

Calendar

31 January - Mitten Fundraiser, 1-4 PM
1 February - Brunch, Annual Meeting
4 February - SKC grades 3-8, Learning & Leadership, 6 pm
7 & 8 February - Philippines Pavilion at Knox
9 February - Congregational Care Mtg, 10 am
11 February - SKC grades 3-8, Valentine's Night, 6 pm
15 February - SKC grades 3-8, Lunch & Fun Time Pottery, 12 pm
16 February - Office Closed
17 February - Shrove Tuesday, Pancake Supper
27 February - SKC grades 3-8, Ping Pong Tourney, 6 pm
28 February - Coldest Night of the Year Walk

**The Annual General Meeting is this Sunday, following the service.
Brunch will be available!**

If you would like to join via Zoom, please use the link:

Topic: Annual Meeting

Time: Feb 1, 2026 12:15 PM Winnipeg

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87209720940?pwd=eavjoYEZX0POkj5ja2RNikxcQb7T7I.1>

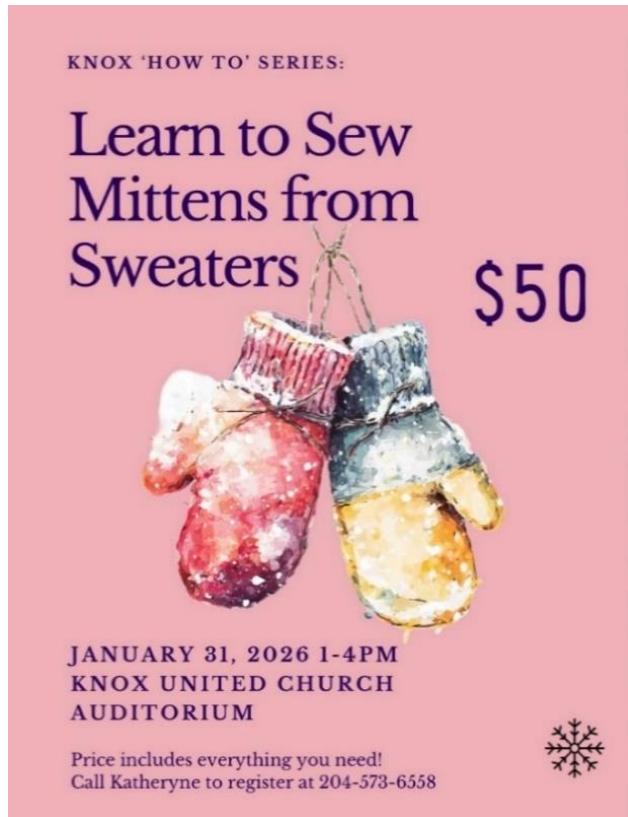
Meeting ID: 872 0972 0940

Passcode: 996887

NEW: Mission & Service

The Heart of Winter

[The Heart of Winter | The United Church of Canada](http://TheHeartofWinter.ca)



NEW: Learn how to sew Mittens!

This Saturday! 1-4 pm. Everything you need is included!

Join this lovely lady, Katheryne, who's been at home perfecting her mitten tutorial! Just look at these beauties she's created! Thanks to all who have signed up so far to join her! This is also a great way to help Knox reduce carbon emissions by keeping your hands warm without buying something new!

Thank you, Katheryne, for the time and care you are putting towards this fun-filled afternoon of learning and creating!

NEW: Carrying the Empire on our Backs

On Monday evening, Dr. Patricia Harms shared her research work with just over 50 people at Knox. It was interesting, personal, and full of historical detail as she described how Indigenous communities in Northern Manitoba played a vital and complex role in the development of the fur trade and of the British Empire. Her presentation explored the contributions of the Island Lake people to the global story of the Hudson's Bay Company. Equally interesting was hearing about her research as she works her way through the Hudson Bay archives to tease out personal stories. She shared an opening quote from one of the Chiefs who had signed Treaty 5 that set the stage for the evening. It reminded each of us to find room in our minds for new truths and new stories.

Patricia, We say Thank You again for the powerful and very enjoyable presentation.

The presentation has been recorded and is available for viewing on our YouTube channel. The Knox Konnexon <https://www.youtube.com/c/TheKnoxKonnexion>

NEW: Broadview Live

Join us live on Monday, Feb 2, from 7-8 pm. Eastern via Zoom, as Broadview Live brings together two prominent Canadian voices to explore the pressures on democracy and Canada's role in a rapidly changing world.

United Church minister and Broadview contributor Christopher White will speak with former MP Charlie Angus and former foreign affairs minister Lloyd Axworthy for a conversation about democracy, the rise of fascism, and Canada's position under US President Trump's demands.

After our guests have spoken, there will be some time for discussion. Here is a question to spark conversation:

What worries you about Canada's future and what gives you hope?

Register Here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

Reminder: SHIFT into your superpower! Be a Role Model!

