

wild rose
united church

YOU MATTER

Spring 2017 Newsletter



Celebrate Easter at Wild Rose

Shrove Tuesday February 28, 6:00 pm pancake dinner

Ash Wednesday March 1, 11:00 am service and light lunch

Good Friday April 14, 10:30 am service Northminster United

Easter Sunday April 16, 10:00 am service

What's one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?

The View From Pat and Geoffrey's Desks, Spring 2017

Coming to church awakens us to cycles—of the seasons, of our lives, of the annual ebb and flow of church services. This newsletter coincides with the beginning of Lent, the forty-day period that takes us up to Easter. The season of Lent has as its primary purpose to draw us closer to God and the mystery of Easter.

We have been thinking about this question: “What’s one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?” We are offering several programs this year during Lent that we hope will help you increase your enjoyment of God.

Lenten Programs and Practices: Creativity and Spiritual Exploration

We have developed two programs that will enable people to explore their own creativity. “We are the Clay” is a three-part program that invites us to get close and creative with clay. Don’t worry if you haven’t had much experience lately at being creative; this is the point of the program, to allow us to do so. The first session will be here at the church. We will talk about the spiritual side of creativity (and of being “shaped like clay” in particular). The second session will take place at the Pleasant Heights Community Centre (when we make our pieces); the third session will take place back here at the church, when we will talk about what it was like to be creative. In between the second and the third sessions, the pieces that we make will actually be glazed for us. All program costs and materials are included in the registration. The costs of this program are subsidized by the church. Limited to 12 people, it should be a great opportunity to get our hands dirty and have some fun.

A second and related one-time program, called “Passion for Glass”, will allow us make a cross in time for Easter. Specifics about these programs (including costs and times) are listed elsewhere in this bulletin. Because these programs will be open to the general public, if you are interested in one or both of them, don’t hesitate; let the office know, and we will put you on the list of confirmed attendees.

Keep your eye out too for three films on spiritual themes, offered on Wednesday evenings during Lent.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services

Many United Churches, including ours, typically combine Shrove Tuesday February 28 and Ash Wednesday March 1 on the same evening. We are going to separate them this year. Please come and enjoy pancakes (which from a spiritual perspective represent the first meatless meal of Lent) and then a separate Ash Wednesday service at 11:00 am on Ash Wednesday, followed by a light lunch. The Ash Wednesday service will include ashes for those who would like to receive them. If you plan to attend it would be helpful if you could let us know, although no rsvp is required.

In keeping with the idea that Lent invites us to draw nearer to God, we have planned this season's worship series to invite us to go deeper within our own selves. During the five weeks of Lent, we will focus on five themes that are complemented by readings from the psalms. These are:

Sin: Psalm 32 - March 5

Stumble: Psalm 73 - March 12

Striving: Psalm 46 (NASB) - March 19

Serenity: Psalm 121- March 26

Surrender: Psalm 130 - April 2

The week before Easter is devoted to either Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday. Typically, we have concentrated on Palm Sunday. This year, we are going to focus on the Passion (that is, Jesus's trial, judgment, and Crucifixion).

Good Friday, April 14

In keeping with our long practice, we will celebrate our Good Friday service with the congregations of Northminster and Symons Valley. This year's host is Northminster, located at 3311 Centre St. North. Good Friday helps us understand the joy of Easter. Please note that the service time is 10:30.

New Members

The church has traditionally received new members, and transfers from other churches during the Easter season (Palm Sunday April 9). If you are interested in membership, please let either Pat or Geoffrey know.

Resurrection Garden

As Easter approaches we wanted a ritual that reminded us each Sunday that we are anticipating a great moment in the Christian church (think Advent candles). Each Sunday building up to Lent we will add another item to our resurrection garden to keep our mind focused on the steps Jesus took prior to rising up from his tomb. The garden will be placed on the altar for all to see. We hope you are just as excited about Easter as we are!



Fasting, anyone?

