



St. James United Church

Announcements

Creation Time 1

September 10, 2023

Upcoming Events:

- **Sun. Sept. 17th – 11 am – Innispirit Worship and Picnic** in Bradford. See details below!
 - **Tues. Sept. 19th – 9:30 am – Board Meeting** (upper hall)
 - **Sun. Sept. 24th – 10 am – Anniversary Service & Lunch After Church** (Invitation coming soon!)
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Thank you to this Sunday's volunteers who make our time of gathering meaningful & fun:

Greeter: Heather Walker

Lay Reader: Ted Gemmell

Refreshments: Barb Johnston & Ceu Melo

This Week in Worship ...with Pastor Patricia

My husband John and I were once again enjoying our morning coffee out on our small back deck, relaxing in the coolness that was there before the heat of this week's sun. Suddenly, a huge flock of hidden sparrows flew out of the hedge beside us. Startling to be sure! But we wondered what had caused them to come out of their hiding spot and head to the safety of our shed's roof. It was then that we saw it... a young fox nonchalantly trotting by and heading to the back 40, where he would eventually find his way into another part of town.



We are always amazed at the expanse of nature that we enjoy in our yard. What we don't see ourselves, we see through the eyes of our grandchildren when they come for a visit. Carter is always asking for a box to hold the bugs he loves to find; the same bugs that terrify our granddaughter, Audrey!

As I reflect on the beauty and diverse wonders of nature found around me, I can't help but whisper, *"Thank you God for this beauty."*

This week we begin one of my favorite liturgical seasons... the season of Creation. It reminds me of the attention and work that needs to be done to restore health and justice to a world that is shouting out in pain to us. God's creation... All My Relations... as seen by our Indigenous community, needs our commitment to walk as God would have us do; in harmony with everything our Creator has blessed us with. On Sunday, we reflect on love for all - for human and non-human alike. What does that look like to you? Love for all... bring it on!

Looking forward to worshipping together,
Pastor Patricia

I am always fascinated by hands, and the many gifts they offer to us every day of our lives.

It doesn't matter what they look like; hands hold a beauty that defies image alone.

Here is a reflection written by Karen Wilk that can be found on godspacelight.com that I would like to share with you... *Patricia*

GATHERING EARTH: A HAND REFLECTION

August 24, 2023



Karen Tamminga-Paton has done numerous paintings of hands and there is something about them that invites us to consider all of life, and in particular our relationships with one another and creation. Take a moment to look at her painting. Take another moment to pay attention to your own hands and perhaps those of others around you. Think about all the bones, muscles, joints, veins and all the other intricacies and abilities of hands! What do you notice? What do they do well? With what do they struggle? How do they bless? How have they treated whatever they touch and how have they been treated? Ponder the painting again and read the following out loud. How will you receive and use the gift of hands today?

Hands

.....Worn, wrinkled

.....Worked, working,

.....Stained.

God gave us hands

.....Hands to make and mold

.....Hands to have and hold

Young hands, soft and bold

Aching, cracked hands, grown old.

God gave us hands
.....To raise in praise
.....To clap and sing, write and play
.....To cook, to wash and point the way.

God gave us hands
.....To garden and gather
.....To lend and to share
.....To till and to tend
.....To reach out and care.
.....To feel and to grow
.....To make right
.....and seek to know...

But we have taken those hands
.....Misused and abused them
.....Hurt, enslaved, and refused them
They've been squeezed too tight
Cuffed, cut, burnt, and made to fight
Rolled up from open, to fisted
Gone from giving to grabbing
.....Selfish, savage, twisted...

And still, Creator loves those hands
And holds them wholly close to God's heart
Each unique, embodied Holy art
.....Cherished, precious, irreplaceable
.....Full of potential, fully valuable
.....So much so that God made them
His Own
Gathering heaven and earth in One
.....Healing, helping, embracing Son
.....Suffering all,
.....til all is done.

God gave us hands-
Beauty and opportunity
.....Creator's creativity
.....Spirit's possibility
.....Incarnate Infinity
.....Tangible Divinity
.....Inviting our receptivity...
God gave us hands.

~by Karen Wilk

Our Innispirit Picnic is back... but in a new way!

