***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.  
We will live into this statement by encouraging all who make TSA their faith home to participate fully in all aspects of the life and work of this community of faith.

TSA is a place where the gifts of all people are celebrated.

***Our Week at a Glance – December 16, 2018***

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

The flowers today are placed by congregation members, in memory of a loved one.

**Tues. Dec. 18** Council – Assembly, 7:00  
 **Wed. Dec. 19** Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00  
 Mat Group – Stewart Hall, 1:00  
  
**Thurs. Dec. 20** Choir – Sanctuary, 7:00  
  
**Mon. Dec 24** Christmas Eve Service, 7:00  
  
**AUDIO SYSTEM** Dec. 16 – Debbie McDermid  
 Dec. 23 – Garry Scott  
  
**COUNTING OFFERING** Lois Desjardins & Geoff Roberts  
 January: Noma Deshane & Sadie Smith  
  
**MEALS ON WHEELS** Dec. 16 – Ken & Karen Mullins  
 Dec. 23 – Barbara Moogk & Barbara Hollywood  
  
**U.C.W. Donations**: The U.C.W. Treasurer requests that all final donations to the U.C.W. for the year 2018 be left in the Church Office by no later than Wednesday, December 19, in order to have them included in the Charitable Donation receipt issued to you by the Church at the end of the year.   
  
**From the Candy Table**: Thank you to the many people that made the Candy sale so successful. Thank you to everyone from the candy box givers & wrappers, to those who made the phone calls to request candy, the many people that made candy, the people that packed the candy and of course, the many people that purchased the candy. Once you have been able to enjoy your candy purchases, you can return the empty boxes now instead of having to keep them until the fall. The boxes may be placed in the big candy box outside the Library.  
 *Thank you, Jane & Mary Jane Lambert*  
  
**Foodgrains Bank Responds to Devastation in Yemen**: Hunger, disease and bombs are devastating the lives of millions of people as the war in Yemen continues into its fourth year. About 8.4 million people in the country are at risk of starvation. "We are devastated at the news coming out of Yemen. The people of Yemen are enduring atrocities that no human being should have to live through," says Foodgrains Bank executive director Jim Cornelius.  
Providing emergency assistance within Yemen is difficult due to the ongoing conflict and the refusal of combatants to allow for emergency assistance for civilians. Civilians are a frequent target in the wider conflict. Assaults on World Food Programme facilities in Yemen's ports, blocking of aid shipments, and refusals to allow imports of food are examples of how innocent people are being made to suffer.  
1,100 vulnerable families suffering from intense conflict and extreme hunger will receive emergency food rations of flour, beans, oil, sugar and salt through a new project of Canadian Foodgrains Bank led by member ADRA Canada. Other CFGB members providing financial support are Development and Peace -Caritas Canada, Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, World Renew and The United Church of Canada. Project activities are undertaken with support from the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.



Our Affirming Committee is coming together nicely. We have four volunteers. This committee will help us live into being an Affirming Ministry by updating us on resources and events of Affirm United, by helping us reflect on how to be more inclusive, by helping us reflect on our worship and insuring that members of the LGBTQ2+ community would hear their experience in our worship, and finally by seeking partnering opportunities with like-minded groups in the region. If you would like to be a part of this work, please speak with Russell.



Spiritual Healing

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the work of community ministries like Our Place Society in Victoria, British Columbia.

In a nurturing atmosphere of home and family, Our Place serves Victoria’s most vulnerable: people who are addicted and homeless, the working poor, those who are mentally and physically challenged, and impoverished elderly people. This remarkable inner-city centre relates to the people who use it as family members, not clients, with an emphasis on creating a compassionate, caring community.

Our Place tends to its family members’ physical needs, serving over 1,600 meals a day and providing hot showers, clothing, health care, and an overdose prevention site. It also cares for people’s spiritual needs. “For people who live on the streets, there is a lot of grief and death,” says Grant McKenzie, a staff member. “We need to be able to connect with people on a spiritual level.”

In 2017, Our Place hired a First Nations spiritual leader who can better connect the centre to the 30 percent of its members who identify as Indigenous. Don Beacham is a Cree man from Norway House reserve in Manitoba who is steeped in Indigenous spiritual teachings and traditions. He connects with the Indigenous population through hosting healing circles and smudges, through drumming and song, and through his warm, caring presence. With the smudges, he says, “people feel lighter” because “they know they are cherished, cared for, and prayed for in that moment.”

With your support, Our Place Society is able to focus on creating sacred and healing 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.