

SEPTEMBER 2022

ST. ANDREW'S

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
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Red Dress Prayer Vigil

October 4, 7:00 PM

National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people (MMIWG):

On October 4th, we honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people, support grieving families and communities, and create opportunities for healing. The day acts as a day for advocacy, support and remembrance of many communities and all Indigenous peoples affected by violence.

We are observing this day by gathering at **7 pm** at the church for a Sisters in Spirit candlelight vigil, prayer, and sharing circle. Also red dresses will be hung to symbolize the hundreds of Indigenous women and girls whose lives were stolen.

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Reflection

By Reverend Dave

Lean in? I dare you!

As we move into October this year, I'm going to ask something of you. The board and church committees (we're moving towards calling them "teams") are going to ask something of you. Not as a matter of obligation. This won't be a guilt thing.

It's not a thing where we'll say, "the church is depending on you." We're not looking for people to say stuff like, "well, okay. If you need me to do that. I guess." We're not trying to preserve the church. God will take care of that – if God wants to.

Our ask will be an invitation. An invitation to be part of something significant, something meaningful, something good. Our ask will be something of a dare, because what we're doing here in this church goes against "normal" at least a little bit, and that's scary. Our ask will be to something lively, something that will be joyful, life-giving, genuinely hopeful, fun. Our ask will be to something that will make your soul sing. And our ask may be to join in with something that doesn't even exist yet.

Yep. It's church. I and the church board will be asking you this October to lean in, to engage afresh with the mission of the church in some way.

While COVID is still with us, we seem to have passed something of a threshold. We can do stuff in person again. We can share food again. The community we have craved for the past two and a half years is possible again. Let's do it! Let's put some energy into each other again! (Continued on page 2...)



Come On Out To St. Andrew's in October!

Each Sunday in October the Teams of St. Andrew's will highlight their work and exciting opportunities for you to engage!

Reflection Continued...

By Reverend Dave

At the same time, we face multiple challenges and crises in the world today – climate and environmental, economic, political. There have been so many losses, here in the church and in the wider society. I don't know about you, but these things have pressed me down towards despair and depression in the last few years, and I very much need a sense of hope, and purpose, a sense of being involved in the Great Work of God in the world. I need to be about something that matters! I need to be part of the solution. Do you?

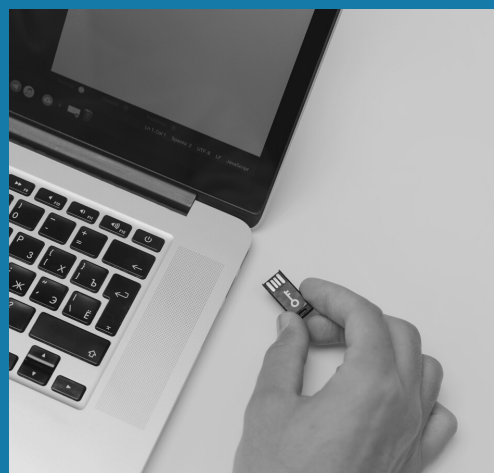
All of this is spiritual stuff. All of this is church stuff. Fredrick Buechner said that our spiritual vocation is the place where our deep joy meets the world's deep need. This October, we're going to invite you to find that place – or at least to take a good solid step in that direction! Maybe you'll find that place in one of the committees/teams of the church. There is not one single group or team in this church that is not doing something significant! If you find a match as the teams extend their invitations, good! Say yes! I dare you!

On the other hand, maybe you won't. That's fine, too. But in that case, we're going to invite you into some conversation: what would make your soul sing? What do you long to do? What calls you? Maybe there is something new that wants to be born. Maybe there's something happening in the wider community that feels like your Christian calling. This October, put yourself out there a bit. Throw out a possibility. I dare you!

I believe that God is moving among us, and that we have an opportunity now. So much is out of our control, but this at least is ours: we get to choose how we respond to the challenges around us, and we get to choose how we respond to the call of God within us.

Here at St. Andrew's, we have been a United Church for 100 years. 100 years of unifying ministry. 100 years of witnessing to, and living out, the love of God for all people. That's something to be proud of, as is the strength that we are carrying out of our centennial and into the future.

But I do think that this time is special. I think there is a moment to be seized here. Let's lean in. Let's say "yes" anew, to God's call! I dare us!



September Tech Tip!

Put your USB drive in the right way the first time!

