

# KNOX UNITED CHURCH

## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2020

### BUT FIRST, REMEMBERING FALL .....



THE  
PUMPKIN  
PATCH



THE FAMOUS INDOOR GARAGE SALE



# Knox Connexions



sharing the spirit of Christmas



THANKS TO THE ELVES THAT PACKED OVER 30 HAMPERS FOR CHRISTMAS CHEER. AND TO THE SLEIGH DRIVERS WHO DELIVERED THEM!



Five wise men (and a half) reflect on Epiphany



# Knox Connexions

## Catching up with old friends

### Dinner with Colombian Families

Back in 2007 when Maple Leaf brought many workers from other countries to Brandon to work at their Brandon plant, a group of people from Knox and some of their friends started to meet with men from Colombia to assist with their adjustment to Brandon and conversational English. That became the start of a wonderful relationship that has lasted over many years.

What fun we had! We met Saturday afternoons at the church to offer support and practice in speaking English. We arranged activities – learning to skate, Christmas party, an afternoon at Clear Lake. Once their families started to join them in Brandon, we helped find new places to live and to move into with their families. We helped get the kids enrolled in school and offered support to the wives who were adjusting to life in Brandon.

We watched the families grow and flourish as they became established in Brandon and sometimes moving away for other opportunities. And we stayed in contact to varying degrees.

Fast forward to December 2019: we were invited to a dinner put on by a few of the Colombian families. They insisted that they do all the cooking and arranging. Approximately 35 met in Knox Auditorium. One of the families who has since moved to Winnipeg came back especially for the party. Throughout the evening, we visited and got caught up on what everyone was doing, marvelled at how much the kids had grown and enjoyed a delicious meal together. We also connected via Facetime with some of the families who have moved away.

After dinner, many of the guys shared how much they appreciated our help over the years, especially when they first arrived. The most common expression was “you are our Canadian family”. They wanted Knox folks to know how much they appreciated all the help and friendship we offered.



The Knox Green Team is working on plans for 2020

Some of the potential events in the planning stages are:

- Recycling tips and clarifications – events at Knox and in the community
- Potentially a “Gardening/Backyard workshop” late April
- An Electric Vehicle event being planned for early June
- Potential speaker on regenerative agriculture and how the city dweller fits into this
- Working on a lunch a learn session around Brandon being a “Bee City”

The Green Team would welcome other suggestions for topics



# Knox Connexions

## Financial Update for the period January 1 to December 31, 201

Church Givings:	\$135,914.14	2018 was at \$136,117.15
Donations:	\$ 2,220.26	
Total M&S Givings:	\$ 38,399.74	2018 was at \$ 38,519.88
Income:	\$194,723.70	2019 Budget was \$206,379.09
Expenses:	<u>\$203,696.16</u>	
Deficit as of December 31	<u>(\$ 8,972.46)</u>	



Note: One of our \$25,000 investments was cashed in to provided administration with enough funds to work with over the summer, as per council's directive.

Refugee Brandon Funds : \$32,310.81



Your Outreach Committee is pursuing becoming a Fair Trade Faith Group.

When we are designated a Fair Trade Faith Group it means we support fairer conditions and better prices for people in the Global South who grow and make our products; whether it's the coffee we drink, the cocoa in our chocolate, or the cotton in our t-shirts. It's a market-based system that uses consumer support to influence international trade practices, and is a powerful tool for change. When you buy fair trade products, farmers and workers have much more power to create a better life for themselves and their communities, and enjoy sustainable livelihoods.

We currently have a committee made up of Madelyn Robinson, Mindy Campbell and Deanna Ginn but if you have a passion for Fair Trade we welcome you to come aboard!

Soon you will be able to order and pickup Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate here at Knox United Church.



Scouts Canada welcomes all Youth, boys and girls between the ages of 5 to 26, to join and become well-rounded Youth who are better prepared for success in the world. With that in mind, the 23rd Brandon Scout Group currently has Beaver Scouts (5-7 years), Cub Scouts (8-10 years) and Scouts (11-14 years) meeting on Thursday nights at Knox United Church. Youth can attend two Meetings for free to see if they like the program. If a decision is made to join, Scouts Canada has a late registration fee of \$180 per Youth from 1 January to 31 August 2020. Questions can be sent to Scouter Shawn Fortin (Group Administrator) at [skfortin@gmail.com](mailto:skfortin@gmail.com) or go to [www.MyScouts.ca](http://www.MyScouts.ca) to register. Volunteers are also needed at all Section levels (some screening and training required).

Scouter Shawn Fortin  
Group Administrator  
23rd Brandon Group  
431-541-2022



# Knox Connexions



## Worship

The Worship Committee thought this might be a good time to let people know what we do.

