

Hello Westminster Family

I am thrilled to share with you the wonderful experiences from the recent Festival of Faith in Sudbury, which included my ordination. The Festival extended over two glorious days, Friday and Saturday, filled with enriching workshops and an inspiring keynote series led by our distinguished guest, John L. Bell from Scotland. The theme for the festival, "God Never Sleeps," resonated deeply with all attendees and was a beautiful reminder of our ever-present and ever-vigilant Creator.

The workshops were a treasure trove of wisdom, offering insights and practical guidance on a range of spiritual topics. Participants engaged in meaningful discussions, shared personal stories, and cultivated a sense of communal faith and support. John L. Bell's keynote series was a highlight, as he shared profound thoughts and reflections, drawing from his rich background and experiences. He focused on our theme which also included "Water from the Rock" and the "Woman at the Well" story. His words were both challenging, comforting, and at times very funny but each one encouraging us to deepen our faith and trust in God's unceasing work in our lives.

Sunday was a day of immense joy and celebration. I know many of you were at church to watch on our new TV screen, and some stayed home. I am sorry that the camera died right before the ordination. It was a very warm spot at the Amphitheatre. And the camera just didn't like the heat of the sun after a while. But you could see and hear that we commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the United Church of Canada, a significant milestone marking a century of faith, service, and community. It was also the day of my ordination, a deeply personal and sacred moment that I was blessed to share with so many of you. The ceremony was a testament to our shared journey and commitment to our faith and the values of the United Church.

I have included some photos, below, taken during the weekend. I hope you enjoy them. I also recorded a short reflective video found on the minister's message page on the website. Please have a watch as you are able.

Thank you for all the wonderful cards that were taped to my office door. Each one filled my heart with gratitude and love.

As we move forward, let us carry the spirit of the Festival of Faith with us, remembering that "God Never Sleeps" and that we are part of a vibrant, enduring community. I am grateful for your love, support, and prayers, and I look forward to continuing our journey together.

With heartfelt blessings,

*Pastor Steven*