Geoffrey is going to fast once a week during Lent. He invites anyone intrigued by this idea



to contact him. When considering whether this is a good idea for you, be mindful of your own health and body, and seek medical advice before undertaking any radical change to your daily routine. If you do go ahead, be intentional but flexible. Whichever routine you adopt (fasting can mean anything from skipping a meal to going for some time

without food or beverage), proceed reasonably and gently.

A couple of points about fasting from a spiritual point of view:

1. Fasting provides time for prayer, and reminds us that we depend on God.
 2. Jesus fasted. He expected his disciples to do so as well. (But if we decide to fast, we are not advised to “be like Jesus” and fast for forty days!)
 3. Fasting from a spiritual point of view is done to draw us closer to God, and to practice humility. The goal is to fast quietly, without boasting about it (see Matthew 6:16-18).
 4. When we fast, we become more aware of those who experience poverty, and of the Bible’s instructions to care for such persons. Some groups, such as Latter-Day-Saints, devote part of one Sabbath per month to fasting; going without food or beverage for two consecutive meals in a 24-hour period, they set aside the money that they would have spent on those meals for charity.
 5. People such as John Wesley (founder of Methodism, one of our roots) fasted twice a week. For many years, he went without solid food after the evening meal each Thursday until mid-afternoon each Friday, paying tribute to Judaism’s way of determining a new day at sundown. Methodists also combine fasting and charity.
- For Geoffrey, who has seldom missed a meal, this will be a true adventure. Will you join him?

Some suggested websites:

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/family-lent-devotion-week-1>

<http://goodnewsmag.org/2012/01/the-spiritual-discipline-of-fasting/>

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/fast>

Shrove Tuesday Community Pancake Supper

6:00 on February 28

Invite your friends and family! The large bouncy castle will be open for energetic people from 5:30 to 7:30. The pancake supper at 6:00 is being prepared by our Men's Breakfast group, but help with cleanup will be greatly appreciated.

Laughter, syrup and deepened friendships make this evening a special gathering before Lent starts.

Anyone who wishes to have their forehead marked symbolically with ashes that evening can do so. Geoffrey will be marking ashes on people for whom the ashes have great meaning who would not be able to come to the Ash Wednesday worship the next morning at 11:00.

We are the Clay

Three part-series

Sundays March 19, 26 and April 9

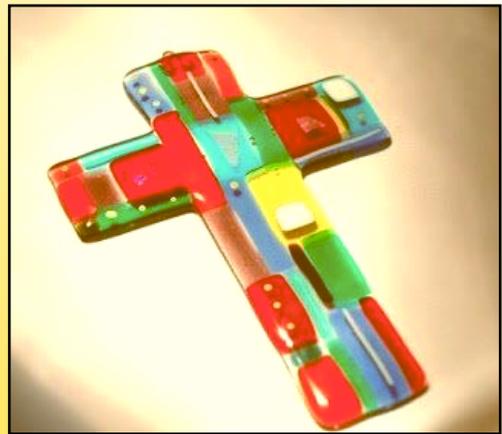
\$25 registration required (includes clay workshop)

Maximum 12

March 19 and April 9 from 12:00 to 1:30
at Wild Rose United Church

March 26 at Mount Pleasant Art Studio
12:00-2:00

Explore our relationship to God and the Spirit through scriptural metaphors of clay and pottery, and go to Mount Pleasant Art Studio for a hand-building clay workshop. (subsidies are available.)



A Passion For Glass

Sunday, April 2 at noon

\$20.00 registration required

Maximum 20

We are excited that A Passion for Glass is coming for a workshop at Wild Rose! Whether you are 5 or 90 years old, this is a great opportunity to create a unique glass tile inspired by your faith. Would it be a cross or a tree or a heart or ??? Bring your whole family or a group of friends for a chance to explore this ancient, colourful medium. A Passion for Glass is bringing glass, tools, experience and a sense of humour to help bring our projects to life. Projects will be fired and returned the next Sunday, April 9. No experience is necessary and many projects can be completed in about 1.5 hours. (Children ages four years and up can register if an adult registers with them to assist them in the workshop.)

