

# Southminster News


Open Hearts  
Open Minds  
Open Doors



September 2023

*Office Hours*  
Monday to Friday  
9 am to 4 pm

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Find us on Facebook 

Sunday Worship Services  
10:30 a.m.  
*In-person or live stream on Facebook*

## Minister's Message:

It feels like we've been apart too long, I'm looking forward to a return to regular routines and getting back to Sunday worship at Southminster.

As summer concludes with the Labour Day long-weekend, we will have much to celebrate when we come together to worship on Sunday, September 10. As is our custom we will be having our annual **barbeque at the Elks Picnic Shelter** following worship. You're invited to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert along with you. Hotdogs and burgers will be supplied by Rev. Carol in celebration of a special day: during our worship on Sept. 10, we will **covenant with our new minister, Rev. Carol Many Chief**, along with our special guest, **Rev. Tony Snow**, the Indigenous Minister for Chinook Winds Regional Council.

It is wonderful for us to share this special day with Carol, celebrating the many years that we have known her, and her arrival as an ordered minister of the church. Having Rev. Carol with us until the end of the year is such a great opportunity for our church, she will be serving as our minister of faith formation, outreach, and pastoral care. I HIGHLY encourage you to participate in the faith formation activities Carol will be hosting along with **Rev. Tad** this fall. A limited time opportunity.

I, personally, am very excited to have Carol with us, as I can entrust the church with her while I am away the first week of September and other points in the year. I have been named the Chair of the Planning committee for the 45th General Council, which will be held in Calgary in 2025, the centennial year of United Church union. Next week the Planning committee, made up of talented people from across the country, will gather in Calgary for our first meeting. My thanks to Carol for her support as I undertake this very important role within our wider United Church of Canada.

Last week we had an excellent **Vacation Bible School**, and I wish to offer special thanks to all the volunteers who made it such a success: Gabrielle Dumont, Amy Dodic, Taina Arnell, Marg Chubb, Christina Whittmire, Joyce Boisvenue, Ann Marie McDonald, Ella Arnell, Lily Bruce, and Sevyn McNabb.

VBS is such a great opportunity for our congregation to offer faith formation to the youngest members of our church. Passing on the knowledge and heritage of our faith tradition onto the next generation is so vital for our congregation.

Looking forward to seeing many of you again soon. I hope that you, like us in the office, will enjoy several pumpkin-spice flavoured beverages with fall.



- *Rev. Taylor*

*Trish Purkis entertains us with tidbits from the archives in her monthly Archives Corner!*

## LOTTIE THOMPSON AND THE WMS/UCW

I have been cataloguing the **United Church Women** material over the summer and will devote the first few fall articles to past members.

**Charlotte Ellen Bridge Thompson** was born in Cle Elum, Washington State in 1892. She met a young farmer in Naches, Washington and they married in 1913. Lottie, Marion and their four children came to Canada in 1920 and farmed two miles south of Coaldale.

In this small southern Alberta town, Lottie found her niche in the church as a C.G.I.T. leader and member of **the Ladies Aid and Women's Association**.

The Thompsons retired from farm life in 1945 and made their home in Lethbridge where they transferred their membership to Southminster Church and Lottie joined their missionary group in January 1950.

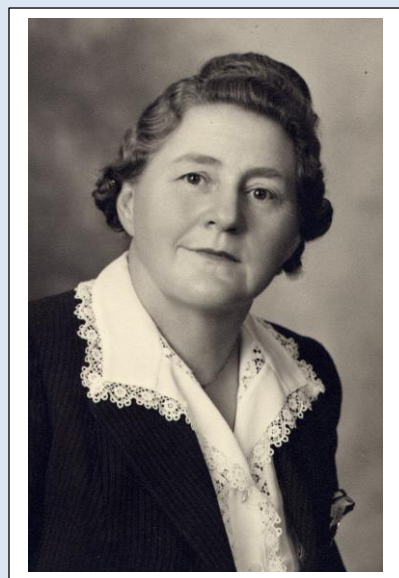
**The Women's Missionary Society** assisted the church in its missionary work. Their aid enabled missionaries to be sent to various countries throughout the world. These missionaries, as well as teaching Christianity were also teachers or medical professionals who helped better the lives of many third world people.

The eleven years spent working with the Missionary Society were fulfilling for Lottie. She rose from member, to officer, to vice president in 1959 and to president in January 1960. During that time, she offered her assistance in the monthly meetings by sharing the devotionals and reviewing their study book material. There was always time to serve on various committees such as Christian Stewardship and Citizenship and the Associated Helpers Committee.

