

Sunday Morning Worship on Youtube

Sunday morning worship can be found each Sunday at 10:30 am on our Youtube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheKnoxKonnexion>

You can also search for, "The Knox Konnexion" on Youtube to find our channel.

The bulletins will be posted weekly on our website.

Our sympathy is extended to Katheryne Lumgair and her family upon the death of her father, Hugh Lumgair. Our prayers and thoughts are with you.

Calendar

4 Dec – Brunch Club

8 Dec - Broadview Reading Club meets via Zoom

11 Dec - Brandon Community Orchestra at City Hall

NEW! MINUTE FOR MISSION

December 4, 2022

Gifts with Vision Solves the What-to-Buy Dilemma

[Gifts with Vision Solves the What-to-Buy Dilemma | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](#)

NEW! From the Council Table

On November 15 thirteen members of council, including Rev Craig met for what turned out to be a 3 ½ hour meeting. There was a significant agenda to cover, and some necessary discussion on a couple of items. Operating Income (end of October): \$144,786.82

Total Expenses: \$170, 527.22 Surplus (Deficit): -25,740.40* M&S Givings: \$34,628

*It's not uncommon for Knox to run a deficit through the autumn, although this is more than double the usual number and is a result of a loss of fundraising and rental in the first 5 months of 2022. Monies raised at the karaoke event and the holiday supper will assist us in reducing this deficit; however, they will not be sufficient to cover the gap. Thanks to many years of ending the year with a surplus, Knox had an Operating Surplus on January 1, 2022 of \$41,446.98. We plan to have an update next week in Connections with our financial position as of the end of November. Thank you for your many contributions to our community of faith. We are better together.

Shelley Tataryn Treasurer, will place half of funds received from Central United Church in a 12 month GIC, and half in an 18 month GIC.

It was agreed that a Knox pictorial directory will be put together in the spring. Colleen Wall & Debby Dandy will lead the initiative. Members of our Coff will be asked to submit any pictures of activities or occasions to be included in a collage page.

An intense discussion followed a proposal from Knox Sound Team to update our sound system in the sanctuary. The current system is very dated, and not capable of providing the quality of sound that we would like for services, music and presentations. The new video system is excellent and with a better sound system, Knox would be a valued venue for outside groups as well. Benmarks installed the video system, and submitted a quote for the sound system, ensuring that the two systems will be compatible. The quote is \$21409 and a fully itemized quote will be provided for the December Council meeting. Council members will approach some of the user groups to see if they have any interest in contributing to the cost. A motion was passed approving up to a \$26,000 expenditure, to be covered from funds donated by Central United.

Knox approved a request for Leanne Sprung, allowing the local 4H club to make use of Knox space free of charge over the next 9 months. The group has outgrown its current space and for large events require a larger venue. In exchange for a user fee, the group will volunteer to work around the church.

Rev Craig will be on Sabbatical for the months of June/July/ August 2023. The Ministry and Personnel committee presented a job description for a Coordinator for Spiritual Care to cover those months, which was approved. They will be searching for candidates to fill this role.

Questions arose about the responsibility for locking the church on a Sunday. Sharon Christmas took immediate responsibility, but this will need to be organized to ensure that the church is not left unlocked. The Stewardship Committee raised \$1199.25 from the Karaoke event. It was very well received, well attended and universally enjoyed.

Sustainable Brandon is a community group which grew out of the Knox Green Team and Kairos work. Members of Knox are involved along with others concerned about the environment and climate change. The group recently received grant funding from the Climate Action Team for ongoing work in Brandon, including training for people to do green audits, a green audit of a local building, workshops for raising awareness, and advocacy work. A motion was passed approving the deposit of funds for this initiative in a separate budget line at Knox for accountability.

Committees are preparing budgets for the coming year and submitting them to the Treasurer for preparation of the 2023 budget. Discussion re security: Fire and police are automatically notified if the alarm goes off when the church is empty, and have keys to enter if necessary. Other alarm incidents are responded to by Coleen Wall. There have been some concerns about users not following the alarm policy - signing in /out so that those remaining in the church are visible, and the alarm isn't set off when they are left inside. All users will be reminded, and anyone using a key/alarm who isn't sure of the policy should contact Coleen.

