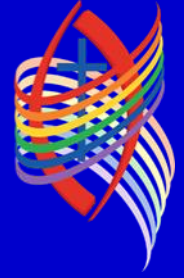




St. Andrew's United Church, North Bay

# 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.

## July 12th - Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

### Today's Scripture

Genesis 6: 5-22

### Noah and His Sons

GOD saw that human evil was out of control. People thought evil, imagined evil—evil, evil, evil from morning to night. GOD was sorry that he had made the human race in the first place; it broke his heart. GOD said, "I'll get rid of my ruined creation, make a clean sweep: people, animals, snakes and bugs, birds—the works. I'm sorry I made them."

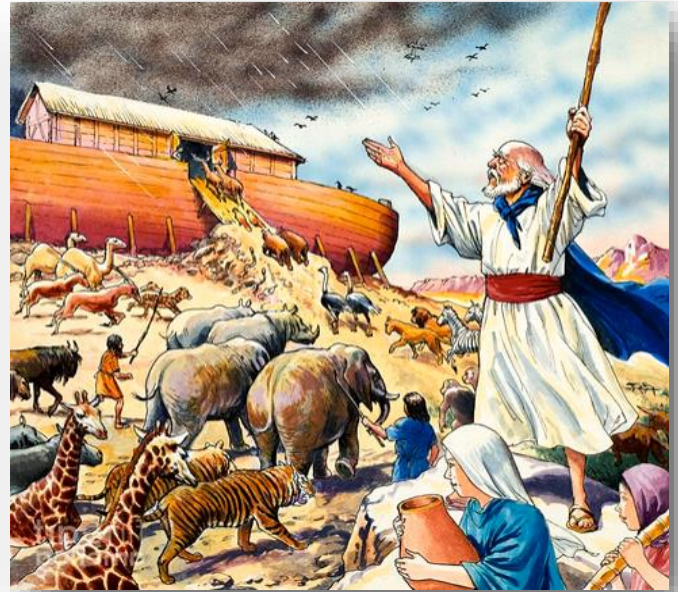
But Noah was different. GOD liked what he saw in Noah.

This is the story of Noah: Noah was a good man, a man of integrity in his community. Noah walked with God. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

As far as God was concerned, the Earth had become a sewer; there was violence everywhere. God took one look and saw how bad it was, everyone corrupt and corrupting—life itself corrupt to the core.

God said to Noah, "It's all over. It's the end of the human race. The violence is everywhere; I'm making a clean sweep.

"Build yourself a ship from teakwood. Make rooms in it. Coat it with pitch inside and out. Make it 450 feet long, seventy-five feet wide, and forty-five feet high. Build a roof for it and put in a window eighteen inches from the top;



put in a door on the side of the ship; and make three decks, lower, middle, and upper.

"I'm going to bring a flood on the Earth that will destroy everything alive under Heaven. Total destruction.

"But I'm going to establish a covenant with you: You'll board the ship, and your sons, your wife and your sons' wives will come on board with you. You are also to take two of each living creature, a male and a female, on board the ship, to preserve their lives with you: two of every species of bird, mammal, and reptile—two of everything so as to preserve their lives along with yours. Also get all the food you'll need and store it up for you and them."

Noah did everything God commanded him to do.

## A Reflection on Genesis 6 9-22



The story of Noah and the Ark is more popular than ever before. Even people who don't know the Bible and never come to church know about Noah, his big boat, and all those

animals coming in two by two. And most people know about the great flood and how the boat floated until the waters receded. Then the animals departed two by two by two. Finally the rainbow appeared and God gave his promise never again to send a great flood that would cover the entire earth.

For those who doubt the popularity of this story, the evidence is everywhere. Noah's Ark restaurants, Noah's Ark paintings, Noah's Ark music boxes, Noah's Ark T-shirts, Noah's Ark coffee mugs, and you'll even find on the Internet a recipe for Noah's Ark brownies

A few years ago a man named Robert Fulghum wrote an essay called "All I really need to know I learned in kindergarten." It was so popular that it spawned a number of spin-offs. This week I ran across one called "All I need to know I learned from Noah's Ark." "Don't miss the boat!" "Remember we are all in the same boat." Plan ahead. Remember it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark!" "Build your future on high ground." "When you're stressed, float awhile." "No matter the storm, when you are with God there's always a rainbow waiting."

There are basically two ways to approach this very familiar story. The first is to focus on the controversial issues. Examples would be, What

was the extent of the flood? Did it really cover the entire earth? How large was the ark? How did Noah get those animals into the ark? I would include in this category the very pressing question, How did Noah and his family keep the ark clean with all those animals inside?