Lottie used her elocution skills to give talks on Mexico and various individuals of note. At one meeting in May of 1958, the theme being Mother's Day, Lottie, and her daughter Betty (who had joined the Missionary Society in 1957), shared the meeting's agenda.

When the WMS and WA joined forces to become the **United Church Women**, Lottie carried her membership over and was involved with **Mrs. Reagh group and Alma Buchanan Unit**.

Lottie passed away in April 1963 and she is fondly remembered for her spirit of kindness and goodwill towards others.



- By Trish Purkis



## The Harambee Grandmas 6th annual Fabric and Yarn Sale

will take place on **Friday, October 20 and Saturday, October 21**

at McKillop United Church. DONATIONS of unused fabric, yarn, and notions will be gratefully ACCEPTED UNTIL OCTOBER 1.

Please call 403-331-0504 or email us at harambee

grandmas@telus.net to arrange for pickup or delivery. And you can find us on Facebook for more information. See you there!

**LET'S TALK ABOUT DEATH** - by Rev. Tad Mitsui**- After Worship Service Event -**

Why don't we want to talk about death even though all of us die? It's not a morbid subject, nor is it weird to talk about it. Tad Mitsui will facilitate conversations about "Death and Dying" in October after the Worship Services. Those who are interested to join can do a few things in September to start thinking about it:

- 1) Throughout September there will be a large sheet of paper to write your thoughts in the Church Hall after the Worship Service Coffee Hour. It will help organize the discussion.
- 2) Read books and papers: There will be a table in the Church Hall with books you can borrow. Feel free to bring in the books you may want to recommend also. There will be copies of papers written by Tad for distribution.
- 3) We will watch a video one day related to the subject on the day and time we agree on. Also Carol Many Chief is willing to share what she learned at St. Andrew's College also.
- 4) University of Lethbridge is sponsoring a series of events called "**Waking Death**" in September. It is a multi-disciplinary event staged at Galt Museum, Southern Alberta Art Gallery, CASA, and the Recital Hall of the university.

**For more information about the Waking Death events, check the Link shown in the article below.**

**Saturday morning Bible Study**  
**September 23, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.**

(September Bible study is held on an unusual Saturday, due to Rev. Carol's availability)

**The Psalms and Proverbs**

The Psalms and Proverbs have been part of Israel's journey, from the Ketuvim to Jesus, and can continue to help us in today's context.

Many cultures have used proverbs and Psalms to praise, to teach and to question life and existence through out time. We are invited over the fall season to re-open these Holy Scriptures, to delight in the mystery of hope and acknowledgement.

Beginning with a brief history, and allowing main emotional connections of relationship, together we will begin a journey that can be continued with the Spirit.

How can these books of Hebrew poetry shape our faith and maintain the balance needed for today's issues?

-By Rev. Carol Many Chief

**WAKING DEATH SERIES IN LETHBRIGE - September 9 to October 28, 2023**

**The Waking Death group exhibition** at Casa has invited artists to address themes of death, dying and grief, presented through a range of works from local and national artists. In addition, a programme of weekly events at Casa will include film screenings, knowledge sharing, and a line-up of performances and artistic imaginings of ritual, celebration, contemplation, song and play attending to death, dying and grief. More details and schedule of events can be found here: <https://wakingdeath.ca>

**Featured event:** on September 16, 2023 at 1:00 PM; at CASA (doors at 12:45pm, free to attend): **Knowledge Sharing Series** with Keynote by **Rebecca Many Grey Horses** entitled "**The Blackfoot Perspective on Taking the Wolf Trail**", followed by presentations from **guest speakers Tad Mitsui**, Dr. Julia Brassoletto and Nicola Elson. The event will finish with a roundtable discussion to be moderated by Kristin Krein.



Rebecca Many Grey Horses



Rev. Tad Mitsui

# "How we spent our summer vacation"?

Some happy memories of June 24 and 25. Southminster's dragon boat team, "Holy Ship" at their finest. Thanks to everyone who participated, and brought their good spirits and energy to the water. And a special thanks to Lori O'Leary, our patient coach, who convinced us that we really could do it!



