separately as agreed for the early days of collaboration.

Paul DuVal, our faithful minister, shines as a collaborative leader. Eileen Metcalfe's mettle also beams as she leads the combined choir so beautifully. The choir itself is exceeding all expectations and enhances our worship service greatly.

The Tech Teams from both churches work seriously together so that Zoom and online services are available to our members. We acknowledge with much gratitude the efforts of the many

and various volunteers who pitch in to help make our worship time a welcoming and meaningful experience.

Taking John Black's lead of after worship "coffee and fellowship time", we are trying to enlist some coffee makers and clean up volunteers for when we host every second Sunday. Please consider being a part of the hospitality team.

The weekend of October 25 to 27 Immanuel and John Black were part of the great TBJIGGN success hosting the ALF (Adolescents Learning Faith) Regional Conference at "The Big Red Church". Thanks to all those who donated food and time and came out for the communal Sunday worship and lunch. Sharing with the youth is life giving and encourages all involved.

We are thrilled to have celebrated the baptism of Scarlett Winter Rose Romanoff, daughter of Julie and Michael on November 10. Such blessed events add much to the hopes for our future.

Advent planning has begun, the theme is "In the Midst of Uncertainty God Still Comes". We will continue to take turn about Sundays with John Black. On Christmas Eve, however, we will gather at our own church homes, Immanuel at 4 pm, John Black at 5:30pm.

As usual for the week following Christmas, our minister will take a well deserved break. Therefore on Sunday, December 29, we are invited once again for Cookies and Carols at Grey Street OR to enjoy North Kildonan United hospitality.

As we head into 2025 may we continue to support each other in prayer and fellowship. God is with us, we are not alone.

Minster Search Team News

Lynne Strome (Chair), Rob Smith, Cindy Smyth, Ruth Campbell, and: Peggy Aitchison, Ann Reichert, Connor DesAutel, John Drewitt.

The Search Team continues to receive applications , discern them and, if appropriate, arrange interviews. Our request to update and extend the Ministry Sharing Agreement with John Black and Paul DuVal as our minister is in process as we will need time beyond January 1, 2025 to accomplish the task of finding a minister to fill our needs. Progress reports will be made through announcements from time to time as necessary.

Living our Faith in the World Cluster



IMMANUEL FOOD BANK

We serve approximately 40 households, split between two Mondays each month. This is made up of about 100 clients (60% adults, 40% children. The children range in age from babies to age 18).

Volunteers are much appreciated to unload, and sort out the groceries (received in bulk) so are ready for each household to pick up their groceries between 10am and 12noon.

Each Monday Harvest Manitoba delivers for the number of clients for that day. Thanks to the congregation for donations that we use to supplement what has been delivered. Respectfully submitted by Judy Bartlett

SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The provincial government brought in a new food program for all schools in Manitoba, effective September 1st. For years, Carissa Campbell was in charge of the food program (breakfast, morning snacks and afternoon snacks) along with many other duties. She is now the volunteer coordinator and Nikki Bolter is the full-time nutrition coordinator. There is sufficient money from the government that financial support is no longer needed from Immanuel. The staff and students will always be very grateful for Immanuel's support over the years.

Happily, there is still a need for volunteers, and we (Marlene McNabb, Leslie Donnelly and myself) alternate months with John Black to make toast or waffles every Wednesday morning. So far, the lowest number of children coming for breakfast was 68 and the highest was 105. Respectfully submitted, Connie Kryschuk

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

This Amnesty International Program for 2024 will be held after Worship, date coming soon. We hope you will watch for this date so that you can participate.

SHARING CHRISTMAS

Sharing Christmas happened this year on Sunday, November 24. Your gifts of money will be shared by 1 Just City, Agape Table, LITE, Manitoba Harvest and Interfaith Immigration. All gifts of food will be for our Sharing Basket used by Manitoba Harvest clients.

NOTE: We are no longer asked to bring a variety of gifts or wrapping for what was the Christmas store.

Thank you for your kind and generous help. Please direct any questions to Lynne Strome.



AGAPE TABLE



CONNECTION WITH ST MATTHEWS

As you likely are aware, St. Matthews Marylands space was vandalized last year and they have been working out of West Broadway Community Ministry space. Now they have their own space which is in the renovated Balmoral Hotel. There will be a tour of that space on Tuesday December 10th. They are only able to take 12-15 folks on a tour so if you would like to come please see Jane Nicholls.

NEIGHBOURHOOD COFFEE TIME

On Wednesday Mornings from 10-12 a small group of our neighbours are meeting for coffee, chatting and playing games. We need one or two people to meet with them and make coffee (they bring their own cookies) and enjoy the fun. If you would like to help out once a month, please see Ruth Campbell.

