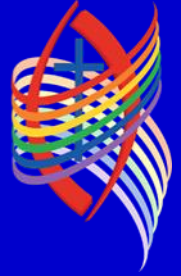




St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay

# Reaching Out

a weekly online newsletter for members and friends of the  
St. Andrews faith community, shared for the purpose of  
bringing peace, hope and comfort during these special times.



**June 7**  
**Trinity Sunday**

## **The Scripture Reading** **Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)**

### **The Great Commission**

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to . Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## **PRAYER FOR TRINITY SUNDAY**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit, animate our living.  
Help us to forget ourselves, to get caught up in  
the mystery of your love and life. Let us never  
forget the need to care for the good of others.  
Never let us take for granted the mystery of life.**

**Amen**

## Pentecost Fires - Tracy Davis, DLM



I come to you with a heavy heart. I feel the weight of the pain of the world today. The fires that we see on the news, maybe these are Pentecost fires.

These are certainly

symptomatic of a deep pain among the people of color, especially black people. I feel speechless. I was reminded that when we don't know what to pray for, "the Spirit herself intercedes for us through wordless groans." That feels true for us this day. Maybe you feel speechless too. It might come from a mix of feelings. You might feel anger, you might feel scared, ( I know I do ) , you might be sad, you might even feel guilty. You may have a mix of all of these!

So the spirit groans in us, when we don't know what to say and yet we cannot stay silent. The Spirit is an agitator. I feel us, the collective soul of the world, wrestling for a blessing. And I'm not sure if we will get it. But the Spirit wrestles with us and agitates us and asks us to look with clear eyes at pain.

One thing we can do is follow the prophets. I was watching Rev Dr William Barber on FB live. He said thank God for the protests. Can you imagine if there were no protests. Thank God people came out and said we will not be silent. We're going to wear masks and get our bodies on the street.

But there is more going on here, in this time of pandemic. Before the pandemic and before George Floyd was murdered we had systemic racism. We have watched all over the world over and over unarmed black people being murdered. So take a breath.

The Spirit is wrestling in us and asking us to see this moment with clear eyes. What happened that day of Pentecost that might be helpful for us now?

The Pentecost story is about hearing people: The first act of the Holy Spirit was to bring people together. Tongues of fire fell on them and they suddenly were able to hear each other, they heard each other's humanity, heard each other's pain and understood each other's story. Part of that hearing is also hearing ourselves when we make excuses as white people. We do make excuses. WE say...I just didn't know, or I just think the protests should be peaceful, I don't know what all the looting is about.

The second thing the Pentecost story was about was disruption. The event was profoundly disruptive for the disciples. The rushing wind, the tongues of fire, this was a major disruptive event. To receive the Spirit of God means allowing our lives to be disrupted. The spirit stirs in us to see the truth of God's love and God's justice.

We do know what to do!

You can do something!

Show up and speak out!

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Part of being an ally is speaking up and messing up, and being in good relationships with people who will call you out. We each have our own path in our social justice work. Just step up and do something.

This is a moment, and this is a long fight. We need to say yes.

I leave you with this piece written by Kim Delarosbel.

I...  
Am...  
Outraged...

I Rage!

I am without words and lost to the  
horror I see on my screen

I Pause

I Breathe

I am lost and feel powerless  
I hear words, yet know we are  
complicit in this action ~ in our silence  
we allow the oppression to continue

In our stillness we allow the noise...

We are afraid

...to speak

...to challenge

...to stand

I am afraid

Today this one tiny voice says

**I will do better  
I will try to speak, to challenge  
and stand up  
It may not be perfect  
and it may be a bit messy  
But today, and each day after !  
I will do better  
I will be better  
I will speak up and I will speak out and  
I will do my own  
work to become an effective ally  
I will sit with my discomfort  
and I will unlearn  
I will challenge the isms  
and examine my own power  
and privilege and  
become more involved  
Privilege is real and I will stand!  
I will stand in solidarity, in support,  
and I will be vocal!**

May the Spirit move you to tears and open your heart to empathy, may the Spirit confront you and open your mind to true knowing. May the Spirit agitate you and move you to right action. May the Spirit bless us in this time of spiritual wrestling for the soul of who we are as a people. ☩



## ONLINE WORSHIP - THIS SUNDAY - A Couple of Options

This Sunday's service (**Sunday - June 7, 2020**) will be found on the **Trinity United YouTube channel**. This *YouTube* video is recorded and can be watched at any time. To visit the channel, click on this link: [Trinity United Church YouTube Channel](#). The Sunday service (usually posted by Saturday evening) is a collaborative production by the Trinity United crew, with regular input from St. Andrew's and other united churches in the area.

