***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 in every aspect of our lives.

***Our Week at a Glance – June 24, 2018***

The flowers today have been placed by Barbara Carriere, in loving memory of her husband, Bill.

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

**Wed. June 27** Goal 6 Committee – Library, 10:00
 Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00

**AUDIO SYSTEM** June 24 – Marilyn Eady
 July 1 – Merv Kusluski

**COUNTING OFFERING** Geoff Roberts & Noma Deshane
 July 1: Bev Davis & Peter Raaphorst

**MEALS ON WHEELS** June 24 – Jack & Ruth Grant
 July 1 – Brenda Kellar & helper

**“The Teaching of the Wheel of Life”**: Join Algonquin Elder Pat Aird at TSA on Saturday July 28 from 10am-4pm to learn more about Algonquin spiritual wisdom. The cost is $30 and includes a booklet, lunch and snacks. Subsidies are available if needed (see Russell). Pre-registration is required. The deadline for registration is July 20. This event is part of our church’s process of reconciliation with indigenous peoples.

**Summer Coffee Roster: TSA Coffee Volunteers Needed**: Please join us downstairs in the refreshing coolness of Stewart Hall for fellowship after the service. Thank you to all the helpers who prepare and clean up.

Would you like to help with fellowship

After Russell's finished prayers

We would appreciate some help from you

In Stewart Hall, just down the stairs

We need some help to brew the coffee

And make a pot of tea

Then all our congregation

Can enjoy it hassle free

We will provide the cookies

Or a fancy little cake

But we need some helping hands

To run this coffee break

Please sign up in the Narthex

**From MPCF – TSA Photo Booth**: Thanks to Mickey McDonald we now have pictures of about 85 people in our TSA family. Keep smiling and watch for an announcement about the re-opening date of the Photo Booth after the summer.

**Conservation Agriculture 2018: TSA Supports the Canadian Foodgrains Bank**
The raised bed vegetable garden at the corner of Plaunt and Quarry is a visual reminder that TSA supports the work of Canadian Foodgrains Bank to end world hunger. At the June 3 family picnic kids and adults planted beets, beans, tomatoes, red cabbage and kale in our raised bed. We gathered around the garden as Russell offered a prayer of blessing. Thanks to the donors of varied plants and seeds, our TSA garden is well underway.
Many small-scale farmers in Africa struggle to grow enough food year-round for their families. Poor farming methods, erratic weather, erosion, drought and open grazing of livestock are some of the factors that limit agricultural production. Now entering year 4 of a 5-year commitment working with partners in the Wolayta district of Ethiopia, Canadian Foodgrains Bank member TearFund Canada is introducing and promoting conservation agriculture techniques to 8,500 farm households (about 42,500 people).
Conservation agriculture is a farming approach that uses minimal soil disturbance, crop rotations, cover crops and mulching to improve soil health and fertility and increase production. The training includes community meetings, famer field days and farmer field schools, and other educational activities. Savings and loans groups are also being introduced.
As you pass by the garden, please pray for farming families and their supporters as they strive for a future without hunger.

**Affirming**

The Rainbow Symbol – Marg McLeish

The rainbow began as a symbol of biblical promise. According to the Bible, God first created the rainbow as a sign to Noah that there would never again be a worldwide flood, also known as the Rainbow covenant.

The rainbow has a long history. As far back as the Reformation (1489-1525) it was recognized as a symbol of a new era, of hope and social change. It was used in the German Peasant War – 16th century, Buddhism 1886, Italy’s Peace Flag 1961 and the Jewish movement 1961.

Today the Rainbow flag, commonly known as the Gay Pride Flag or LGBT Pride Flag, is the symbol of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender social movement. It began as a symbol of peace and the colours represented by the diversity of LGBT community. It was originally designed by a San Francisco drag queen artist, Gilbert Baker, and gay politician Harvey Milk for the Freedom Day Parade celebration in June 1978. The flag was flown horizontally with the red strip always at the top … over the years it has undergone several revisions in many languages ending in the six colours of today: red, orange, yellow, green, blue and violet to follow as it would be in a natural rainbow.

In Montreal in 1999, the entrance to Beaudry Station, which serves the Gay Village, was rebuilt with rainbow coloured elements integrated into the design. In 2010, a Canadian teenager promoted the new LGBTQ Awareness Day called Spirit Day. On this day, people wear purple to show support for those who are victims of LGBT bullying. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau raised the Pride Flag on Parliament Hill on June 1, 2016, the first time in the country’s history, in recognition of the people who have “fought a long time” to secure equal rights for LGBT Canadians.

The United Church began to explore the Affirming Ministry in 1982. In 1992, they launched a program, and in 2000 the officially endorsed the program with a set of criteria to help churchgoers and clergy move to becoming Affirming.

Some churches and communities still use the flag but others use the United Church Affirming log which was designed by Joyce Crosby; it reflects the Christian fish that is integral to Christianity and the United Church of Canada logo, and it unites both the cross and the rainbow. It is an important reflection of our church’s belief that God’s love includes all, and that the church must welcome all. The Bay of Quinte United Church Women and the Upper Valley Presbytery are Affirming, and therefore use the logo. We will be able to use this beautiful logo when we become Affirming.



An Investment in the Future

Our gifts for Mission & Service, together with emergency funds and Gifts with Vision, enabled us to build a church-run high school in Haiti.

The opening of a new secondary school in Duplan, in the hills above Port-au-Prince, was the high point of celebrations marking the 200th anniversary of the Église Méthodiste en Haïti (Methodist Church in Haiti) in February 2017. The United Church of Canada financed 80 percent of the cost of building the seven-room structure following the massive earthquake that hit Haiti in 2010, destroying or damaging many schools and churches and killing between 225,000 and 300,000 people.

The shiny yellow building housing the new secondary school is bursting with 215 students and 19 staff. Already, Edzaire Paul, who heads up the Methodist school system, is dreaming of adding computer and science labs, as well as a playing field so students don’t have to compete with motorbikes as they play soccer on the dusty road near the school.

Education was the church’s calling card to Haiti. In 1817, the first president of the Republic of Haiti authorized the first Protestant missionaries to come to the island nation on the understanding that their work would include providing schooling in the newly formed country. Today, the Methodist Church runs a system of 105 primary schools, 15 high schools, and a teachers’ college, as well as three vocational schools. With children in some areas travelling two hours by foot over rocks and boulders to get to school—sometimes without having had breakfast—the need for a major investment in education is clear. Mission & Service makes these schools accessible to families with limited incomes, an important investment in the future of Haiti.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.