

News In The Pews

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 3

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017



Easter Celebrations at Chilliwack United Church

Special points of interest:

- *Lots of gratitude and thanks.*
- *Talk about God with Rev. Dr. Gary Paterson*
- *Lots of great programming is ready for you at Naramata Centre*
- *Opportunities for youth and young adults.*

Our next Pot Luck Lunch takes place on Sunday, April 12 following the worship service. Bring your favourite food to share and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship.

We are looking for someone to coordinate volunteers for the Meals On Wheels Program on behalf of Chilliwack United Church. We do deliveries two months of the year; April and September. Speak to Sandra Jacob for more information or to volunteer.

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday @ Carman United Church

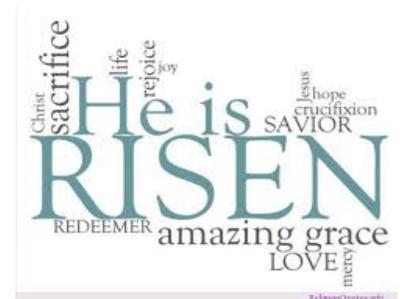
Good Friday 10:30 a.m. @ Chilliwack United

Sunrise Service 7:00 a.m. @ Chilliwack Cemeteries

Easter Morning Breakfast @ 9:00 a.m. Easter Morning at Chilliwack United

All Ages Easter Service @ 10:30 a.m. at Chilliwack United

Come check out our **Weekly Drop In Bible Study** on Wednesday mornings at 10:30. This is an informal group that discusses the scripture readings being used that week during worship. No Bible knowledge is necessary.



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Sincerest Thanks!

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a very sincere thank you to all our incredible volunteers and staff. Your hard work and dedication is so very much appreciated, particularly during this time of learning, change and questioning.

To our congregation, thank you for your continuing prayers for Rev. Heather as she continues her journey to wellness.

Thank you for your soul searching and ideas around what direction this church should go in the future and what God calls

us to do and be as a church in the downtown core. Change is not easy to be sure.

May God hold and bless all of you as we journey through the rest of the Lenten Season and on to the miracle of Easter.

Thank You to Our Community and Chilliwack Churches



As the Warming Centre winds down to its final day of operation on April 1, I am humbled by the support, financial and otherwise, of local churches and people in our community.

I have received many expressions of pride and gratitude from other United Church congregations in Chilliwack. They applaud the initiative and our courage in supporting our local homeless population.

Local churches and individuals have come forward with financial donations to help with the increased cost of supplies (toilet paper, hand towels, hand soap). The City of Chilliwack has also helped by coming up with extra funds to help with unforeseen expenses. They are

also covering the cost of any additional garbage pick up.

Individuals have stopped in and dropped off donations of toilet paper to help with the increased need. The generosity of our little city never ceases to amaze me.

Our local homeless community continues to express their gratitude for a warm place to be. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to laugh, share stories, and get to know lots of really wonderful people.

Since last month, several more clients have entered treatment programs.

Women living on the street face additional risks including assault and sexual exploitation. Fraser Health has

reported to us that the women they have spoken with are grateful for the safety and security of our church during the daytime hours.

There are plans in the works to have an opportunity for conversation, and sharing of information and learnings with the congregation. Watch your bulletin for more information.

I am thankful for the understanding and support I have personally received during some challenging times. Your gratitude and words of support mean more than you know.

In Christ's service,

Lynn Catto, Office Manager

The United Church is busy all over the Lower Mainland. See what other churches are offering.

More United Church News

Trinity Memorial United Church in Abbotsford is pleased to be hosting Jim and Jean Strathdee for a concert on Sunday, April 30 at 7:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 and tickets can be reserved through their church office and picked up at the door. Call 604-853-2591 to reserve your tickets.

God Talk with the Rev. Dr. Gary Paterson (Past Moderator of the United Church of Canada), March 29 4:00p.m. at Hazelmere United Church, followed by a potluck supper. To register, or for more information, email

joanpcp@gmail.com or wespcp@gmail.com

You are invited to attend the Covenanting Service for Rev. Sophia Ducey as Minister of Children, Families, Youth, Young Adults and Communications, and Rev. Hilde J. Seal as Minister of Adult Faith, Pastoral Care and Outreach to United Churches of Langley. The service is on Sunday, March 26 at 4:00p.m. at the United Churches of Langley, Murrayville location, 21562 Old Yale Rd., Langley.

Church Amalgamation for New Life! With David Ray-

mond of ChurchFuture—Saturday, April 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Crossroads United Church, 7655 – 120th St., Delta. \$50 per person or \$175 for 4 or more. Register at 1-800-934-0434, ext 308.

