

Open to All - Celebrating Diversity - United in Love

# KNOX UNITED

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2019

### **BRANDON PRIDE WITH UCC MODERATOR, THE RIGHT REVEREND RICHARD BOTT**

You can't have a rainbow without some rain!!! The weather didn't dampen the spirits of those who gathered to celebrate the 5th annual Brandon Pride Parade. A significant number of youth and adults from Knox joined the parade and youth waved posters that had been created on Friday evening at an event hosted by Knox.

Our moderator was quite enthusiastic to be invited to join the parade and speak to the crowd during Pride in the Park, which turned out to be Pride at Knox!

This was the first pride parade that Richard was able to join in his role as moderator given that his schedule is booked pretty solid over the summer. He was in town for the Inaugural Meeting of the Prairie to Pine Region and the agenda allowed him to skip out and join our Knox crew for a good part of morning and afternoon.

As we prepared to leave city hall and begin the parade our grand marshal, Prairie Sky, addressed the crowd saying: "We'll let the members of the Brandon Pride committee lead the parade...we'll march



down Victoria Ave. and then head north on 18th Street, come around the block, and head into Knox...which is a church, which is kind of weird... and kind of good."

The moderator addressed any feelings of discomfort when he spoke to those gathered in the hall following the parade (see photos next page). Richard welcomed everyone and said a little bit about the UCC working on being a safe and inclusive space for the LGBT2QIA community. There were several cries of affirmation from the crowd.

During the celebration a teenager approached the moderator and divulged that

since coming out three years ago her priest had been unwilling to serve her communion. Richard said, "We can do something about that!" and found a hot dog bun and some grape Fanta. They shared communion together.

Members of Knox welcomed marchers as they came in the door. Everyone appreciated the hospitality and welcome. The hall was packed so some teens sat in the sanctuary reading titles from our library to each other about inclusion and affirmation. Others played the piano and sang songs. We missed being in the park all together but it was a great day all in all.

**I don't know exactly what a prayer is/I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down/into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass/how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields/which is what I have been doing all day.**

— “The Summer Day” by Mary Oliver

### **Coming Events with Knox**

July 21 – Marianne Olfrey,  
Worship Leader

July 28 – Canned Food  
Sunday, Craig Miller, Worship  
Leader

“You Asked For It: The Prayer  
of Jesus” - Luke 11.1-13

August 4 - Central United joins  
us for worship, Craig Miller,  
Worship Leader

“Can't Buy Me Love” - Luke  
12.13-21

August 11 – Debby Dandy,  
Worship Leader

August 12-15 – Camp Central  
Vacation Bible School at  
Central UCC

August 18 – Betty Kelly,  
Worship Leader

August 23-25 – Women's  
Retreat at Wellman Lake  
Camp

August 25 – Canned Food  
Sunday

### **VOLUNTEERS REFINISH WOOD FLOOR IN KNOX AUDITORIUM**

As you all know our auditorium gets a lot of usage by our congregation and community. Brunch, Karate, Scouts, BAPS (Hindu fellowship), Society of Manitobans with Disabilities, Pickle Ball, Funeral Lunches, the list goes on and on. Once again Roger Bright pulled together a hardworking crew to prepare, sand, and seal the floor. Volunteers included Joe Ball, Wayne Clayton, Duncan Waddell, Brian Manns, Jim Cobb, Roger Winger, and Francis Cancade. A special thanks to Roger, who also did some painting this week, and all of the volunteers.

**Below: The refinished floor in the hall shines and has new painted lines for pickle ball.**



**PRIDE**



**AT**



**KNOX**



# Knox Connexions

## KNOX GARDENS IN BLOOM

*The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land.*

– Song of Songs 2.12

It takes many hands to keep up with our flower beds on 17th Street, the raised bed located on the west side of the fellowship wing, and the bed around the Knox billboard. A host of volunteers have been working hard on beautifying our grounds. A special prayer of thanksgiving to all those who put in many hours to make our flowers glorious and abundant!



## Mid-Summer Schedule

July 15-21 – Cobb

July 29 - Aug. 4 – Robinson

Aug. 5-11 – Robertson

Aug. 12-18 – Robinson

Aug. 19-25 – Barrows

Aug. 26 - Sept. 1 – Dandy

Sept. 2-8 - Carnegie

## VEGETATION MIGRATION

by Al Simmons

“I don't relish the thought of going out to my garden at midnight. Could it be my fertile imagination? Maybe I yam just hearing things, boy am I in a pickle, I must squash my fears endive got to find out what's there in the darkness or I won't get a moments peas.



“Look, all of the vegetables in the garden are uprooting them selves hoe what a harrowing experience,

“I'm sure it won't amount to a hill of beans, but my problems are mushrooming; an army of vegetables, a scallion battalion, is on the rampage, under the command of Colonel Corn (with the husky voice and the silky tones) sure he's a little wet behind the ears, but shucks he's the principle stalk holder.