Submitted by Debby Dandy, Vice Chair

NEW! Brunch Club

Brunch will take place after church on Sunday, December 4th. Pancakes and sausages will be served. Adults \$5, Children 12 and under \$3.

We hope you can join us!

NEW! Broadview Reading Club

The next meeting of the Broadview Reading Club will be held via Zoom at 10:00 am on December 8th.

The Zoom link and articles to be discussed will be sent out to all who have previously attended. New participants are always welcome!

For further information, please contact Laura Crookshanks at crooks@wcgwave.ca

NEW! Gifts with Vision

Looking for gifts this season that are in keeping with our faith commitments? Our United Church's Gifts with Vision catalogue has arrived and copies are available on the table in the narthex. This is an opportunity to give gifts to friends, relatives and loved ones that are in direct support of our Mission & Service partners. Help yourself to a copy!

**NEW! Brandon Community Orchestra
Christmas Concert**

The Brandon Community Orchestra will be having a Christmas concert held at City Hall.
December 11, Sunday at 1:30 pm.
Doors open at 12:30 pm.

NEW! Refuge Brandon

There is another family arriving shortly from Ukraine (Dad, Mom, and 3-year-old son) that we, Refuge Brandon, would like to help settle in our area.

Some items still needed are:

Couch or love seat, Coffee table, Easy chair, 3 new bed pillows, Sheet set for a single bed, Sheet set for a queen bed, Bath towels, Broom/dustpan, Laundry basket, Set of cutlery for four, Teapot, Small coffee maker, Kitchen towels, Pots and pans, Cookie sheet/cake pan, New shower curtain and hooks.

Please contact Edy Clayton at 204-724-5867 if you have items to share.

Refuge Brandon members thank you for your donations.

NEW! Samaritan House

Twenty-three Knox members attended the tour on November 29th. It was interesting to see and hear how Heather and her staff run the Safe & Warm shelter. Marcia, the food bank coordinator is passionate about eliminating food waste and works closely with grocery stores to use their surplus produce and food.

NEW! Adult Mitts or Gloves

Samaritan House is in need of adult mitts or gloves, new or used. If you have any to donate, we will have a bin located in the narthex. Thank you

NEW! Drivers to deliver Christmas Hampers:

The hampers will be put together the morning of Wednesday December 14th ready to go out to recipient families.

If you are able to deliver one or two hampers, please add your name and phone number to the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or call Lynne Manns 204-725-0774.

Indicate if you prefer to deliver at 11:00 am or 12:00 noon.

Reminder - Christmas Cheer

As Advent draws near our committee is preparing to share the light of Christmas in the lives of some children and families in Brandon.

Once again we are taking on 22 families. Last year that included 87 children!

Each child receives a toy or gift, a warm hat or mitts, a book, and the little ones a stuffed animal.

Of course, there is a wonderful Christmas dinner and more!

With the continuation of Covid and the added onset of flu season and respiratory infections, we are once again requesting only monetary donations this year.

With the rising costs of food and goods, around 11%, we are counting on your generosity as always at this time of need!

Remember that tax receipts can be issued if requested for givings over \$20. Contact the office if you need a receipt.

So thank you in advance for contributing to a child's Christmas Joy!! As always let us all enjoy the anticipation that comes with the season of Advent as we await the promise of Christmas!!

You can drop into the office with your donation, send a cheque, place an envelope in the plate at the back of the sanctuary or e-transfer through the office.

NEW! Just a Green Minute

Reduce, Reuse but DON'T Recycle Christmas Wrapping Paper

Canadians will send 100,000 elephants worth of wrapping paper to the dump this year and Christmas presents are a big culprit.

Zero Waste Canada estimates each Canadian tosses about 50 kilograms of garbage over the holidays, 25 percent more than the rest of the year, thanks to the purchases of 3,000 tonnes of foil, 2.6 billion Christmas cards and six million rolls of tape. Altogether, 540,000 tonnes of wrapping paper and gift bags are thrown out each year.

Here in Manitoba, you can't recycle wrapping paper, tissue paper, ribbons or bows.

So how can we be sure that Christmas is good for the Earth too? Carefully unwrap and save the paper from your gifts and use that paper next year. Look for alternative ways to wrap Christmas presents. You can use newspaper, Kraft packaging paper, fabric gift bags, towels, washcloths or other useful items. Check out this link for more ideas: [Zero Waste Christmas \(zerowastecanada.ca\)](http://zerowastecanada.ca)

Turns out that in 6 months, only 1% of what the average person buys is still in use. So maybe we need to re-think gift giving. Instead of gifts headed for the landfill, let's get creative and find meaningful gifts; gifts of time, gifts of sharing memories, gifts of donation to those in need, gifts of helping each other and the earth.