SARAH'S HOUSE

We have been taking gifts of clothing and toiletries to Sarah's House. Joy Jost is looking after this project and hopes to take some items in February. You will hear more of this soon.

Many thanks to all those who contribute to these ongoing Programs. Ruth Campbell

Finance Report

Comparison to October 31, 2023

	October 2023	October 2024	Change
Income	\$42,631.48	\$45,334.41	Up \$2,702.93
Expenses	\$53,792.36	\$64,035.25	Up \$10,242.89
Deficit	\$11,160.88	\$18,700.84	Up \$7,539.96

Our local income is up over \$2,700 from this time last year. This includes increases of \$1,832.31 in donations to local expenses and \$3,129.70 in miscellaneous income. These increases have been offset by a decrease of \$2,255 to rental income.

Our expenses are also up by over \$10,000.00. This includes increases of \$8,720.12 in pastoral ministry expenses, \$1,624.17 in staff salary expenses and \$1,156.53 in building expenses.

Our deficit grew by \$6,289.21 in one month.

We requested and received a transfer of \$20,000.00 from the Kimberly Terrace funds to ensure that we have sufficient funds on hand to cover our expenses to the end of December.

Mission & Service & Special Relief

	October 2023	October 2024	Change
M&S	\$6,936.80	\$7,302.00	Up \$365.20
Special Relief	\$260.00	\$290.00	Up \$30.00
Total	\$7,196.80	\$7,592.00	Up \$395.20

We are grateful for the gifts of the people of Immanuel towards the local operations of the congregation. We also offer a thank you to everyone who supports the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church.

Donations to the church can be done in several different ways. We offer PAR which is an automatic deduction from your bank account once a month. You determine the amount of the deduction and allocation to Local and/or Mission and Service. You can use offering envelopes and donate on a weekly, monthly or other basis. Again you determine the amount of the gift and the allocation. If you have envelopes from prior years, please use them up. The 2025 envelopes will be ready in December. If you want to change the number of envelopes you have been receiving (i.e go from a box of 52 weekly envelopes to a box of 12 monthly envelopes or vice versa), please contact Connie Kryschuk.

As we near the end of the year, it is important to remember that if you want your donation to be reflected on your 2024 tax receipt, it needs to be received at the church by the end of the year. We will be doing our final deposit for 2024 on December 31st so please ensure your donation is received before then. Earlier is better than later!

Should you have any questions regarding your offerings or the financial reports, they can be directed to a member of your finance team of Pat Schulz and Connie Kryschuk.

Ministry and Personnel Committee

The Ministry and Personnel Committee continues to meet regularly, usually the first Wednesday of every month. In this time of transition for our church, the Immanuel M and P seeks to offer support for the staff of Immanuel Church: minister, Paul DuVal; office administrator, Sharon Vandenberg; accompanist, Peter Fyne; music director, Eileen Metcalfe; and caretaker, Fahima Fazely. Members of M and P are Jennifer Antymis, Sharon Doerksen, Anne Duncan, Bob Tait and Dianne Tucker. The committee acts as a liaison between the staff and congregation. Congregational members who have concerns regarding staff should contact a member of M and P. Concerns are heard and every effort is made to find a resolution. Praise is also welcome.

Save the Date – Saturday May 10, 2025 –

United Church of Canada 100th

The seven North East Winnipeg United Churches, TBJIGGN, plan to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada by arranging a concert of familiar hymns and anthems.

It will be called “Singing for a Century” and you will be the main singers. Stay tuned (giggle).



I'm sending a huge Thank You to all who helped at the reception at Joyce Smyth's Memorial Service. The card we received from the family stated, "Please pass our Thanks to all who helped." And I'm happy to do that. A huge THANKS to everyone who's helped with hospitality at Memorial Services.

I have referred to our participation as the Ministry of the kitchen. Yes, it's a time we work together but it's also a time to be together and remember together. Sometimes it's smooth sailing, sometimes it's confusing but it's always community. Each job is important. So on behalf of the many families who have expressed their gratitude, THANK YOU. ~Muriel Kenyon

Remembering The Honourable Murray Sinclair -an excerpt from November 6 Prairie to Pine newsletter.

The United Church of Canada marks with deep respect the passing of The Honourable Murray Sinclair. We give thanks for his life, for his service to Indigenous communities across Turtle Island, and for the challenge he put to Canada as a whole.