“Who planted this seed of discontent? From where did it stem? Even with my green thumb I can't put my finger on it, but I know the soil is tired of being treated like dirt! Can you dig it?”

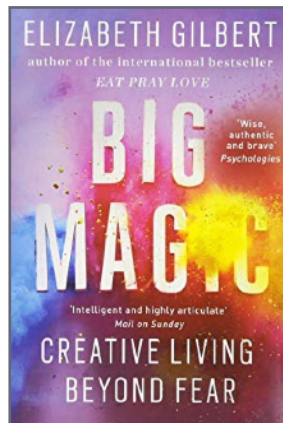
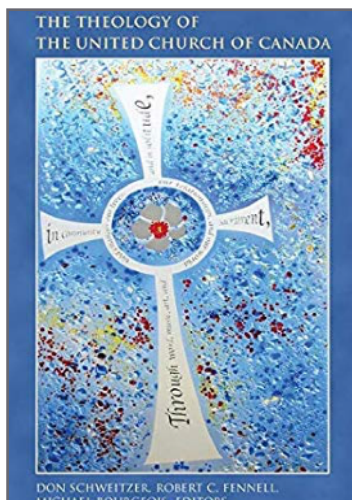
**PICTURED BELOW:** Three generations from the Sprung - Sloane family, weeding, hoeing, watering, and blowing bubbles.



# Thinking Critically, Living Faithfully

## Knox Lending Library

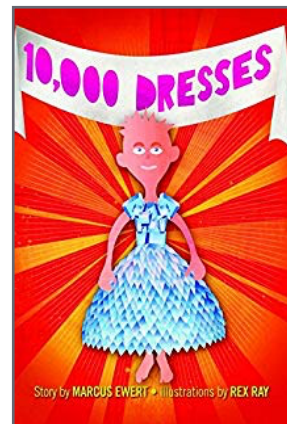
You'll find many new titles in our lending library to add to your summer reading list including a recently released book edited by three professors all at different Canadian theological schools, The Theology of the United Church of Canada (Schweitzer, Fennell, Bourgeois, eds.).



You'll also find titles related to our Epiphany worship series, "Drawn In: Living the Creative Life with G\_d," including Elizabeth Gilbert's Big Magic and Matthew Fox's Creativity: Where the Divine and Human Meet.

Many of you were touched by the children's book 10,000 Dresses which Craig shared on Pride Sunday. It's a story about a transgender child who dreams of creating all kinds of new and fabulous fashions.

When she doesn't receive support from her family for her identity or her ideas she finds a new friend; and together they fashion some extraordinary creations.



**Please check your library at home and make sure you have returned books that you have borrowed.** We're missing titles by Newell, Sanguin, Vosper, Heinrichs, and many more. **Books are purchased utilizing donations to our Memorial Fund.**

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH PRESENTS

CAMP  
CENTRAL

Join us for a Super Cool Undersea Bible Adventure!

★ Arts and Crafts      ★ Bible Stories  
★ Supper Provided      ★ Song & Dance

**AUGUST 12 - 15 5:00 - 8:00 PM**

Email Jessica Radford or Emma Hayter for more info  
Jessica@BrandonChurch.ca / Emma@CentralUnited.Church



**“That's what's important really, Keeper says. Learning how to be what the Creator created you to be. Face your truth.”  
— Richard Wagamese, Keeper'n Me**

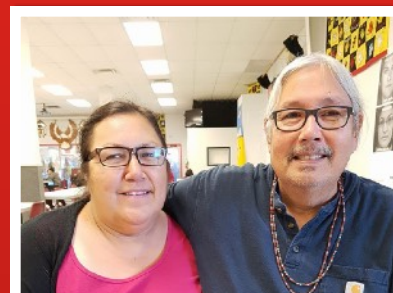
## **Celebrating the Ordination of the Reverend Susie McPherson - Derendy**

A wonderful celebration of ministry worship service with the Prairie to Pine Region, including the ordination of Susan McPherson - Derendy, was held on June 16 at the Keystone Centre. Peggy Wojnarski and Peggy Barrows presented Susie with a stole in the colours of the Medicine Wheel that included symbols representing the Seven Teachings. Peggy W. created this beautiful piece of art. Susie was very active during the course of the four days sharing her wisdom with the court. She joined the Intercultural Ministry Network in creating Calls to Action on Decolonization and Pursuing Intercultural Ministry. Well done, Susie!

Pictured below you'll see Debby Dandy receiving communion from Susie during the eucharist. These two

women continue to do some of the most transformative work for truth and reconciliation in this area through serving as Kairos Blanket Exercise facilitators.

It was announced that Susie will serve as Keeper of the Learning Circle at the Sandy Sauteaux Spiritual Centre. Susie is a graduate of SSSC and is working on completing her M.Div. at Vancouver School of Theology. She will also serve this next year in a part-time position at Steinbach UC and will be job sharing until she can transition into full time work with SSSC. SSSC said in its announcement, “Susie brings a depth of understanding of Indigenous reality and issues. She has strong theological ability demonstrated through her student pastoral appointment.”



