***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 – August 26, 2018***

The flowers today have been placed by Wendy Phillips, in loving memory of her mother, Rose Perry.

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

**Tues. Aug. 28** Faith Formation Table Group – Library, 7:00 **Wed. Aug. 29** Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00
 Council Executive – Library, 7:00

**AUDIO SYSTEM** Aug. 26 – Gerry Blandford
 Sept. 2 – Garry Scott

**COUNTING OFFERING** Aug. 26 – Noma Deshane & Sadie Smith
 Sept. 2 – Pat Blandford & Marg Crozier

**MEALS ON WHEELS** Aug. 26 – Garry & Ruth Charter
 Sept. 2 – Garry & Carol Scott

**Unit 6 UCW Meeting**: Tues., Sept. 4, 7.30 p.m. in the Library.

**It’s Renfrew Fair Time**: The Renfrew Fair is fast approaching, and we are asking for some volunteers to help set up the fair booth on Tuesday, September 4 at 9am. Please contact Bert Brisco (432-3225) or Marilyn Wallace (432-5683).

If anyone has ripe tomatoes the week of the Fair and you are willing to donate them to the booth, please contact Barb Moogk at 432-5098.

If you have not yet been contacted about assisting at the fair booth, we are always looking for volunteers. Please call Marilyn Wallace at 432-5683.

Reminder: We will need ‘ice pucks’ for chilling drinks at our booth. Water can be frozen in yogurt or sour cream containers 400 – 500 gm size.

**Crafty Ladies**: The Crafty Ladies will resume for the fall season on Wednesday, September 12, at 1:00 in the Library.

**Mat Group**: The Mat Group will be meeting on Wednesday, September 12 at 1pm in Stewart Hall. If you are interested in joining our group, please stop in and join us for tea at three!

**United Church Partners in Foodgrains Project**: The Canadian Foodgrains Bank website frequently adds updates on the work of our 15 member agencies such as Tearfund Canada which is responding to the needs of hungry people in South Sudan.

The ongoing conflict has affected agricultural production and the ability to import food from neighbouring countries. Households are struggling to access enough food. Women are particularly affected as they forage for wild foods, leaving them vulnerable to attack and sexual violence.

With financial assistance from **The United Church of Canada** and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada, about 13,000 people are receiving vouchers they can exchange for emergency rations of sorghum, beans, vegetable oil and salt. The project, which is implemented locally by Tearfund South Sudan, is worth $891,000.

See photos, videos and more new projects on the CFGB website:
<https://foodgrainsbank.ca/news/11-projects-totaling-4-million-committed-in-june/>

**Upper Room Daily Devotional**: If you are looking to obtain the Upper Room daily devotional, they are now located in the Office, and can be picked up Mon-Thurs, 9-2. The booklets are $2.00.

***In Memoriam****: The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Margaret McLaren, on her recent passing.*



“You are not affirming our existence” By Joy Cowan

You are not being asked to determine the legitimacy of the gay or transgender experience; You are not being asked whether you “agree” with same-sex relationships; Or whether you’d ever consider kissing a man/woman/genderqueer/transgender/genderfluid/agender/kinky person (whichever scares you the most); You are not being asked to understand that gender and sexuality are spectrums; You are not being asked to debate whether gender dysphoria should be considered a mental health disorder; You are not being asked to be fluent in the latest lingo (boi, transmasculine, poly, queer AF, etc.); You are not being asked whether your parents or the “church forefathers” would approve of same-sex marriage; You are not being asked to decipher the “right answer” to whether The Bible approves of gay or transgender people. Because this is not about judging people. It’s not. You’re not being asked to affirm our existence. Instead, you are being asked – right now, today – whether YOU personally believe that ours is a God of love and acceptance; Whether your version of Christian hospitality means welcoming everyone. Everyone. And really meaning it. It’s about taking into your heart Jesus’ command to unconditionally love your neighbour as yourself. It really is that simple. The Affirming process helps a congregation to truly see how wide is their circle of love and inclusion. And my prayer for all of us is this: Spirit, draw the circle wider still and lead us to a place where our love is without borders. Amen.



Across Turtle Island

Our gifts for Mission & Service support ecumenical partners like KAIROS, which seeks justice and offers ways for faith groups to live out the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

In March 2017, 45 people from many different backgrounds—Indigenous and settler, young and old, teachers and counsellors, medical staff and faith leaders—gathered with one common goal, to learn how to facilitate the KAIROS Blanket Exercise at the Saskatoon Friendship Centre, Treaty 6 territory.

Those gathered were committed to living out the Calls to Action, especially as they pertain to education around the impacts of colonization. The KAIROS Blanket Exercise is a rich, complex, and emotional experience of sharing the history of colonization. It tells the story that we are not fully taught in school. The new facilitators committed themselves to carrying the experience into their communities.

The Blanket Exercise can be very powerful for participants. Together, the group learned ways to navigate the anger, tears, and painful revelations that can be brought to light by the experience. The 45 new facilitators listened to the words of the Elders, laughed, and shared together, promising to support one another. The group left with open hearts and open ears, ready to share the good news of truth telling and reconciliation.

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.