

Open to All - Celebrating Diversity - United in Love

KNOX UNITED

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2019

KNOX COFFEE CONNECTIONS

Would you like to have a one on one coffee/tea time with someone from Knox? Would you like to get to know a new friend or perhaps renew acquaintances with an old friend? Are you feeling alone or would you just like to get together with someone for an hour? If you answered yes to any of these questions then the congregational care committee has an idea for you.

If you are interested in making one of these coffee connections here is what you can do. Call Sharon in the office (204) 727-6975 and she will put your name on a coffee connections list. When you feel like getting together with someone Sharon will give you the names of those who are on the list. You can pick out a name, get in touch with them and arrange for a time and place to get together. Here is a way for you to make some real coffee connections. "Submitted by the Congregational Care Committee"



Coldest Night of the Year - Supporting Samaritan House

The "Coldest Night of the Year" Walk to fundraise for Samaritan House Ministries will be held Feb. 23. Samaritan House programs include: Manitoba's 2nd largest Food Bank, Safe & Warm Shelter, Hoarding Support Program, Community Garden Network, Age as an Asset Employment Training, Literacy and GED Programs, Computer Training, Employment Resources, Mary's House Second-stage Housing, and Volunteering Opportunities.

To donate to the Knox Team, go to: <https://cnoy.org/search> and type in "Taking our Knox". To JOIN the team, click on "join the team" on that page and start your own fundraising.

Donations to our team can also be made at the Knox office - please write "Coldest Night of the Year" in the memo line.

The walk begins and ends at St. Matthew's Cathedral, 403 - 13th Street, Brandon, and is scheduled to begin at 4pm.

Consider this on the next cold winter night!

Knox Connexions

STEWARDSHIP

COMMITTEE - Save the

Date!! - The Stewardship Committee is planning a Stewardship Event for **Saturday, April 6, 2019**. The evening will consist of a choice of Beef Tenderloin or Chicken Dinner with accompanying music in the Knox United Church Auditorium. The evening will commence at 6:00 PM with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Each served course will be interspersed with music from the 30's to the 90's and beyond.



Tickets will be \$40.00 per plate, and table reservations for up to 10 can be made.

Tickets can be purchased at the church office or will be available from committee members on Sundays prior to the event. Only 150 tickets will be made available, so don't delay!! Please keep posted for more information!

THANK YOU for helping make the Knox Christmas Cheer Campaign 2018 a huge success!

Once again the Knox Christmas Cheer initiative was a huge success. The need continues to grow, and YES once again, the Knox family stepped up. Just before Christmas, Knox provided Christmas Hampers to 22 families, including gifts to 80 children. Last year we gave Christmas hampers and gifts to 73 children and 20 families. It truly was a congregational effort. Thank you for each of the White Gift Sunday contributions of non-perishable food, toys and gifts, and monetary donations. It all helped. We used the financial contributions to purchase the additional food and gifts needed to fill the hampers. A special thanks to all who volunteered their time and effort to receive and sort

donations, to sort and wrap toys and then to pack and deliver hampers! Over 15 people and vehicles descended upon Knox at 11:30 on Dec. 18 to help deliver hampers! It was a moment of well-organized chaos, and of true caring.

Each year, Knox's Christmas Hamper effort also gets quiet, willing support from the wider community including Kuiper's Family Bakery and Safeway/Sobeys. This year was no different and again we say Thank you. The delivery men from Safeway deserve special mention. Organizing and delivering those two truckloads of groceries to Knox first thing in the morning is no easy feat. Thank you to all involved for contributing to the Christmas Joy for these 22 families.