The ministers of South Simcoe United Churches continue to find ways to support each other, and encourage relationships among our local churches.

This year, we will hold our (Innispirit) outdoor worship and picnic in a new way and in a new place; one that will encourage ALL church members in South Simcoe to bring their spirit and worship together!

Come and enjoy the fun!



Beeton, Bond Head, Bradford, Churchill, Gilford, Lefroy, Nobleton, Schomberg, Stroud, Thornton

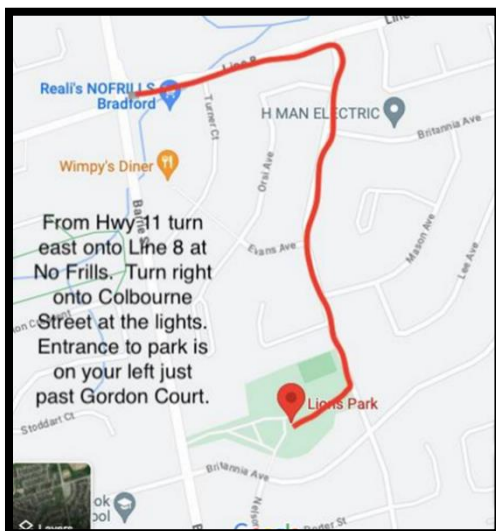
Multi-Congregational Church Picnic

Sunday, September 17, 2023 Worship: 11:00 am

Potluck picnic lunch to follow.

**Location: Lions' Park Pavilion, Hwy 11/Yonge St., Bradford
(See map below on how to enter parking lot)**

**Bring a lawn chair, something to share on the picnic buffet,
a plate, cup and cutlery for your own use,
and your spirit to meet fellow members of local United Church
congregations.**



**For those who choose to,
we can car pool from our church parking lot,
or by arranging it with each other!**



Community Events

SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Looking for something different to do that supports the United Churches
in our region?**

Click on the link below for some great events!

**[https://us19.campaign-
archive.com/?e=a43487c814&u=7d85e7f4b07a283cd04585aed&id=d1b8b
4014e](https://us19.campaign-archive.com/?e=a43487c814&u=7d85e7f4b07a283cd04585aed&id=d1b8b4014e)**



The United Church
of Canada

**Your gifts to [Mission & Service](#) help support ADES'
agroecology project.**

Thank you for your generosity!

Learning about agroecology at the Dora Alicia Sorto School Farm
in El Salvador



Community members show their pride in a successful bean harvest at the Dora Alicia Sorto School Farm, a project led by the Association of Economic and Social Development Santa Marta (ADES).

Credit: Christie Neufeldt

Published On: March 9, 2023

The Association of Economic and Social Development Santa Marta (ADES), a **Mission & Service partner**, is located in an area of Central America that is very vulnerable to climate change. This hot, dry region regularly experiences drought. Mining projects have also negatively affected the environment and the people in the region. ADES and other community organizations decided to act to protect the community's right to a healthy environment.

An example of how ADES is responding is a three-year agroecology project co-funded by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation and The United Church of Canada Foundation, along with Mission & Service. Agroecology benefits the land and water because it recycles nutrients back into the soil. It also reduces production costs, lessening the financial burden on rural farmers.

In this project, ADES works closely with the community to grow food in a rural region of El Salvador, promoting sustainable agriculture that protects biodiversity, maintains the integrity of the land, and upholds rural culture.

The centre of the project is the [Dora Alicia Sorto School Farm](#)(opens in a new tab), where rural families, mainly led by women, learn about agroecology. The school provides training, technical expertise, and seeds indigenous to the region. It focuses on preserving the surrounding environment and on upholding gender and human rights as part of its approach to food security.

Thank you for your generosity to the M&S Fund!

SAVE THE DATE: OCT. 21, 2023

**October 21 is the United Church of Canada Annual General Council Meeting
(online)**

Brought to you by the 44th General Council.

***The Annual General Council Meeting provides an opportunity for collective
accountability – to each other and to the broader church.***

It is open to all interested parties.

Stay tuned for details.

***Please submit all announcements via e-mail to Heather Thompson by noon on Tuesdays.
Thank you!***