The Theology and Practice of Mentoring—Tuesday, June 20 to Thursday, June 22, Loon Lake Lodge and Retreat Centre, Maple Ridge. In critical moments in our lives mentors can provide just the assurance, inspiration and guidance we need to flourish. Contact the church office for registration information, 604-792-4634.

Naramata Centre

2017 is a pivotal year in the life of Naramata Centre. Their long term success depends on your support—whether through your participation at the Centre, your financial support or your encouragement to carry on in challenging times.

Naramata Centre has a long history; next year the Centre marks its 70th anniversary. In the book, *the edge of the centre*, author Mary Trainor writes “Naramata Centre has made a difference in the lives of thousands of people, and many hold

it dear...The experiences shared...testify to the deep affection the Centre garners and to the gratitude felt” for this place.

The Naramata Centre Board is grateful for the ongoing support of BC Conference of the United Church. One of the considerations in continuing their support is that people demonstrate their value for the Centre by attending their programs and staying at the Centre.

The Board takes their roles very seriously in the labour of love

to sustain the Centre for generations to come. They need your participation to make that a reality.

Check their list of programs and consider attending one <https://www.naramatacentresociety.org/programs/>

Money is available through the Cantrill Fund to help fund your attendance at Naramata Centre’s programs. For more information, contact the church office at 604-792-4634.



The United Church Observer

In the March issue of The United Church Observer—Aging and Addicted—”As opioid deaths on the street grab headlines, a hidden epidemic of painkiller abuse is plaguing Canadian Seniors.” - by Kevin Spurgaitis

The United Church Observer is an award winning magazine that looks at the world through a unique United Church perspective.

It is a real bargain for a such high quality publication at only \$25. for a one year subscrip-

tion.

To join our group subscription, contact the church office at 604-792-4634.

A hidden epidemic is plaguing Canadian Seniors...

“To Be Inspired is Great; to Inspire is Incredible”

The INSPIRE Conference is an Ecumenical Conference for leaders of children, youth and young adults; and leaders who are passionate about Social Justice.

This conference is being held at St. Andrew’s Wesley United Church, Vancouver from April 28 to 29.

Come and gather at this second annual event!

Education, community and ministry to Leaders of Children, Youth and Young Adults and Families!

Connection, education and community building for the Ministry of Contemplative Justice in Faith Communities!

To register visit www.inspireconference.ca



An Ecumenical Conference for: Leaders of Children, Youth and Young Adults and Leaders who are passionate about Social Justice www.inspireconference.ca

April 28-29, 2017

sponsored by BC Conference of the United Church of Canada, the BC Council of Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Canada, the Diocese of New Westminster of the Anglican Church of Canada, The Episcopal Diocese of Seattle, St. Andrew's Hall (The Presbyterian Church in Canada) The Contemplative Justice Network



Opportunities for Youth and Young Adults



Island Time 2017—This United Church of Canada event takes place at Camp Pringle in Victoria May 12 to 14. Young people, ages 12 to 25, and youth leaders are invited to a weekend to enjoy fellowship and “Island Time”. Register at island-timebc.ca

May Retreat is just around the corner! Youth in Grades 7-12 and Young Adults are invited to gather at Camp Fircom in Vancouver May 19-22 for a great weekend of fun with friends new and old. Register at www.vanyaya.bc.ca

There are two exciting staffing opportunities for Ministry with Children, Youth and Young Adults! Gilmore Park United Church in Richmond and

First Metropolitan United Church in Victoria are inviting applications from people who have a passion to work with youth and young adults. For more information see the posting our Narthex.

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Our Mission

Ministry is the work of all who gather.

Together, we are God's people serving God in Chilliwack and around the world.

Mission Statement

As a Christian congregation, we provide opportunities to celebrate God's presence and to grow together.

In so doing, we foster an atmosphere encouraging fellowship and spiritual growth and leading to being a caring Christian community.

This Week at Chilliwack United Church Monday, March 27 to Sunday, April 2

Monday, March 27

8:30 Warming Centre Opens

Tuesday, March 28

8:30 Warming Centre Opens

9:00 Centering Prayer

1:00 Thrift Shop Opens

7:30 Choir Practice

Wednesday, March 29

8:30 Warming Centre Opens

10:00 Thrift Shop Opens

10:30 Drop In Bible Study

Thursday, March 30

8:30 Warming Centre Opens

10:00 Thrift Shop Opens

Friday, March 31

8:30 Warming Centre Opens

10:00 Thrift Shop Opens

Saturday, April 1

8:30 Warming Centre Opens—Last Day of Operation

1:00 Thrift Shop Opens

Sunday, April 2

10:30 All Ages Worship Service

