

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

United Church of Canada 96th Anniversary Sunday – June 6th, 2021

Prelude: “You’ve Got A Friend” – Carole King – Christie Coatsworth

Upcoming June Services:

June 13th – St. Andrew’s 163rd Anniversary Service

Friday June 18th: St. Andrew’s Strawberry and Broasted Chicken Take Out.

St. Andrew’s folks – help will be needed:

9 am (5 people) - Strawberry preparation

1 pm (5 people) – pre packaging: Strawberries, bun, cake, coleslaw etc.

4 pm (5 people, inside) – packing dinners,

4 pm (5 people, outside) - Traffic (2), Runners (2), floater (1)

We are expecting we can have up to ten people (after June 14th) if not, then we are restricted to five people. Please call Charlene Doyle to offer your help (If you are comfortable – you must wear a mask) (519) 689 – 4969 before June 16th. Thank you.

June 20th – Father’s Day & Shank’s Cemetery Service

June 25th – St. Luke’s Fish Fry Take Out.

St. Luke’s folks – help will be needed:

9 am (5 people) – Fish Preparation

1 pm (5 people) – pre packaging: Dessert, bun, coleslaw etc.

4 pm (5 people, inside) – packing dinners,

4 pm (5 people, outside) - Traffic (2), Runners (2), floater (1)

We are expecting we can have up to ten people (after June 14th) if not, then we are restricted to five people. Please call Marg Darnley to offer your help (If you are comfortable – you must wear a mask) (519) 689 – 4936 before June 23rd. Thank you.

June 27th – Canada Day Service with South Raleigh Firefighters

Welcome & Announcements:

Good morning! Welcome to St. Luke’s for today’s Service, celebrating the 96th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada.

Thank you for your support of our local Food Banks yesterday. If you missed it, feel free to drop your donations off and someone will make sure they get to the local Food Bank.

St. Andrew’s is hosting their Strawberry Social with Broasted Chicken on Friday June 18th. Tickets are \$25 and available from Alice at 519-689-4408. Pick up will be at the front door of St. Andrew’s from 5 to 6 pm. Advance tickets only.

St. Luke's next Fish Fry Take Out is Friday June 25th from 5 to 6 pm. Tickets are \$20 and available from Marjorie at 519-676-5641. Again advance tickets only.

Thank you for your support of all our services, which are posted on our websites - Southbuxton.ca and Talbotstreet.ca .

Thank you to Christie Coatsworth for our music this morning. Thank you to Tracey Major for putting together the Power Point slides.

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

Call to Worship:

Eric: O God, our vision, light our paths.

People: O God, our wisdom, guide our plans.

Eric: O God, our victory, be our peace.

People: For 96 years the United Church has held a presence in Canada,

Eric: as faithful people concerned with social justice, and helping the vulnerable.

People: Today we celebrate the coming together of at least three denominations almost 100 years ago, to become The United Church of Canada.

Eric: We come together to celebrate in worship.

Opening Hymn: VU 331 "The Church's One Foundation" – Video

- 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the Word;
from heaven he came and sought us to be his Holy Bride
with his own blood he bought her and for her life he died.
- 2 Called out from every nation, yet one through all the earth;
her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses and shares one holy food;
As to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.
- 3 We see her long divided by heresy and sect;
Yet she by God is guided one people one elect:
Her vigil she is keeping; her cry goes up, 'How long?'
and soon the night of weeping shall be the dawn of song.
- 4 In toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blessed,
at last the church victorious shall be the church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,
and mystic, sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O, happy ones, and holy! Lord, grant to us your grace,
with them, the meek and lowly, in heaven to see your face.

Opening Prayer:

Ever-present God, as we enter this space in body, mind, and spirit, move us to settle into the notion that we are never separated from your presence. Remind us today of your blessings on our church, your unending grace, and your presence and your grace among us. Amen.

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8: 4 - 20 “Whining” - by

Whining... You know what I am talking about, right? When you want something, and you ask for it, and then your parent, caregiver, or teacher tell you “no.” So you immediately start whining in hopes that they will give in and give it to you.