Those questions are useful and important. But if we concentrate only on the controversial elements, we risk missing the larger message. Even though it is important to ask, "How did a flood cover the entire earth?" if we stop there we will miss the larger spiritual lessons that God intends for us to learn. How did Noah and his family escape the terrible judgment of the flood?

Our text reveals a number of important facts about Noah. If we consider these things, we will understand why he and his family survived the flood while the rest of the human race perished. He was a godly man. He was a family man. He was a unique person. He was bold!

In an impure world, he was pure. In an unrighteous world, he was righteous. In a world that dismissed God, he walked with God.

He stood alone, believing God, building the ark, no doubt receiving much abuse, always confident that God could be trusted and that the flood would someday come to the world. If his friends called him "Crazy Noah," it did not bother him.

continued.... Page 3



God commands Noah to leave the ark

Or if it bothered him, it did not stop him. He stood his ground, and God noticed.

“Noah did everything that God commanded him to do. This verse comes immediately after God gives specific instructions for building the ark. Note the two things said in this verse:

His obedience was absolute: He did everything just as the Lord commanded.

Nothing halfway. There was no “Well, I think I’ll build two decks instead of three” or “I think I’ll use oak instead of gopher wood” or “Let’s make it 350 cubits instead of 300 cubits long.” And he didn’t try to bargain with God about all those animals. Because he believed God when he said a flood was coming, he had no reason to question the design of the ark or the need to provide space for all the land animals. God said it and that settled it for Noah.

This fact is implied in Genesis 6 and stated explicitly in II Peter 2:5, where Noah is called a “preacher of righteousness.” He wasn’t just a builder who knew how to construct an enormous boat. And he wasn’t just a godly man who let his life speak for him. During the 120 years before the flood, Noah built the ark and he also preached righteousness to his own generation. I’m sure he warned them of judgment to come and invited them to join him in the ark. But no one seemed to listen.

It was a difficult and dangerous time. We do live in dangerous times, don’t we?

First, he believed. Then he built. In so doing he

rejected the ways of the world. As a result, he saved his own family. While others mocked him to scorn, he and his boys labored year after year, building that massive ship. Day after day they lugged huge pieces of gopher wood and put them carefully into place, one plank at a time. For decades no one knew what it was, but then it began to take shape. Eventually the ark was completed and the days drew near for the flood. Finally the rains began, the animals arrived, and Noah and his family entered the ark together. Then the door was shut, the floodwaters rose, and the ark lifted Noah and his family to safety. How did he do it? “By faith!”

Noah’s faith saved his entire family. He believed so deeply and obeyed so completely and walked so intimately with God that it was natural for his entire family to do what he did. They believed because he believed.

Noah was a godly man in an ungodly age, a bright light shining in the darkness. Because he had character and obeyed God when the world thought he was crazy, he ended up saving his own family. God bless him. And God bless all those who follow in his steps. Let there be no complaining about how hard things are. No excuses about how evil the world has become. Be a person of character. .

Stand on the Word of God and don’t worry about what the world thinks. You’ll save yourself, and by God’s grace, you may save your family and many others besides. ✚

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## Kid's Corner

This week’s colouring activity reminds us it’s important that we don’t let other people’s opinions sway us from doing what God has asked us to do. Click on the image to the left to view/download.

## Prayer for the World

Let the rain come and wash away  
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds  
held and nurtured over generations.  
Let the rain wash away the memory  
of the hurt, the neglect.  
Then let the sun come out and  
fill the sky with rainbows.  
Let the warmth of the sun heal us  
wherever we are broken.  
Let it burn away the fog so that  
we can see each other clearly,  
so that we can see beyond labels,  
beyond accents, gender or skin color.  
Let the warmth and brightness  
of the sun melt our selfishness,  
so that we can share the joys and  
feel the sorrows of our neighbors.  
And let the light of the sun  
be so strong that we will see all  
people as our neighbors.  
Let the earth, nourished by rain,  
bring forth flowers

to surround us with beauty.  
And let the mountains teach our hearts  
to reach upward to heaven.  
Amen.

*written by Rabbi Harold Kushner, 2003*



### ONLINE WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY



St. Andrew's - North Bay  
12 subscribers

This Sunday's service (**Sunday - July 12, 2020**) will be found on either the:

[St. Andrew's United Church YouTube Channel](#) or  
[Emmanuel United Church YouTube Channel](#)

This *YouTube* video is recorded and can be watched at any time.  
To visit either channel, click on the links above.

The Sunday service (usually posted by Saturday evening) is a collaborative production produced by **St. Andrew's**, with participation by **Emmanuel United**, and **Trinity United Churches**.