Senator Sinclair was dedicated to achieving justice for Indigenous peoples. He did this as a mentor, as a lawyer and judge, and as the Chief Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. It was as Commissioner that The United Church of Canada knew him best. He pushed us to tell the truth and to act with integrity in the TRC process. In so doing, he helped to shape the vision of the reconciling and anti-racist church that we aspire to be. As Commissioner, he heard many difficult things. This must have been a heavy load, even for a man with such broad shoulders. He also spoke very clearly and directly of the obligations that Canada, the churches, and other institutions owe to those we have harmed, and continue to harm. He was encouraging of the difficult work of reconciliation, saying most notably, "We have described for you a mountain. We have shown you the path to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing."

As Murray Sinclair now journeys back to the Creator, we send prayers for him, his children, and all his family. We include in those prayers our intention, as individuals and as a church, to continue the path he has marked out for us.

Statement from the family of Murray Sinclair on his passing

November 4, 2024

TREATY 1 TERRITORY/WINNIPEG — Peacefully and surrounded by love, The Honourable Murray Sinclair passed away early this morning, Monday, November 4, 2024. Mazina Giizhik (theOne Who Speaks of Pictures in the Sky) committed his life in service to the people: creating change, revealing truth, and leading with fairness throughout his career.

The impact of our dad's work reached far across the country and the world. From Residential School Survivors, to law students, to those who sat across from him in a courtroom, he was always known as an exceptional listener who treated everyone with dignity and respect. We know that stories of his kindness, generosity, and fairness will circulate for generations to come.

On behalf of Immanuel, Debbie Crump,
attended the P to P Regional Council Annual General Meeting.

Thank you Debbie. Please take a moment to look over the notes below for information about this meeting.

Prairie to Pine Regional Council Annual General Meeting

The Prairie to Pine Regional Council AGM was held by Zoom on the evenings of October 10 and 17, 2024

The meeting began with enabling motions, staff introductions, the Land Acknowledgment and opening worship. This was followed by a brief overview of reports and a report on the Zoom Town Hall meeting on June 25, 2024. (A follow-up of this meeting will be held on November 27 by Zoom.)

We then heard from our Moderator, the Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne with her warm greetings for our gathering. She reminded us of the call for equity and diversity when populating our committees and commissions and electing delegates to General Council 45 in Calgary 2025.

Vicki Nelson, Community of Faith Stewardship Support Staff for the Tri-Region gave us a Minute for Mission, highlighting two of the five recipients of 2023 Mission Support Grants: Wellman Lake Camp, and the Counselling Centre.

Next on the agenda was a conversation regarding trends and new relationships and more with Rev. Judy Hare, Pastoral Relations Minister, and Jordan Cantwell, Growth Animator with Organizational Development and Strategy for the United Church of Canada who serves the Tri-Region. We heard of the growth of collaborative ministries, the growing pains of navigating required steps for people entering ministry with the U.C.C. from another country, and the challenges of providing

support with few resources available. We heard of hope where Communities of Faith were stepping out into brand new ways of being in ministry and also of the importance of

acknowledging when a Community of Faith has reached its final stage. We were reminded that God is still at work and our job is to find out what is it now that God is calling us to do. The meeting closed with a time of remembering the ministers and laity who have died since we met in May of 2023 as well as the recognition of Communities of Faith that have disbanded.

The meeting continued on Wednesday, October 17 (also by Zoom) with opening worship. Next on the agenda was the Financial Report given by Shannon McCarthy, Heather Dootoff, Financial Administrator for Tri-Region, and Jennifer Pakula, Treasurer of Prairie to Pine R.C. People were invited to break out groups to discuss "When you think of the budget presentation, or items from last week's meeting, what are bigger picture Regional questions raised for you?"

The slate of nominees for General Council 45 was presented for the vote and was passed. Our next Minute for Mission was of three more recipients of the Mission Service Grant: Rock Lake United Church Camp, 1Just City, and Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre. Erin Ackland, Keeper of the Archives gave a presentation on preparing for the 100th anniversary of the United Church of Canada. Resources are available through the Prairie to Pine website as well as the United Church of Canada website. Closing worship was a celebration of recognition of two new Licenced Lay Worship Leaders Irma Nadeau and Diane McKenty, and a commissioning of the newly elected Commissioners and alternates to General Council 45.

Worship Calendar to Dec 29, 2024

December 8 Worship at Immanuel

December 15 Worship at John Black

December 15 Blue Christmas Service at John Black 1:30pm

December 22 Worship at Immanuel

Immanuel's Christmas Eve Service, December 24 4pm

John Black's Christmas Eve Service, December 24 5:30pm

Cookies and Carols Service at Grey Street December 29th 10:30am