Take the opportunity to share the many ways large and small that you are working towards lowering your carbon footprint. Are you buying less? Recycling more? Composting? Insulating your home? Putting in new windows? Throwing out less food? Writing more letters? Calling your councillor? Talking to your neighbors? Investing differently?

What are the ways that you are helping move the needle on emissions? There are two ways you can let us know.

1. Volunteer to do a “Just A Green Minute” during worship. We are looking for people willing to share the story of their journey toward a more sustainable life for themselves and their community.
2. Let everyone know by filling out a slip of paper on the East side of the sanctuary. We will post it on our “Path to 50X30” as we make a chain of events along that path.

Don’t be shy. Let us know. You may be an inspiration to all of us!

NEW: Just a Green Minute

You may have seen in the Brandon Sun an article about a new development south of Brandon called the South Village. In the middle of this parcel of land is a 90 acre class IV wetland. Since European settlement, wetlands were seen as wastelands. Here on the prairies when agriculture became the driving economic force, wetlands were seen as a barrier to growing crops, a feature having a negative impact on the livelihood of most farmers. Wetlands were seen as land you couldn’t farm and therefore in need of being drained or filled in so you could grow crops.

Since European settlement, it is estimated that we have lost up to 70% of the wetland areas here in Manitoba. We have drained and/or filled in wetlands in order to build communities and homes, shopping centers, roads, and expand cropland. This activity was viewed as progress.

You may be asking, why should I care about wetlands? If landowners want to drain them or fill them in, that’s not my problem. It turns out it could be your problem; it could be everyone’s problem.

Wetlands are important ecosystems especially in flood or drought prone regions. The plants and soil soak up water like a sponge and hang on to it, slowly releasing it out to the surrounding land as things dry up. This is important during extreme rain events and even during the normal spring melts. Water is able to pool into the wetland rather than your basement. During our dry summers, there is water still available which helps keep our water cycle in balance. Water that isn’t slowed down by wetlands, leaves an area quickly eroding the land and giving the water table no opportunity to replenish.

Wetlands are often called nature’s kidneys because they filter out pollutants and excess nutrients like phosphorous from water. In an agricultural area such as Brandon, this can help keep these excess nutrients out of our drinking water.

Another important feature of wetlands is that they play a crucial role as a carbon sink. They store approximately 20% of the planet’s organic ecosystem carbon even though they only cover 1% of the Earth’s surface. They also act as a heat sink for our warming summers.

Last but not least, wetlands provide critical habitat for a variety of plant and animal species. Wetlands are among the Earth's most productive and biodiverse ecosystems.

So what does all this mean for us in relation to the South Village development? It means that we all need to pay attention to how the land is developed and what protection is in place for this 90 acre Class IV wetland that has been there since the last glacier receded 10,000 years ago. That wetland is more than just a green space. It holds the key to keeping our water clean, mitigating flooding especially for the houses and shopping centres being built on this property or those developments nearby, it will act as a carbon sink and a heat sink, it will be habitat for birds, amphibians, insects, mammals, and plant species that are an important part of our diverse world. As this property is developed it is important to make protecting the wetland our top priority. Once it's lost, all the benefits are lost and wetland restoration is an expensive and poor substitute for the real thing.

Reminder: Westman Multicultural Festival

February 5, 6, 7, 2026 - Free Admission!

Food, cultural and entertainment venues from around the world, throughout Brandon

The Philippines will be at Knox again this year!

Open: Friday, Feb 6, 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Saturday, Feb 7, 12:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Get all the details here: [Westman Multicultural Festival - February 5 - 7, 2026](#)

NEW: Coldest Night of the Year

The Coldest Night of the Year is a Canada-wide, family-friendly fundraising walk. In Brandon, funds are raised in support of Samaritan House Ministries, taking place on February 28, at Knox United Church. Walkers check-in at 4:00 pm, walk the designated route from 5:00 - 6:00 pm, then return to the church for a light meal if they wish, ending at 7:00 pm.

Reminder: Getting Better Together with Prairie Mtn Health

A FREE six-week program for living better with ongoing health conditions. Learn to manage pain, start exercise, and increase energy levels.

Available on-line, March 12 - April 16, Thursdays 1:30-4 pm

Or in-person, April 7 - May 12, Tuesdays 1:30-4 pm at Knox United Church.

For more info or to register rcullen@pmh-mb.ca or call 1-877-509-7852

Reminder: New Email Address for Knox

For email & e-transfer, please update your records.

admin@knoxunitedbrandon.ca

Reminder: Greenspot & Sobeys Gift Cards

Greenspot Home & Garden and Sobeys gift cards are restocked and available in the church office. A portion of every card supports our church's outreach ministries throughout the community.

Reminder: Zeebu Youth Retreat Registration Now Open!

Zeebu Youth Retreat - Knowing our Neighbours: Many Religions, One Community

Harrow United Church - Feb 20th to 22nd, 2026. Grade 7 to 12 plus young adult leaders. [Details and Registration Here](#)

Sunday Morning Worship on YouTube

Join our Sunday worship at 10:30 AM on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheKnoxKonnexion>

Or search *The Knox Konnexon*