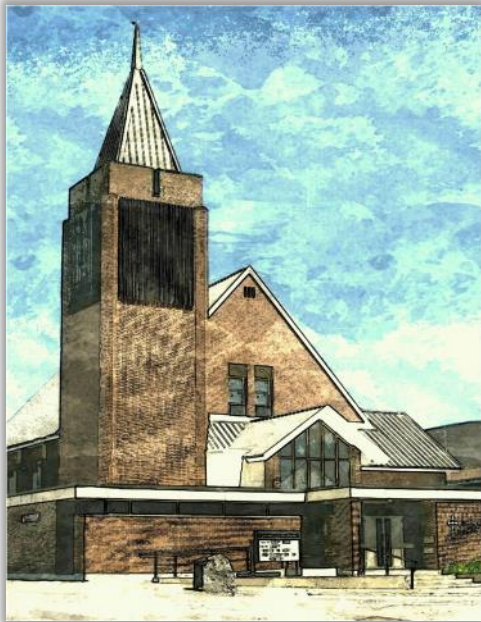


Click **\*\*HERE\*\*** for a list of links to over 390 United Churches across Canada that are offering online worship services ... either streamed or recorded.





## Joining PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) is as easy as 1, 2, 3 ...



- 1:** Download and the PAR authorization form. Get the form by clicking [HERE](#) (.pdf format)
- 2:** Fill in the form. New PAR donors can use this form, as well as those who wish to increase/decrease their monthly giving.
- 3:** Mail the form to St. Andrew's (399 Cassells St., North Bay, P1B 3Z4 ) or take it into the Church Office on Wednesdays or Thursdays from 10 am until 2pm. Either way, the Office Administrator, Star McGregor will be able to complete the transition with you in person or by phone.

**Not on PAR?** Donations by cheque gratefully received at the Church on **Wednesday** or **Thursday** (from 10 am until 2 pm) - or by mail: St. Andrew's, 399 Cassells Street, North Bay, ON P1B 3Z4

... or you may also give via the "**Donate Now**" button located to the right, or on our website ( <https://standrews-northbay.ca/donate/> ) Please note choosing this option allows you to use a credit card however the tax receipt will come from *Canada Helps* **directly to you by e-mail** and there is a 3% admin fee.



### MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH COUNCIL

Hello Everyone:

Since we cannot meet in person, the St. Andrew's Council has been meeting online using *Zoom*. Click on these links to see [minutes from the April 7<sup>th</sup> Council](#) meeting and a [Digest of Actions from our May 19<sup>th</sup>](#) meeting.

Since the May 19<sup>th</sup>, both the Executive and the Council have met to discuss the belfry project with Rev. Rob Smith and Jim Jackson from the Property Resource Team (PRT) of the Canadian Shield Regional Council (CSRC). We must seek approval from the CSRC and they outlined the process that we will need to follow to move forward. They also informed us about what options we may have as we

think about the future. The next step will be to hold a congregational meeting. As our Chair Pat Kirton-Bailey explained in the *Reaching Out Newsletter* from last week, ( [Friday, May 29 issue](#)), this meeting will be a chance for members of the congregation to hear about the belfry project, to look at what will happen going forward and to provide input. Given the times we are living in, it will have to be an online meeting. Please watch for further information about how you can participate in this very important meeting that will be taking place before the end of June.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Karen Gooch**

Secretary of St. Andrew's Church Council  
[councilsecretary\\_standrewschurch@cogeco.net](mailto:councilsecretary_standrewschurch@cogeco.net)

## Right Relations Resource Team

### A Minute for Right Relations - June, 2020



#### Background:

The Right Relations Resource Team (RRRT) has made some resources available for people to download and use. These resources are called **M4RR – Minute for Right Relations**. This initiative was first started by the Right Relations Home Group – later known as Living Into Right Relations group – that was started in Manitou Conference. The intention for the M4RR is to offer a brief monthly reflection that will hopefully find a forum in a variety of ways. Here is the reflection for June.

June 1st marks the start of **National Indigenous History Month** when we honour the history, heritage and diversity of Indigenous peoples in Canada. June is an important month to honour Indigenous peoples in Canada. It begins with two important occasions: the fifth anniversary of the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action on June 2, and the first anniversary of the release of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' final report on June 3. Later in the month, we celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21.

This is a good time to reflect on the reconciliation efforts made by our government and our Church and to ask ourselves, what more needs to be done. Throughout the month of June, the Right Relations Resource team encourages you to seek out resources and information about Indigenous peoples.

The United Church of Canada has published some helpful resources to use in worship and small group study. They can be found by visiting

<https://www.united-church.ca/worship-special-days/indigenous-dayprayer> or <https://www.united-church.ca/worship-theme/indigenous>.

Kairos Canada has also published some great information and resources which can be found by visiting <https://www.kairoscanada.org/category/indigenous-rights>

As we have all borne witness to the tragic events in the US, we are reminded that there is much more work we need to do to create a just society. It is not just enough to agree that something must be done, we each have to take an active role in working for justice. How can you help?

- **Read** the TRC's Calls to Actions and consider ways that your Church and your community can work towards those calls.
- **Contact** your local, provincial and federal representatives urging them to support Indigenous issues such as: encouraging the adoption and implementation of UNDRIP (The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), taking action on the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women inquiry, etc.
- **Advocate** and support efforts to ensure every community has access to clean drinking water, safe schools and adequate health care.
- **Educate** yourself on your local treaty and your Indigenous neighbours · Attend a Kairos Blanket exercise or other learning event related to Indigenous people.
- **Read** books written by Indigenous authors, listen to Indigenous music and watch movies, plays and documentaries written by Indigenous people.

*Written by Lisa Blais, on behalf of  
the Canadian Shield Regional Council  
Right Relations Resource Team*