The Bible tells the story of the prophet and judge Samuel. Samuel was a great leader for the people of Israel. The people of Israel did not have a king; they had judges who led them and helped them to live in God’s way. Samuel was one of the judges. When someone had a problem, they would come to Samuel. Samuel would pray, listen to God’s answer, and then offer a fair solution. In a way, through Samuel, God was the ruler of the people of Israel.

Samuel was getting old, and the elders or leaders of Israel were worried about the future. Who would do Samuel’s job when he no longer could? The elders said to Samuel, “You are growing old; we need to plan for the future. All the other countries have a king to rule over them, we want a king, too.”

This hurt Samuel’s feelings, and he was unhappy. He went and prayed to God. God answered, “Right now, I am their ruler, and I am fair and just. If they choose a king like other countries, that person might not be fair and good or make good decisions. Warn the people of this, Samuel. But they need to make their own decisions.”

Samuel went back to the elders and warned them, but elders told Samuel that they didn’t care, they wanted a king. So, Samuel anointed Saul to be the king.

The people whined and wanted something different, and God and Samuel let them make their own decision. The people got what they wanted; Saul became the new ruler, and the people celebrated. But in the end, it didn’t work out as they hoped. Saul was not a good king. Saul made a lot of mistakes. The people had wanted a King.

Mission & Service Video:

Message: “96 Years of Being United”

Over the next month or so we will be looking at leadership; in scripture, in the world, in our churches. Leadership is a daunting task. As leaders our desire to do the best we can sometimes threatens what is best for those whom we lead. It is natural to look at the examples of our heroes, and those who have come before us, but the best leadership comes when the Holy Spirit guides us. Therefore leadership is defined when we follow first – especially when we follow the Holy Spirit.

In Samuel today, we hear that the Nation of Israel is at odds with God, and God’s current leadership. They want a king like all their neighbouring nations. God through Samuel warns the Israelite people that a King may not be fair. Yet God

extended grace – suggesting God would let the Israelites make their own decision. Of course, the people get their way, and they get their king.

A king is chosen, and Israel moves forward as a monarchy. For Israel, times are changing. The leaders gather together and agree that things must change, and they chose a new way – different from the existing way than things had been done. Change, they say, is inevitable. Those who are living through those changes will likely have moments of fear, anxiety, and insecurity. But at the same time they may have feelings of hope and excitement. This change in Israel's history is no different than any other change. The change comes – for better or for worse.

Though the united monarchy does not appear to be God's initial plan, God allows its creation and, working through this new creation eventually anoints David to be the Great King of Israel.

Well over 100 years ago, sometime around 1910, the Canadian Church Denominations of the Methodists, the Congregationalists, the Presbyterians and the Union Churches of Western Canada, gathered to change the way their denominations existed in Canada. They started planning to come together as one bigger denomination - a denomination that would become the largest Canadian Protestant Denomination – a denomination that was created by an act of the Canadian Parliament. Talk about a change.

Was it a good idea? Well - it did not happen overnight. Finally on June 10th of 1925, The United Church of Canada was born – at least fifteen years later after those initial conversations. And the Presbyterian denomination was split on who would join the new United Church and who would continue as the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

Everything was not perfect when they started The United Church back in 1925. Several moves happened that helped to glue the new denomination together. The first Moderator elected was Reverend George Pigeon who was the last Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. This move helped to heal the Presbyterian congregations who joined the United Church without about 200 of their sister congregations.

I am sure there were many more challenges through the years. The Amalgamations of Universities, colleges, and congregations were still in play during the Great Depression in the 1930's. The United Church crest which is recognizable as the United Church was not adopted until 1944 at the 11th General Council.

Much interest has been expressed with The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Bermuda joining the United Church in 1930. In 1943, the Anglican Church of Canada invited other denominations to union talks, and the United Church responded enthusiastically. By 1946, the two churches had issued a statement on mutual ministry. Yet talks dropped off - until the second talks in 1958. In the 1960's the two churches put out two documents to further their church union. In 1971, both churches held talks with the Disciples of Christ churches. The Red Hymn Book was created - a joint effort of the United Church and the Anglican Church. In 1975, talks came to a halt. In 1985 the talk of union with the Disciples of Christ also ended. Although in 1968 the Evangelical United Brethren Church became part of the United Church of Canada.