[How much Christmas wrapping paper, tape and gift bags do Canadians throw out each year? | Globalnews.ca](http://Globalnews.ca)

Knox Pictorial Directory

Knox Council has decided that it is time to work on an updated pictorial directory of Knox folks. This picture directory is free to every family. Appointments will be scheduled with a professional photographer, with no obligation to purchase any pictures. Stay tuned for details about appointments for family pictures, which will take place end of March/beginning of April. These details will be shared in February, and there will be opportunities for sign-up after church for a few weeks, to avoid many phone calls before scheduling everyone. Starting now, however, we would invite you to take pictures of events that you are involved in for submission to a collage page. Remember to ensure that you have permission for children, or vulnerable persons before forwarding pictures for the book. If you have pictures, submit them digitally to Coleen Wall cttwall@mymts.net. Pictures can be scanned but the best quality will be to submit digitally. Show Knox in action!

Pickle Ball at Knox

The Pickle Ball group will be starting up again soon. If you are interested or for more information contact Francis Cancade at cancadefrancis@gmail.com or Lydia Glawson at lydiamae1953@gmail.com

Advent Christmas 2022 at Knox

— Angels Among Us

The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point — their favourite line being #DoNotBeAfraid. As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring #morehope, #morepeace, #morejoy, and #morelove to the world.

4 December — Advent II — Nothing Is Impossible: #morepeace

Choir & Special Music Program

Zechariah freaked out when the messenger appeared to him. But Mary was simply “perplexed.” Why would such an incredible message come to a common girl just barely a woman? Then her reply to such a foretelling about her purpose in life was also simple: “Let it be so.” — 1 Luke 1: 26-56

Have you ever struggled with finding your purpose and being at peace with it? Or are you yearning for more peace in your life and relationships? #morepeace in the world happens when all of us feel #morepeace within ourselves and live out that message each day.

11 December — Advent III — Do Not Be Afraid: #morejoy

Every angel seems to use “do not be afraid” as an opening line. But perhaps no one needed to hear it more than Joseph. The stakes were high — who would believe this? — Matthew 1: 18-25

Keeping up with “appearances” can rob us of our joy. Let us be messengers of encouragement and steadfast support, as Joseph was, for that which the Spirit is birthing in the world.

18 December — Advent IV — This Will Be a Sign: #morelove

The sky was brighter than usual that night, making it easier to keep track of the sheep. And then it got really bright. You would have thought that all that “glory” shining would have been “the sign.” — Luke 2: 1-20

That’s what most of us look for — great big obvious clues about God’s presence. But instead, the angel says that a baby...a newborn helpless baby in a feeding trough was it — the sign. In a flash, the message was that #morelove is found where you least expect it and perhaps is already there, residing in the ordinariness of your life.

24 December — Christmas Eve at 7 PM — #DoNotBeAfraid

Over the last four weeks, we have heard of the stories of angel appearances heralding incredible news of the birth of a saviour. They didn’t appear to kings and rulers or courts or the privileged of society. They came to an old and barren couple, a young girl barely a woman, a simple and humble man betrothed to her, and finally, to lowly shepherds on a hillside. They came to people like you and me. God worked through ordinary people and did extraordinary things. And so it is that God works through us every time we offer messages of hope, peace, joy, and love to an anxious world. We are called to fly in the face of fear — to be angels among us. — Luke 2:14

25 December — Christmas Day — No Gathering, Merry Christmas!

1 January — New Year's Day & the Sunday after Christmas — Get Up and Go: #morelife

By now, Joseph was used to angels. And now he needed their timely warnings more than ever. Jesus was barely a toddler, and his trouble with the Roman Empire had begun. Jesus, the Saviour of Humankind becomes a refugee — forced from home by oppression and violence.

We ask ourselves how we might usher in #morelife in the face of that which feels destructive. One last time in this series, we hear the message #DoNotBeAfraid to get up and go — leaving those things that weigh us down and moving into the new year with new life.

Rev. Craig S. Miller
