***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 16, 2018***

The flowers today have been placed by Renee Snell and Yvonne Powell, in loving memory of our congregation’s loved ones.

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

*The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Joanne Ciphery, on her recent passing.*

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

**Tues. Sept. 18** Council – Assembly, 7:00

**Wed. Sept. 19** Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00
 Mat Group – Stewart Hall, 1:00
 Crafty Ladies – Library, 1:00

**Thurs. Sept. 20** Choir – Sanctuary, 7:00

**Sun. Sept. 23**  John Wilson Estate Planning – Stewart Hall, after service

**AUDIO SYSTEM** Sept. 16 – Marilyn Eady
 Sept. 23 – Merv Kusluski

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

**MEALS ON WHEELS** Sept. 16 – Kevin & Pat Box
 Sept. 23 – Allan & Sandra Comba

**Estate Planning Seminar**: John Wilson will be hosting an estate planning seminar next Sunday, September 23, following the service in Stewart Hall.

**Renfrew Fair**: Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our fair booth.

**Stewardship Month in Bay of Quinte Conference**: October is Stewardship Month in Bay of Quinte Conference, and Sunday, October 14 is Toonie Sunday. Please collect toonies in a pill bottle and bring to the church on October 14.

**We welcome children at TSA**: Beginning September 23, we offer children's worship in our Godly Play Program, with Bible stories and creative response time for children in kindergarten and older. Children begin the worship service in the sanctuary, and go to Godly Play toward the end of the first hymn. Our leaders will guide them to the Godly Play room at the end of the hall. (If you come in after the children have left, you may bring your child directly to the Godly Play room).
Children are welcome anytime in the sanctuary during the worship service. There is a quiet colouring area at the right side of the sanctuary as you enter, with Bible-story based colouring books and puzzles, mandalas to colour, and materials for creative work.
For those times when young children and their caregivers need some "time out" there is a toy chest in the Marion Roffey room for use as needed. Caregivers are asked to ensure the room is left as they found it.

**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.



Affirming Theology: Where to Start? – Emmet Cameron

Because LGBTQ+ people of faith are so often given the burden of defending their validity within the church, it's easy to lose track of the fact that people across the gender and sexuality spectrums are not merely due a seat at the welcome table, but have valuable contributions to bring to the feast. Here are a few free online resources created by LGBTQ+ Christians.

Q Christian Fellowship ([www.qchristian.org](http://www.qchristian.org)) offers a variety of resources and connection opportunities for LGBTQ+ Christians, as well as friends, families, & churches striving towards allyship.

Broderick Greer is the former host of the Theology Live podcast & the current host of Mile High Theology. Both podcasts look at religion through an intersectional lens, often addressing how the gospel can be applied to current social justice struggles, and they can both be found on iTunes.

Austen Hartke (AKA Austen Lionheart) writes and produces online videos about being a transgender Christian. He is currently putting out a YouTube series called Journey Through Scripture, in which he walks through every book of the Bible, revisiting well-known stories and shining light on some of the oft-ignored "queeros" in our sacred texts.

Queer Theology ([www.queertheology.com](http://www.queertheology.com)) aims to reach beyond debating the "clobber passages" and towards developing a truly positive and affirming body of spiritual resources for LGBTQ+ Christians. The Queer Lectionary podcast, hosted by Fr. Shay Kearns & Brian G. Murphy, can be streamed on the website or downloaded on iTunes.

This is just a start! Happy seeking!



Caring for Children in Gaza

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the Near East Council of Churches in caring for children in the midst of the shattered infrastructure of the Gaza Strip.

Of particular concern are children suffering from malnutrition and anemia, both treatable illnesses. The clinics in Shijaia, Darraj, and Rafah estimate anemia and malnutrition affect about 10,000 children in these areas from newborn infants to age six. If treated in time, 60 percent of the children will fully recover.

Parents and children are welcome to come to clinics, and the Near East Council of Churches also runs outreach programs for families who need services and can’t get to clinics. In addition to the 10,000 children treated for illness, clinic staff will be able to carry out about 22,000 well baby checks per year. Children with more complicated diagnoses are referred to advanced diagnostic and therapeutic services.

The reality of living in the Gaza Strip is harsh. There are shortages of drugs. The Near East Council of Churches reports a shortfall of about 40 percent in essential drugs needed for mother and child health services. The exposure to health risks has increased, including the spread of communicable diseases, food insecurity, and psychosocial issues. The economic im pact of the ongoing blockade and other factors means families have much more limited capacity to contribute to medical costs.

Mission & Service makes it possible for the Near East Council of Churches to address the challenges of providing medical care to children in the Gaza Strip.

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.