***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 – September 2, 2018***

The flowers today have been placed by Wendy Phillips, in loving memory of deceased members of Unit 7, UCW.

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

**Mon. Sept. 3 Labour Day – office closed**

**Tues. Sept. 4** Unit 6 – Library, 7:30 **Wed. Sept. 5** Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00

**Mon. Sept. 10** UCW General Meeting – Chapel, 1:00

**AUDIO SYSTEM** Sept. 2 – Garry Scott
 Sept. 9 – Geoff Roberts

**COUNTING OFFERING** September – Pat Blandford & Marg Crozier
 October – Bev Davis & Sadie Smith

**MEALS ON WHEELS** Sept. 2 – Garry & Carol Scott
 Sept. 9 – Darwin Phillips & Tyson Jessup

**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 July I mentioned that a group of ministers from the United Church of Canada had sent newly elected premier Doug Ford an open letter. The full text of the letter can be found at [ontariouccministers.org](http://ontariouccministers.org) but one section states, “We value teaching comprehensive sexual education in our schools and believe strongly that knowledge leads to better choices and better health outcomes.”

One of the controversial parts of the sex ed curriculum in our province has been that dealing with sexual orientation and gender identity. Some argue that in dealing with these topics we are promoting sexual and gender expressions beyond the traditional heterosexual binary understanding. We believe that such understanding does not promote but does empower. Young people who are confused about their place in a predominantly heterosexual culture are given language to describe their feelings and experience. And the children who surround them are made more compassionate toward their classmates.

Many of the concerns raised in the letter to the Premier centre on an ethic of caring for the vulnerable. The economy is important but balancing budgets should not be done on the backs of the poor. Improvements to health care are important but especially around addiction treatment. Sexual education is important, especially for groups traditionally marginalized such as the LGBTQ community.

Over 200 ministers of the United Church in Ontario signed the open letter to our Premier. In our province churches are often seen as upholding conservative social values. It is an important witness to have Christians expressing progressive understandings on these issues. Becoming an Affirming Ministry would be one such expression.

Russell Wardell



Spiritual and Practical Care in the City

Our gifts for Mission & Service support Indigenous ministries in downtown Toronto.

The urban Aboriginal population in Canada has increased dramatically in recent years, with the overwhelming majority of the country’s 1.2 million Indigenous people living off reserve. Toronto Urban Native Ministry has a heart for Indigenous people living on the margins of city life. Founded in 1996, it reaches out to Aboriginal people in precarious life situations: on the streets and in prisons, shelters, hostels, and hospitals. An ecumenical organization that integrates Christian and Aboriginal spirituality, Toronto Urban Native Ministry provides counselling and spiritual care as well as referrals to community services.

Working out of Council Fire Native Cultural Centre, it offers everything from spiritual mentorship to sharing circles for Sixties Scoop survivors— Indigenous people who were taken from their families and placed in predominately White foster homes between the 1960s and 1980s.

Worship services are held every Sunday morning and offer an opportunity for Aboriginal Christian worship. This is a time of storytelling, prayer, and sharing of a meal or activity led by an Indigenous Anglican priest or United Church of Canada minister. Chris Harper describes Sunday mornings at Council Fire as wonderfully unique: “Individuals come with such amazing, wonderful, colourful life experiences. The services are diverse and responsive rather than liturgically sequential. Every Sunday is an adventure.” Sacred gatherings like these offer connection and healing while honouring the Creator and all of creation. For urban Indigenous people living off reserve, they fill a vital need for spiritual and cultural community.

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.