Films and Faith

Join us for any or all three films that tell stories that foster reflection, conversation and spiritual growth.

Me Before You – Wednesday March 8

7:00 – 9:00

Louisa “Lou” is a young, cheerful and quirky woman who responds to a job ad and becomes caregiver for Will, a young wealthy man who, after a tragic accident, is paralyzed. Will’s cynical outlook challenges Lou who decides to show him that life is worth living. As their bonds deepen, their lives change in ways neither would have imagined.

Collateral Beauty – Wednesday, March 22

7:00 – 9:00

This recent release has a cast including Will Smith, Kate Winslet, Helen Mirren and Keira Knightley. Retreating from life after a tragedy, a man questions the universe by writing to Love, Time and Death. Receiving unexpected answers, he begins to see how these things interlock and how even loss can reveal moments of meaning and beauty.

Risen – Wednesday, April 5

7:00 – 9:00

This new release will provoke a lively discussion about faith and the mystery of Easter. Set in 33 AD, a Roman soldier Clavius and his partner Lucius are assigned to squelch an uprising in Jerusalem by locating the missing body of an executed Jew. Rumours are that after his crucifixion, Jesus Christ rose from the dead. Clavius soon undergoes a crisis of faith when he witnesses miraculous events during their investigation.



Understanding the Younger Generation

Sunday, June 11

Following the service

More Information to be announced.

It is easy to understand someone who grew up with the same lifestyle as us, with similar music, dance, favourite television shows.

But it is harder to appreciate someone from a different generation with different parenting styles, technology, and work commitments. This insightful event looks at the younger generations and provides insights into their parenting styles, pressures, helpful advice and ways of bridging the generation gap.

Money Management

Wednesday, May 3

Time: TBA

Money is not something most families talk about. This often leaves adults feeling inadequately prepared to budget and come up with a financial plan for themselves that makes sense and can realistically be followed. It can be overwhelming. We live in a time when plastic is easy to use and credit influences how we spend. Making an appointment with a financial planner can be intimidating when you feel things are private and not working as well as you would hope. Setbacks in your finances can be especially frustrating as you struggle to get back on track. Maybe you would even call it a love/hate relationship with your budget. Come for an evening about finances: budgeting, setting goals, and learning tools to help you work towards them. Having a workable financial plan reduces stress and frees you up to think about other things.



Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things

Wednesday, May 17

7:00-9:00

How might your life be better with less? “Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things” examines the many flavors of minimalism by taking the audience inside the lives of minimalists from all walks of life—families, entrepreneurs, architects, artists, journalists, scientists, and even a former Wall Street broker—all of whom are striving to live a meaningful life with less.

Save the Date:

Saturday April 29, 2017

A Wild Rose Gala

Help us to celebrate 15 years of amalgamation and 150 years of Canada

Dinner and silent auction

Details to follow

Blow Away the Winter Blahs!

Saturday March 18 at 6pm

Celebrate the coming of Spring with a fun St. Patrick's Day evening at
Wild Rose United Church

A light dinner will be served followed by entertainment.

Listen, watch, participate and enjoy.

We will have a limerick contest – so start writing!

Admission is by Free Will Offering

Mother's Day Tea

Saturday May 13 11-2:00 PM

Youth Fundraiser

Formal tea with craft sale

The youth have been working hard on making crafts

Tickets will go on sale in April

Choir Update

Wild Rose had the fun of hosting "Twelfth Night" this year, a festive gathering of NW United Church choirs and carollers marking the end of the Christmas Season.

Geoffrey welcomed an audience of 150-200 people and told a story of how ancient Twelfth Nights were celebrated. A

King and Queen of the evening were chosen by cutting a cake. The man who found a bean in his slice of cake became the King, while the woman who found a pea in her slice became the Queen. Geoffrey also asked us to remember the

words of John Wesley: "Sing Lustily, and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half-dead or half-asleep, but lift up your voice with strength."



This year's offering was donated to the Downtown Outreach Addictions Partnership.

Thanks to all those who organized, set up, and cleaned.

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