Below: Packing up hampers in the Knox Narthex



“What's so funny 'bout peace, love and understanding?” — Elvis Costello

Coming Events with Knox

- | | |
|--|---|
| Feb. 5 Green Team Event, 6:30 pm – “Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation Home Grown Conservation” | Green Team Event. 6:30 pm – “Insulation/Retrofitting Your Home” |
| Feb. 6 Living the Questions, Part Two: Session 1, 6:30 pm | Feb. 27 Living the Questions, Session 3, 6:30 pm |
| Feb. 10 Brunch – Annual Congregational Meeting – Part I, Let’s Talk Knox | Feb 25-Mar 5 Brandon Festival of the Arts |
| Feb. 13 Living the Questions, Session 2, 6:30 pm | Mar. 1 World Day of Prayer at Knox, 7 pm, InBetweeners |
| Feb. 10-17 Brandon Festival of the Arts | Mar. 5 Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras Celebration Supper Intergenerational Activities (CE) |
| Feb. 19 Council Meeting | Mar. 10 First Sunday of Lent, Brunch |
| Feb. 21 Racial Justice Conversation, brown bag lunch at noon | Mar. 12 Let’s Talk Knox 7 pm |
| Feb. 23 Coldest Night of the Year Walk for Samaritan House, 4pm St. Matthews | Mar. 13 Living the Questions, Session 4, 6:30 pm |
| Feb. 24 Let’s Talk Knox, Snow Date-Annual Meeting | Mar. 14 PIE Day – Public, Intentional, Explicit – 5-6 pm, Affirm. |
| Family Fun Afternoon at Kemnay | Below: Two Lines Workshop at A. R. McDiarmid Civic Complex |
| Feb. 26 InBetweeners | |



SPIRIT



KIDS'



CLUB

Thinking Critically, Living Faithfully

Living the Questions – A Spiritual Journey

A Small Group Study
Honouring Creation
Wednesdays in the Chapel
(listed below) from
6:30 pm - 8 pm

“To travel hopefully is a better
thing than to arrive.”

– Robert Louis Stevenson

Many of us in the United Church believe an open and inclusive form of Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that “salvaging” Christianity is a hopeless task given outdated doctrine, abuses by the institutional church, and society’s disdain for Religion but attraction to Spirituality. For decades Knox has sought to offer for a safe environment where participants have permission to ask the questions they’ve always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice. Living the Questions provides a context where group members can pursue their questions, learn from conversations in the Emerging Church, and seek to inform their understanding as part of a life-long spiritual journey. Through exposure to provocative theological and spiritual insights and the

engagement of small group conversation, participants in Living the Questions will experience how profoundly important the journey itself is. Open to youth and adults.

Sign-up for the class by 30 January and order the workbook (\$10) on the sheet in the lobby. Or send Rev. Craig an email at craigatknox@wcgwave.ca

6 Feb I – Restoring Relationships

13 Feb II – The Prophetic Jesus

27 Feb III – Evil, Suffering & A God of Love

13 March IV – The Myth of Redemptive Violence

27 March V – Practicing Resurrection

10 April VI – Debunking the Rapture

24 April VII – Honouring Creation



Act Against Hate and Intolerance (from united-church.ca) Urge Canada to Make 29 January a National Day of Action

Canadian Muslim communities are still grieving the killing of six worshipers and injury of many others during evening prayer at the Islamic Cultural Centre in Quebec City on January 29, 2017. Tragically, all six who died in this attack were racialized men who had immigrated to Canada.

Two years on, we must recognize that the hate, racism, and xenophobia underpinning this attack does not exist in isolation. According to recent data on hate crimes directed towards racial, religious, and other minority groups, crimes against Muslims in Canada were up 151 per cent in 2017. Black and Jewish communities also had disturbing increases of 50 per cent and 63 per cent, respectively.

The National Council for Canadian Muslims is calling for January 29 to be designated a National Day of Action against Hate and Intolerance. A recent NCCM letter to Minister of Canadian Heritage and Multiculturalism Pablo Rodriguez (signed by over 110 organizations, including the United Church) states that “the best way to combat hate and intolerance is the fight against it.”

**“We will not fight to save what we do not love.”
— Stephen Jay Gould**

GREEN TEAM EVENTS

Tuesday Feb 5/2019 6:30 PM

“Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation – Home Grown Conservation”

Do you enjoy watching a beautiful bird? Are you concerned about habitat for wildlife and species at risk? Is the ever increasing amount of flood water something you worry about?

Come and learn about the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation and what they are doing in Home Grown Conservation.

Presenters will include:

- **Curtis Hullick will provide an overview of MHHC and what it does.**
- **Kasie McLaughlin will talk about the role of Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporations in land stewardship, how they manage it and why**
- **Lacy Kontzie will present on the importance, class and function of wetlands in the management of our water resources.**
- **Also learn about the new Conservation Trust Program.**

Tuesday Feb 26/2019 6:30 PM

“Insulation/retrofitting your home”

Hear a contractor walk us through the options of upgrading the insulation/retrofitting your home to save energy (\$\$\$\$)

- **What are some of the simple things (less expensive)**
- **What would a major retrofit be like**
- **What are some of the incentives available**

Worship Matters

Epiphany Series

Drawn In: Living the Creative Life with God

God created the heavens and the earth... and called it all good! - Genesis

We spend too much time being “driven” rather than “drawn in.” We focus on what we “should” do rather than what we feel excited and compelled to do in our lives, in this world. During this series, we will connect with our inherent creativity and nurture this foundational aspect of being human, giving us renewed energy for passionate work, delightful play, and creative problem solving to make this world a better place for all.