We make sure there are people to take up the offering, take care of the candle table and ask people to read scripture; those are your everyday Sunday jobs. On Sundays when we serve communion we look after that too!

We also like to hang the banners and decorate the sanctuary for special seasons.

When necessary we ask people to look after the services at the personal care homes. We appreciate those who help out by taking services when Craig is away and for helping with music.

If you would like to help out by becoming a member of this committee or if you have questions or concerns around these items please contact us.

Members: Diane Shepherd, Peggy Barrows, Cheryl Doull, Pat Cavanagh, Phyllis Digby and Michael Briol.



Dear  
Board of  
Heritage  
Co - op,

## Green Team Letter Writing Campaign, Sunday 9 February

Some of you attended the Green Team's Electric Car event in 2018. It was a success and since that time the team has been advocating in the community for clean energy alternatives for transportation. In line with this work the *GT* is inviting you to write a letter to your local Co-Op Board, including your Co-Op number if you have one, inviting them to provide level 3 quick charge stations in this area. Letters will be available to sign on Sunday the 9th or you can write your own. Here's a sample:

To the Board of Heritage Co-Op,

We are all hearing on a regular basis about the scientific consensus that climate change is a human-caused phenomenon that increasingly is putting our environment at risk and is leading to social and economic disruptions. We have also been made aware that the main driver of climate change is the widespread, and increasing, burning of fossil fuel.

As members and customers of our local co-op it is our hope that we can make a contribution to averting this emerging crisis. A significant and very practical step would be the installation of an electric vehicle charging station at our local stores. Worries about a lack of charging infrastructure are reported to be a major deterrent to widespread adoption of electric vehicles. Heritage

Co-Op could help with this at the local level. In the immediate future level 2 charging stations could be installed relatively cheaply and easily. In the longer term, level 3 quick chargers will be crucial to the transition to electric powered transportation. We hope that plans for a quick charge station could also begin now.

There are companies who have already begun installation of charging stations across the prairies and the whole country. However, many of these efforts have been concentrated in the Trans-Canada highway corridor. We are concerned that, as sometimes happens in other social transitions, many rural areas will be left behind in the transportation transition without focused local action.

From the beginning the purpose of co-ops has been to help improve the lives of community members. We hope that addressing this issue will help us all in the ongoing pursuit of that goal. We recognize that plans may already be in the works for our co-op in this regards and we would appreciate a response letting us know what the current plans are for helping address climate change.

Regards,

# Knox Connexions

Fridays for Future Climate Strike very Friday  
11:30 - 1:00 or as long as temperature allows

Rena Kelly meets with the Mayor and inspires others!



I refuse to give up hope.  
I refuse to give up love.  
I refuse to let my words,  
or my actions,  
be guided by fear.

I will trust in the hope that life is tenacious.  
I will trust in the love that has called us to be.  
I will trust in the strength of wisdom,  
I will trust in the power of community,  
I will trust in my neighbour,  
I will trust in God.

"Faith, hope, and love abide - these three - but the greatest of these is love."

# Thinking Critically, Living Faithfully



Why is the Earth, the third rock from the sun, so very different from the rest of our solar system? How does our understanding/perspective motivate us to live a life of faith with awe and wonder and with care for the Earth?

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary, come for one or all of the sessions

Featuring Episodes from: One Strange Rock, the National Geographic Documentary

Ages: Everyone is welcome although the discussion time will be best suited for teens and adults

Narrated by astronauts, (including Canada's remarkable Chris Hadfield) the only persons to have had the opportunity to see the Earth from space, the documentary tells the story of Earth's history as seen from a planetary perspective. Within our solar system, planet Earth is unique among the planets, moons, and dwarf planets. Only Earth has a breathable atmosphere, the ability to "heal" itself following planetary bombardment in its early history and more recent "extinction events," and very large amounts of liquid water on its surface.

"Earth is unique because this is where life has developed and is sustained. The evolution of life over time has terraformed a once barren rock into a paradise perfect for life. The past and present state of the Earth's biosphere has made our home planet into our only home. One Strange Rock tells Earth's story from its very violent and fiery beginning, 4.5 billion years ago, through the development of microbial life 3.9 billion years ago, to its present state, hosting millions of living species." (Journeys in Film)

We'll watch the episodes and reflect on the themes using the lenses of Christian faith and spirituality.

