***Our Statement of Purpose***

As a community of faith led by the Spirit, we welcome all to worship God and live in loving, just and respectful relationship with each other, our neighbours and the earth. Inspired by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ we strive to recognize the light of God in each person regardless of age, race, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression, economic status or any other category by which the world may seek to divide. We challenge ourselves to deepen our relationship to God, to see the light of the divine in each person and in all creation, and to live the faith we proclaim

***Our Week at a Glance – April 15, 2018***

The flowers today have been placed by Kathleen Hinchley, in loving memory of her husband, Jim.

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

**Sun. Apr. 15** Soup Social – Stewart Hall, after service
 **Tues. Apr. 17** Council – Assembly, 7:00
**Wed. Apr. 18** Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00

 Mat Group – Stewart Hall, 1:00
 Crafty Ladies – Library, 1:00

**Thurs. Apr. 19** Choir – Sanctuary, 7:00

***PLEASE SEE BULLETIN BOARD FOR OTHER EVENTS AND DETAILS***

**AUDIO SYSTEM** Apr. 15 – Debbie McDermid
 Apr, 22 – Gerry Blandford

**COUNTING OFFERING** Lois Desjardins & Doris Handford
 May: Pat Blandford & Marg Crozier

**MEALS ON WHEELS** Apr. 15 – Rick & Susan Lester
 Apr. 22 – Felicite Stairs & Dan McCarthy

**From the UCW**:
Soup Social: Lunch after the service today, Sun., April 15. Freewill offering. Proceeds to Camp Lau-Ren to send a child to camp. (Camping Sunday will be on April 22.). *Unit 6, UCW*

Campbell Soup Labels: Just a reminder that we are no longer collecting these labels as the Campbell Co. has discontinued funding educational programs.

**From the Foodgrains Bank**: The Canadian Foodgrains Bank is celebrating 35 YEARS! John Longhurst, director of Resource and Public Engagement for CFGB will speak at a Coffee and Information Session on Monday, April 16th at 7:00 PM hosted by St. Andrew's United Church, 115 Clarence Street, Lanark, ON. Please contact Margo Aubert (613-432-6589) if would like to car pool.

**Upcoming Catering Events at TSA**: We need some help with a large catering event this week. We need sandwiches, squares, and those who could help set up and prepare. If you think you can help us, there are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Thank you for your assistance.

**Women's Retreat April 27-29**: Join us for a weekend of spiritual nurture and rejuvenation at Stillpoint House of Prayer in Springtown. There will be opportunities for group reflection on Scripture, our faith lives and what it means for us personally today, as well as time on our own to reflect, journal, create, walk or just sleep. Cost is $130, which covers room and board from Friday supper through lunch on Sunday. (Subsidies available.) A car will be going to TSA for worship Sunday morning for those who need to attend. For more information or to register contact Felicite Stairs at 432-5583 or felicite.stairs@gmail.com.

**Art & Spirituality Show**: Sunday, May 6. Bring the item you wish to share and show to Stewart Hall before the service, and pick it up after the social time when you are ready to go home. During April, please register your item with us in the Library.  If you have any queries, give me a call: Beulah Wright (432-3295), Laura Cooke and Ginette Raaphorst.

**Upcoming Presentation**: Join Tom Sidney at TSA on Wednesday May 16 at 7pm for a presentation entitled: "Tom Sidney's Gratitude Attitude - from Fears to Tears to Hope!". Tom will talk about his recent illness, which paralyzed him for a time, and his spiritual/emotional journey to recovery. This event is sponsored by the Renfrew and Area Foodbank and is free to attend with a donation to the food bank.

**Library**: If you borrowed the new DVD, Lion, would you come and let us know in the Library. If you have DVDs you would like to donate to the Library, just bring them in. *Beulah, Laura, and Ginette*

2018 Affirming

Ooh, what a sweet little baby. Is it a boy or a girl? That’s a common question to the parent of a newborn.

Some children are comfortable with the gender assigned to them on their birth certificate, whereas some children and youth question the M or F sex they have been assigned. They do not fit neatly into either. They may grow to understand themselves as gender creative, gender independent, genderfluid, genderqueer, trans, two-spirit, intersex, agender, or non-binary. They also grow to understand that they face social exclusion, hostility or moral condemnation by those who fear them because they are “different”.

**Q:Are you a boy or a girl? A: No thanks** was the title of a workshop I attended at the Renfrew Public Library in February, 2018. The presenters Cara Tierney and Behc Jax-Lynx of BECK- describe themselves as a dynamic duo dedicated to the de-stigmatization of transgender individuals. Their workshops are designed to foster constructive, affirmative and forward-thinking dialogues on how we can make space for everyone in society.

Instead of being regarded as unwell or pathological oddities to be studied and defined by the medical profession, trans or gender diverse people define themselves by their own backgrounds and gifts. Cara and Behc help us go beyond terms such as transgender, non-binary, gender fluid, and gender non-conforming by offering a beautiful and expansive understanding of humanity in which all are included.

There is growing understanding that M or F binary identification is restrictive, one of the categories by which the world seeks to divide and exclude. In 2017, Canada passed Bill C-16 which amends the Canadian Human Rights Act to add gender identity and gender expression to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination. If we at TSA desire to be affirming, we need to go beyond intellectual understanding and be guided by the law of love that is written in the heart, love that can transform the world.

Our Statement of Purpose says, ”Inspired by the life and ministry of Jesus Christ we strive to recognize the light of God in each person, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression”. I am in favour of TSA becoming an Affirming Congregation so we can proclaim that our church is a safe and respectful place of worship where everyone is valued and truly welcome.

Margo Aubert