3 February – Risk

**10 February – Listen
Congregational Meeting**

17 February – Re-integrate

24 February – Resting

Coming Attractions

Lent

Keeping Company with Jesus: Unforced Rhythms of Grace.

“Are you tired? Worn out?
Burned out on religion?

Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me— watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.” – Matthew 11.28-30 The Message Translation



called to more than just unbridled consumption or production. Our lives and bodies are gifts that should be nurtured.



March 10 – Lent 1: “The Right Tempo”

March 17 – Lent 2: “Preparing a Table” Communion

March 24 – Lent 3: “Tuning In”

March 31 – Lent 4: “Living Light”

April 7 – Lent 5: “A Time for Every Matter”

April 14 – Lent 6 (Palm/ Passion Sunday): “Give it a Rest”

April 19 – Good Friday at Trinity United Church 7 pm

April 21 – Easter Sunday

The season of Lent has often been a time when we think about “giving something up”—a holdover from its penitential flavour in the medieval church. But what if we thought less about “giving up” and more about “making room?”

We're thinking about a holistic life, living with the rhythms that allow us to thrive, finding a balance between work, play, rest and reflection. We are

Outreach Plans Busy 2019

Once again the Knox Outreach Committee has a number of social justice initiatives on the go and we are excited with all we have planned for 2019. Following is an update on some of the key initiatives that we are working on:

Sharing Circles: Knox has hosted monthly sharing circles for the last two years. They offer a chance for Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together in conversation about our shared history and experiences, and to build relationship. From 6 to 30 individuals have attended the circles, and much has been gained in creating understanding, respect, and friendship. We are planning to continue these Sharing Circles and encourage your participation.

Support to incarcerated people at BCI: We are exploring ways that Knox and other faith communities can support individuals leaving Brandon Correctional Institute and re-integrating into the Brandon community. An open information event will occur in the New Year to learn about supports that individual's need, and how we could help. Ideas will be shared with the congregation following the event.

Mission and Service: The Minute for Mission was utilized each Sunday where possible to increase awareness of the M& S work carried out by the wider church and the importance of Knox support. A number of videos were shown and have been well received. A great big thank-you and congratulations goes out to Knox. The M&S Goal set for 2018 was \$35,000. The amount donated was \$38,519.88 which include Mission & Service, World Development & Relief and any special appeals throughout the year. Well done Knox.

Fair Trade Faith Community: Ever wondered how you can help the lives of small farmers around the world? More than 1.6 million farmers and workers in producer organizations get better prices, decent working conditions and fair terms of trade through Fairtrade Canada. Fairtrade supports small scale farmers and workers who are marginalized from trade in a variety of ways. What does this mean? It means the children of Fairtrade farmers get to attend school. It means communities involved can choose to dig wells, build homes, health care



Participants at the Two Lines Reconciliation Workshop in October

centres, improve sanitation, expand their markets, and have more control over their futures and the environment where they work and live.

Knox is exploring the idea of becoming a Fairtrade Faith Community so stay tuned for further information events. If you have any thoughts or concerns or want to help out, please talk to Madelyn Robinson. This is another way to seek justice here at Knox United Church.

Grow a Row Stew Supper: This past year the Outreach Committee invited families to grow a row of vegetables in the summer and then donate them to Knox during the beginning of September. With the help of Sharon Christmas and the In Betweeners, a community supper of stew, biscuits and desserts was held. Outreach is considering doing this initiative again in 2019 and we are looking for your input.

Reaching Out: At the first Edge Visioning Workshop a number of people highlighted the needs of the homeless and addicted population in our community. Outreach recognizes that we do need to better understand and respond to this segment of the population. We are supportive of, and hope to be part of, the Knox Visioning Community Round table.

Be a Part of Outreach: Are you interested in social justice issues! Would you like to be involved in understanding these issues better and working towards solutions? Join the Knox Outreach Committee!