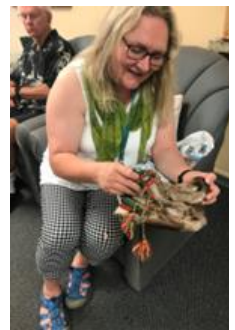
## Other Southminster folks photos from Summer 2023



Leroy's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations in Southminster Hall on Aug. 5



Tad Mitsui in the Whoop-Up Days Parade representing Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden Aug. 22



Fran gifted Taina some Lapland shoes (a souvenir from Finland!) Aug 24

### Friday Fit for Life at Southminster

Friday mornings at 9:30 am to 10:15 am.  
*Group Fitness Class* for all fitness levels, ages and genders. We will have a rotation of instructors in September!



**Cost: by Donation** (suggested \$5 per person, pay what you can).

~ It's fun staying fit together! ~

### Special VBS memories from August 2023



# SOUTHMINSTER UCW TEA & BAZAAR

*Sat. Nov. 18, 2023 2-4pm*  
 1011 - 4 Ave. South (Please enter by 11 St. doors)

*Fancy sandwiches, cookies & squares are served with your choice of tea, coffee or juice for \$12.*

*\*Baking   \*Christmas Surprises   \*Jewelry  
 \*Attic Treasures   \*Crafts*

- If you are a "Crafter", & have items that you would be willing to donate, please leave them at the church office with your name and suggested prices. Any unsold items will be returned to you.*
- If you have items you are willing to donate to "Attic Treasures", "Christmas Surprises" or "Jewelry", please leave them at the church office and indicate on the parcel that they are for the Bazaar.*
- Donations of baking are most welcome for the "Bake Table". These can be brought to the kitchen door of the church by noon on Bazaar day for marking. Please label your baking so folks know what they are buying.*
- For more information, please call **Carol Romses @ 403-327-1345** or **Joyce Boisvenue @ 403-359-9323**.*

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR &  
 PLAN TO ATTEND.**

**INVITE A FRIEND OR TWO TO COME  
 WITH YOU.  
 ALL ARE WELCOME!**





## Oki, Tansii, Hello

National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering in Edmonton on July 30, 2023

## Our Strong Voices

**The National Indigenous Church Council** that convened after three long years was a wonder of the new and exciting, one of my many firsts to come. Not only did we get to hear awesome speakers like our **Moderator, the Right Reverend Dr. Carmen Lansdowne** sharing her vision and enthusiasm, but also **Reverend Michael Blair** (general secretary to the UCC) led the panel discussion on the work with the recovery of the gravesites.

Reverend Murray Pruden addressed Reverend John Thompson as he ends his long and fruitful time leading the United Church of Canada's National Indigenous Council (NIC) and the vote in favour of a self-determining Indigenous church. He leaves us all with some very big shoes to fill. His vision will continue with the practical work to bring the decisions to life.

The lineup of breakout sessions, training, soul-satisfying drumming and song with the Sacred Fire was an amazing learning experience. As we shared with our brothers and sisters from all over Canada, the multitude of ideas sparked so many great discussions: beginning with suicide prevention, the inner workings of Jordan's principal in the practicalities of kids in need, and the continuing work for the missing children.

The panel recognized how the efforts of our executive - since the first breaking news of the discoveries of children's remains at residential schools, to the present - have been exemplary. Being able to hold that space for discussion is a great illustration of pastoral intention. The deep sorrow of respect, demonstrated for all of us the great need; taking care of all to whom the recovery of the children has had so much impact, and continues to do so.

The Sacred fire holds God, our Creator and the Holy Child and the Holy Spirit, ever present within the smoke and the flames. The prayers that rise, our cries and petitions, and the hopes of all; whether whispers of prayers, or shouts of laughter and joy, we are called to enter Pentecost once again. The Trinity of God, the love and beloved, which we enter that which feeds us.

It is my hope that the enthusiasm and motivation of such events, the anticipation of all that is new when we live in Christ, will be with us as we enter the new church year, and for all our years.

Many Blessings, **Rev. Carol Many Chief**



Both the **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** and **Orange Shirt Day** take place on **September 30**.

Orange Shirt Day is an Indigenous-led grassroots commemorative day intended to raise awareness of the individual, family and community inter-generational impacts of residential schools, and to promote the concept of "**Every Child Matters**". The orange shirt is a symbol of the stripping away of culture, freedom and self-esteem experienced by Indigenous children over generations.

On September 30, all Canadians are encouraged to wear orange to honour the thousands of Survivors of residential schools.