Plugging in a USB cable the right way sounds like a no-brainer...but why do we get it wrong on the first try so often?

Here's the secret: Grab any USB cable sitting nearby. Look for a symbol on one side, see it? It's not just for branding or decoration. That symbol will point up if you're plugging in horizontally and if you're plugging a cable vertically, the USB symbol will face you. Now you know!

Orange Shirt Day

Sunday, September 25

A very special thank you to the LIRR Team and all who helped with Orange Shirt Day (National day of remembrance) held during worship September 25 for the victims of the Canadian Indian residential school system.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, formally known as Orange Shirt Day, is a Canadian statutory holiday to recognize the legacy of the Canadian Indian residential school system. Orange Shirt Day was first established as an observance in 2013, as part of an effort to promote awareness and education of the residential school system and the impact it has had on Indigenous communities.

Orange Shirt Day is an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters. Thank you all St. Andrew's attendees who wore orange to our morning worship service!



Don Fraser, Sandy James, Louise Maheu



Cecile Fausak



In Remembrance

Earlene Sahlin

July 2, 1939 - September 17, 2022

Celebration Dinner Save The Date!

Friday October 14, 6:30 PM

As part of the celebration of our 100th year as a United Church, we are inviting you to a dinner party!

Messy Church will be happening that evening at 5pm, and you're welcome to join in that as well! The Messy Church program finishes with supper, and that supper will be a common celebration with the rest of St. Andrew's.

We'll do our best to spark some interesting intergenerational conversations over supper, and following supper there will be a brief program inviting further conversations about what might be interesting and energizing you right now.

We are working on child care for this last portion of the evening, so that Messy Church folk can participate!

This will be a catered event, at no charge. Just come and bring yourself! Expect an email contact soon with more details.



Devotionals:

Please let the office know if you enjoy reading either the Upper Room or Our Daily Bread devotional books. This will give us a better idea of how many copies to order each month!

office@lacombeunitedchurch.ca



Healing Pathway

Sessions will be offered on the first and third Mondays of each month at 7:15 PM and 8:00 PM.

For further information or to book a session, please contact Marlene Ayer at [403-782-4327](tel:403-782-4327) or Pat Crozier at [403-598-9310](tel:403-598-9310).

Sisters in Spirit Vigils

Tuesday October 4, 7:00 PM



Beginning in 2006, the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) with the Anglican and United Church, organized vigils across Canada for family members, Indigenous members of the community and concerned citizens on October 4 to honour the memory of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and to seek justice for them.

Why a Red Dress?

It began with Métis artist Jaime Black's REDress Project, a public art installation in 2010 in Winnipeg that continues to see red dresses displayed in public spaces throughout Canada and the USA. Black chose the colour red after conversations with an Indigenous friend, who told her red is the only colour the spirits can see. "So (red) is really a calling back of the spirits of these women and allowing them a chance to be among us and have their voices heard through their family members and community". Black has also suggested red "relates to our lifeblood and that connection between all of us", and that it symbolizes both vitality and violence. The dresses are empty, so that they evoke the missing women who should be wearing them.



From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/REDress_Project

May 5 is observed as Red Dress Day, a day to raise awareness and educate about MMIWG2S.

National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQ+ people (MMIWG2S).

The National Inquiry into MMIWG2S issued its final report, including 231 Calls for Justice, in June 2019. Read it here: <http://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>. Eight of them apply to all Canadians. In June 2021, the federal government released a National Action Plan aimed at transforming the Calls for Justice into concrete actions.

You can read the 2022 annual report card of the Native Women's Association of Canada on the progress of the federal government on its National Action Plan. There is much work to be done. https://nwac.ca/.../FEDERAL_ANNUAL_SCORECARD_ACTIONPLAN...

The report stated that 1,181 Indigenous women were killed or went missing across the country between 1980 and 2012, with 225 cases unsolved. The names of 307 MMIWG in cases which CBC has investigated are listed here: <https://www.cbc.ca/missingandmurdered/>

On October 4, we continue to honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people, support grieving families and communities, and create opportunities for healing. The day acts as a day for advocacy, support and remembrance of many communities and all Indigenous peoples affected by violence.

October 4, 7 pm Let us gather on the steps of St. Andrew's United Church, Lacombe for a candlelight memorial vigil, followed by tea and a sharing circle regarding the Inquiry's Calls for Justice.