**CANADIAN SHIELD**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
The United Church of Canada

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**Thunder Bay Office:** 310 Park Avenue, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 3A8

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July 8, 2020

St. Andrew's United Church  
399 Cassells St.  
North Bay, ON P1B 3Z4

Greetings from the Canadian Shield Regional Council,

Congratulations. I am pleased to inform you that the Pastoral Relations Commission of the Canadian Shield Regional Council met on June 24, 2020 and approved the appointment of Tracy Davis as your full-time minister. Our prayers are with you as you begin this new chapter in your journey as a community of faith. We look forward to celebrating this new relationship with you through a covenanting service sometime this fall.

Thank you to the Search Committee for their faithful service. Thank you also to Karen Brophy who served as your Pastoral Relations Liaison.

This was my first official act as the new Pastoral Relations Minister for the Canadian Shield Regional Council, so you have a special place in my heart as I begin this new chapter in my life.

Blessings on the Journey,

Rob Smith  
Pastoral Relations Minister  
Canadian Shield Regional Council



## ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

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July 10, 2020

Members and Friends of St. Andrews,

First, I want to take a minute to acknowledge the hard work and many years of service that Marg Reid has donated to the Church. She has kept us on sound financial footing for many years and is well deserving of a break from this difficult job. She will be missed on Council, but we understand her need to move on and wish her well. We are glad to know she will continue her good work with Tim leading bible and book studies. Thank you, Marg.

One of Marg's last duties as Treasurer was to write a very succinct letter explaining what our financial position is as we move through the decision making process around the Belfry Tower situation. This letter has been sent out to all congregation members. [Click on this link to the letter if you may have missed it.](#)

I want to remind everyone of the zoom congregational meeting which will take place on **July 30th**. We had good attendance on June 30th but did notice people missing. We want to help as many people as possible connect using the "Zoom" meeting platform on a computer, laptop or tablet on **July 30th**. If you need help to do this, please call the Church, or contact Karen Gooch at [councilsecretary\\_standrews@cogeco.net](mailto:councilsecretary_standrews@cogeco.net), we will be glad to help you.

We are working towards being able to meet person-to-person together in the Church in September. It won't be quite the same as it was before COVID-19, but we will be together. Our plans are to have two services, one on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and one on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. so we can accommodate as many as possible and still be safe and healthy. We will still be doing an online service for those who are not ready or are unable to join us in person. We will keep you informed as plans develop.

My prayers are with you all during these times of uncertainty. I know that the Holy Spirit is looking out for us all as I feel its warmth settle around me even during the most stressful times. I know the challenges that are being given to us will make us stronger, as individuals and as a community of faith. Our Mother/Father God is walking with us, sometime prodding us forward, sometimes carrying us, but always with us. May you feel the loving peace of Christ every day.

Yours in Christ,

Patricia Kirton-Bailey  
Council Chair



**CANADIAN SHIELD**  
**REGIONAL COUNCIL**  
 The United Church of Canada

The Canadian Shield Right Relations Resource Team would like to offer you a summer reading list for those quiet times you might have this summer.

**Summer Reading List**  
**Right Relations Resource Team**

**Non-Fiction**

**THIS PLACE: 150 YEARS RETOLD** By Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm, Sonny Assu, Brandon Mitchell  
 Explore the past 150 years through the eyes of Indigenous creators in this groundbreaking graphic novel anthology.

**Five Little Indians**, the 1<sup>st</sup> novel of Michelle Good. It's a powerful account of the lives of 5 residential school survivors.

**The Other Side of the River: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge**, by Alf Dumont. (Alf is from Shawanaga and was the first Speaker of The All Native Circle Conference. Will says it is a good read and just available now at UCRD.

**Blanket Toss Under Midnight Sun** by Paul Seesequasis  
 A collection of photographs and stories about life in 8 Indigenous communities.

**One Drum** by Richard Wagamese  
 A collection of stories and ceremonies inspired by the foundational teachings of Anishnaabe tradition.

**From the Ashes** by Jesse Thistle  
 CBC Canada Reads finalist. Told in short chapters interspersed with poetry, details how his issues with abandonment and addiction led to homelessness, incarceration and his eventual redemption through higher education.

**A Mind Spread Out on the Ground** by Alicia Elliot  
 Alicia Elliott explores the systemic oppression faced by Indigenous peoples across Canada through the lens of her own experiences as a Tuscarora writer from Six Nations of the Grand River.

**77 Fragments of a Familiar Ruin** by Thomas King  
 His first poetry collection, 77 Fragments of a Familiar Ruin, collects 77 poems that lament what we have lost, lecture us for what we have allowed and looks at what we might still be able to save.

**Activist Alphabet: a Primer on How, and Why, to Act on Our Love For This Planet** By Donna Sinclair  
 Not specifically about Indigenous issues but relevant information on how to work for justice. She has a great segment on Reconciliation! Her book is available from the UCRD

The **complete Summer Reading List** including non-fiction, fiction, articles and website links can be [found here](#).