Let's Talk Knox Visioning Sessions

Here's what has happened and where we are headed. Watch Knox Connexions for a summary of each session.

Session One — Identity, Growing Edges, Resources. January 20

Identity - Who are we?

Growing Edges - What challenges/opportunities are we facing?

What resources do we have?

Session Two — Visioning and Strategic Planning. February 10

Annual Meeting

Part 1:

Volunteers - What could we be doing to involve more volunteers in ministry opportunities? How do you feel yourself being called to participate in addressing the needs/mission of the church? How might we better equip volunteers for to serve?

Staffing - Are we appropriately staffed to respond to the challenges and opportunities we identified?

Part 2:

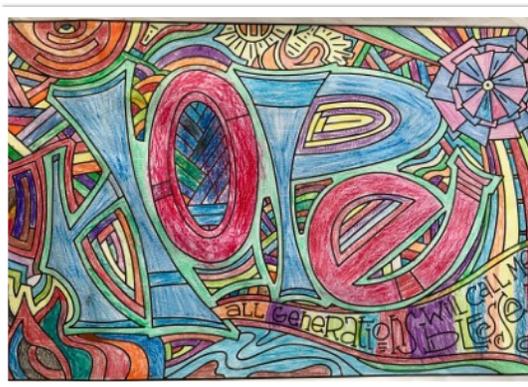
Finances - Is there capacity to grow our church givings other than through additional fundraising events in order to respond to the challenges/opportunities we face? What else should we be considering regarding our financial stability?

Session Three – Communication. February 24 after worship

Telling our story - What do you tell family/friends/neighbours/colleagues about Knox?

Focus - What should we be telling people about Knox?

Resources - What would help you feel more confident to share our story with a broader audience?



Session Four - Collaboration/Clustering. March 12 at 7 pm

Amalgamation - It's clear that a large number in the congregation do not feel this is the appropriate time to talk about amalgamation. What feelings come up for you when you hear the words amalgamation/collaborative ministry?

Is there a time when you would see this as an important conversation to have?

In what areas of ministry should we be collaborating/partnering with other communities of faith over the next 3-5 years?

Session Five - Physical Plant: Repurposing, Redevelopment. April 7 during brunch

During the Vision Day, although not as prevalent as some other comments, there was some indication at table groups that in the next 5 – 10 years the building will become a primary focus when considering sustainability

Some communities of faith are “repurposing/renovating” their

buildings to be a “Community Hub”, i.e.: place for multiple community organizations, social agencies, social innovations and outreach ministries, along side their place of worship. Would you consider this as an option for Knox?

Other congregations have undertaken a complete “redevelopment” which involves the addition to or replacement of their building for housing/apartments, the new space would include space for the worshipping community. Would you consider this as an option for Knox?

What opportunities and risks do “repurposing” or “redevelopment” present?

Ten Good Reads for the SBNR Crowd

From your Affirm Committee

Our Committee has planned three events focusing on diversity.

By the time you receive this newsletter, the “Little Mosque on the Prairie” event will be over. Our Committee hopes that the learning and discussion continues!

Continuing the Conversation: Racial Justice & The United Church

On February 21, we will host a noon hour brown bag lunch discussion on Racial Justice: “Continuing the Conversation. Racial Justice within the United Church”.

Betty Kelly and Bev Ramcharan will co-facilitate. A poster is up on the bulletin board.

Come join us as we listen and have a chance to discuss - we learn more together!

PIE Day

On March 14, we are celebrating PIE! What is PIE you ask? It stands for Public, Intentional and Explicit. That refers to the commitment we hold ourselves and our welcome to when we become an Affirming Ministry. We will have representatives from various organizations and groups who will share what they do within our community to make Brandon and area an open, welcoming place for LGBTTQ folks.

Draw the circle wide and join us!



1. **The Little Prince by Antoine deSaint-Exupéry's**
2. **Thirst by Mary Oliver**
3. **The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho**
4. **Embers by Richard Wagamese**
5. **The Red Tent by Anita Diamant**
6. **Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi**
7. **Letters to a Young Poet by Rainer Rilke**
8. **Daring Greatly by Brene Brown**
9. **Dismantled by Bruce Sanguin**
10. **Wisdom from the Homeless by Neil Craton**

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
craigatknox@wcgwave.ca
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.