So was it a good idea to join these denominations? In 1925, The United Church was the first successful Union Church denomination in the world, and gather lots of interest around the world. Today several countries have Uniting Churches. Yes, we have had our ups and downs, and today we are celebrating 96 years as The United Church of Canada.

We continue to ask the Holy Spirit to lead our church. Sometimes we do whine about what we do not like. We rejoice when things are working in our favour. We are the church! We are The United Church of Canada.

When we choose to follow God's lead in our lives, we become vulnerable in many ways because we are no longer our own, we are God's - and yet it is true, we are never alone. God is always with us. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Hymn: MV 154 "Deep In Our Hearts"

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story;
Telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message;
Justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current;
Flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story;
Telling Creation that we are one.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: Out of your abundance, God, we have been blessed in so many ways. Reveal to us now what it is that we can offer to you in return. Let us give in love.

Offertory: VU 541 "Praise God From Whom..."

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Offertory Prayer:

Bless what we give of ourselves, not because it is much, but because it is given in earnest. As we recognize our dependence on your grace, remind us that your ways are higher than our own, and that you use what we offer to extend that same grace into all the world. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: Guiding God of all creation, all too often, we do not respond to your holy nudging.

People: **We prefer the safety of our expectations. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

Eric: We rebel against your plans, and in doing so, suffering and injustice are prolonged in the world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

People: **Forgive us when we are selfish, when our ways become more important than yours. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.**

Eric: Forgive us when our voices become louder than yours, and when we become more important than others, for that is not the example of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

People: **God in whom we live and move and have our being:**

Eric: From sea to sea to sea we gather in prayer; from generation to generation we sing;

People: **on this 96th Anniversary of The United Church of Canada, we give thanks for your care, your guidance and correction.**

Eric: In this heritage of trust, we pray for this United Church and for the faithful, living on this land.

People: **Grant that we, your people, have eyes to see where you lead, ears to hear your encouraging words, and the courage to go where you send us.**

Eric: We ask these things in the name of the One who exhibits and enables all this, Jesus the Messiah, as we pray his prayer...

*Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven,
Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

Blessing:

Eric: As we leave this space today, leave and lead in the world with this prayer in your heart:

**Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.**

Go with the mighty strength of God, now and forever more.

Postlude: “Follow Me” – John Denver – Christie Coatsworth

Prayers: - Please include these people in your prayers this week.

We have offered prayer for these people each Sunday morning just before the Zoom Service. It was suggested to share these names with the total group – as “In the Spirit We Are One”.

Cancer:	Karen	Len	Billy
	Jasmine	Brenda	Leone
	Tom	Special: Susan	Francine
	George	Zoe	Melissa
	Cindy & Connie	Becky	
	Lynn	Earl	
	Jan	Barry/ Marsha	
	Allan	Glen	

St. Andrew's United Church
South Buxton



&



**Broasted Chicken,
Strawberry Social
Take Out Only**

Friday, June 18th, 2021

Pickup at St. Andrew's Front Door from 5 to 6:30 pm

Advanced Tickets only - \$ 25!



Call: Alice 689-4408
Gail 689-7767
Eric 689-7555



Take out Meals are all identical: 3 Pieces Broasted Chicken, potato, coleslaw, brown beans and bun. Dessert is Strawberries and cake. All meals are individually wrapped and delivered to your car. But you must order to be on the list!

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Strawberries, bun, cake, coleslaw etc.
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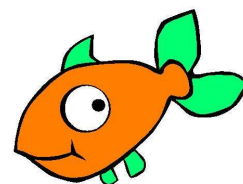


**St. Luke's
United Church**
Bloomfield Road and
Fifteenth Line

**Fish Fry Dinner
Take Out Only**

(of Lake Erie Yellow Perch)

**Friday,
June 25th, 2021
p/u from 5 to 6**



Tickets are \$20 each.
Call Marjorie 676-5641 or Susan 676-4042