# Money Matters

It's normal for Knox to run a budget deficit through the summer and then pick up steam in the fall thanks to the generosity of the congregation. We've run a budget surplus for eight years in row at year's end. Thank you!

This year some additional costs have significantly increased our operating deficit. At the end of May we show an operating budget deficit of 17,245 as compared to \$5,618 for 2018. The numbers for June have not been finalized but it looks like we're running an operating deficit of \$32,252 (a big part of this is repair/maintenance/ insurance costs for June) compared to \$16,272 last year. There are several reasons the significant increase in our operating deficit compared with previous years.

1. We've had some significant repairs to manage this spring including maintenance on the boiler, roof repairs, and a new stove. At the end of May we'd already doubled the amount we spent last year at this time under Property. Additional expenses in June and July mean that we've spent our budget for the year in this area (over \$26,000 to date). We do have almost

\$30,000 in the building reserve fund that the Council may access to assist with these costs.

2. Our insurance increased by 14.8% (last year it was a 6.6% increase) for an increase of \$1,102. We've paid the full amount of \$8,553 for the year.
3. Our assessment to the UCC increased from \$5,536 last year to \$7,500 this year. We've already remitted the full amount which is our practice. The increase is based on the new funding model and it reflects the additional income we receive for rentals and fundraisers. While our assessment at Knox has increased many of the rural pastoral charges in our area have seen a significant decrease. We believe this reflects the fairness of the current model and we're thankful we have the means to support our United Church. For more information about the new funding model see the "New Assessment Process" page on [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)
4. We had additional costs for snow removal as our custodian was unable to provide this service during the winter. These costs are

covered through the M&P budget.

5. Our fundraising and rental income for the first six months was down about \$4,500 from last year but congregational giving increased by \$1,300.

Even with the operating deficit at the end of May we still had a total surplus of \$34,926 thanks to giving from previous years. (The surplus at the end of June looks like it will drop down to \$20k) In June, the Executive worked with Sharon McIntosh and our new treasurer, Shelley Tataryn, to make sure we have ample cash flow for the summer as some of the surplus was invested in short term notes.

If you are not on a limited income and have the ability to make an additional contribution to Knox this summer it would assist us in getting a handle on these increased costs. We appreciate your faithfulness and generosity and will update you in the fall as to our financial health for 2019.





# Mission and Service Narrative Budget 2019

## **Cyclone Idai: Three Months**

**Later** — UCC partners offer relief for the over three million people affected by the cyclone's devastation.

The UCC is grateful to all those who have continued to support relief efforts for the three million people affected by the devastation of tropical Cyclone Idai in Malawi, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe in March 2019. Through the generous response of people of the United Church, over \$192,000 has been raised to support Mission & Service partners who are still responding to the ongoing crisis.

M&S partner ACT Alliance responded immediately by undertaking rescue operations, as well as providing food, temporary shelter, and medical and sanitation support to combat the spread of malaria, cholera, and other water-borne diseases.

There is still a great need for basic supplies and rebuilding efforts. Since Idai destroyed buildings, roads, and crucial infrastructure, the distribution

of basic supplies has been difficult. It is estimated that 400,000 people lost their homes; many of the most vulnerable still remain displaced and living in temporary tents.

In Zimbabwe, UCC partner the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) drew the UCC's attention to the affects of this devastation. In one area, mudslides caused by the cyclone's heavy rains wiped out the dining hall and dormitories of a faith-based school. Seventeen students were buried in the landslide; of those, two students and one staff member lost their lives.

Please continue to pray for those impacted by Cyclone Idai and give to emergency relief efforts. With your gifts, United Church partners can continue to provide lifesaving support to those affected through food assistance, provision of shelter, psychosocial support, and other non-food items.

Source: [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)  
June 20, 2019

**1. Global: \$4.8 million, 18% of M&S health, education, human rights**

**2. Community & Justice Work: \$5.4 million, 19% of M&S care to Canadians on the margins**

**3. Theological Education and Vocation of Ministry Support: \$1.7 million, 6%**

**4. Faith Formation: \$4.9 million, 18% Youth, Camps**

**5. Support to Local Ministries: \$6.2 million, 22% EDGE, Embracing Spirit, Grants**

**6. National Indigenous Church: \$4.8 million, 17%**

## **AFFIRM UNITED**

**We welcome all into the life and ministry of the Knox family: persons of any age, colour, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, marital status, social or economic circumstance.**

## **KNOX UNITED CHURCH**

**451 - 18th St.  
Brandon, MB R7A 5A9  
204.727.6975  
[knoxchurch@wcgwave.ca](mailto:knoxchurch@wcgwave.ca)  
[craigatknox@wcgwave.ca](mailto:craigatknox@wcgwave.ca)  
[www.knoxunitedbrandon.ca](http://www.knoxunitedbrandon.ca)**

**Knox is on Treaty 2 land. We acknowledge our responsibility as treaty people and these lands as the original territories of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree and Dakota Peoples, and we are in the heart of the Metis nation.**