Sponsored by the Christian Education Committee and the Knox Green Team

From our friend, Marie Graham

This could have been the beginning of our annual Advent letter to our connections near and far as it is the kernel of one of its important pieces. This specific short paragraph is a "love letter" of gratitude to our friends at Knox who are a continuing source of support and kindness - not the "duty" type, but the "real" kind in words spoken directly, letters written, sharing of experiences, donations given, chores done. Some of these blessings came as part of the "paid job description" but were experienced as one of a part of a family beyond the job with tenderness and care. For me, from the pain, fatigue and loss, there is a sense of deep thankfulness and some learning too. And thank you also for the deep appreciations you showed to Jack in his final time here as he waited with not fear for his next adventure. Sometimes he would hear conversations around him and ask "Am I dead yet?" One of the last phrases he spoke was "I'm home, I'm home, I'm home." What a blessing!

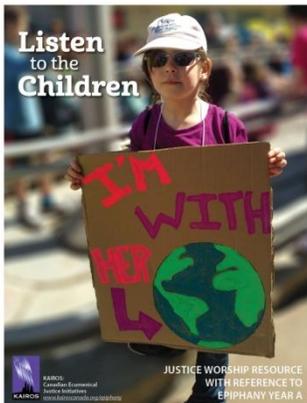
# Worship Matters

“Our hearts are torn the deepest by the stories of injustice to young ones - the memories of children in Residential Schools, of young Indigenous girls gone missing, of Palestinian children taken from their beds by Occupation soldiers, of children around the world suffering under the wreckage of war, climate catastrophes, and colonial poverty. Hearing these cries pulls us deeper into the justice seeking work, yet the cries of pain are not all that children offer. Whether it is an eight-year-old among adults at a KAIROS Blanket Exercise talking circle, the youth on an international delegation, the nephew of a staff person or a throng of striking students, the young among us have something to say.

“Our God listens to the children – listens to the children, relies on them, calls everyone to be like them, empowers them. Spread throughout our Scriptures are stories of the Creator’s care and attention to the needs of children. In some cases, God calls children and young people to be prophets or take a risky stance against human power. God empowers the youth and they persevere.

“The season of Epiphany centres on Jesus as a child to young adult. We are inspired to consider how a child, and many children, lead us to transformation. These stories embolden our faith and inform how we listen to today’s children. God hears their cry. God knows their strength. How are we called to respond to these voices – in care and in solidarity?”

— Kairos Canada



19 January - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany — Children as Prophets, Servants and Leaders

26 January - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany — Jesus Heals and Blesses Children

2 February - 4th Sunday after Epiphany — Become Like Children

9 February - 5th Sunday after Epiphany — Children of Courage

16 February - 6th Sunday after Epiphany — Choose Life

23 February - 7th Sunday after Epiphany — Without Fear and Without Want

## Lent — Entering the Passion of Jesus & Picturing Ourselves in the Story Sundays 1 March - 5 April

The events of Christ’s Passion, which take place during the last week of Jesus’ life, often don’t receive enough time in our worship and study. These stories are important to our faith journey and our identity as followers of Jesus. And yet we often move too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to take in the dramatic story of that last week. Throughout the six weeks of Lent we will “freeze-frame” moments in Holy Week so we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby “Entering the Passion of Jesus.” How might taking a closer look at the ancient story open us to deeper conviction for our role in its ongoing message?

# COMING ATTRACTIONS

- 18 Jan. Disney Dazzle with Strathclaire Chorus, 7 pm
- 20 Jan. Ruth's Story, Brown Bag Lunch Discussion with Affirm Knox
- 22 Jan. Feeding Families (Sam House Prep) at Trinity UCC 10 am
- 28 Jan. In Betweeners 7:30 pm
- 31 Jan. Sharing Circle, 6:30 pm
- 2 Feb. Fair Trade Kick-Off for Valentine's Day
- 5 Feb. One Strange Rock 6:00 pm Faith and Science Seeking Understanding
- 9 Feb. Annual Meeting; Brunch; Green team letter writing campaign
- 12 Feb. One Strange Rock 6:30 pm Faith and Science Seeking Understanding
- 15-17 Feb. Zeebu Regional Youth Retreat, Westworth UCC in Winnipeg
- 19 Feb. One Strange Rock 6:30 pm Faith and Science Seeking Understanding
- 22 Feb. Coldest Night Walk for Samaritan House
- 23 Feb. Annual Meeting Snow Date
- 25 Feb. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- 4 Mar. One Strange Rock 6:30 pm Faith and Science Seeking Understanding
- 8 Mar. Brunch
- 11 Mar. One Strange Rock 6:30 pm Faith and Science Seeking Understanding
- 14 Mar. PIE day - Public, Intentional, Explicit Affirming Ministry
- 18 Mar. One Strange Rock 6:30 pm Faith and Science Seeking Understanding
- 21/22 Mar. Youth Retreat in Winnipeg (youth grades 5-12)
- 29 Mar. BU Chorale and Concert Choir, Beethoven's C Major Mass, 3 pm

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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.