***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 2, 2018***

The flowers today are placed by Gladys Rennie, in loving memory of her husband, Jack.

***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

 **Mon. Dec. 3** Librarian – Library, 9:30
 Unit 11 – Marian Roffey, 1:00
 **Wed. Dec. 5** Bible Study – Marian Roffey, 12:00
 Mat Group – Stewart Hall, 1:00
 Crafty Ladies – Library, 1:00

**Thurs. Dec. 6** Choir – Sanctuary, 7:00

**AUDIO SYSTEM** Dec. 2 – Marilyn Eady
 Dec. 9 – Merv Kusluski

**COUNTING OFFERING** Lois Desjardins & Geoff Roberts
 January: Noma Deshane & Sadie Smith

**MEALS ON WHEELS** Dec. 2 – John & Laura Cooke
 Dec. 9 – Rick & Susan Lester

**White Gift Sunday, Dec. 9**: The "White Gift Sunday" tradition comes from our Methodist forebears. In1904, a mother and her children realized that, while they had lots of gifts under their Christmas tree, there were children in their community who didn't have any. They collected gifts and wrapped them in white tissue to give to these children. In 2018, rather than collect gifts, we gather monetary donations and give them to the Child Poverty Action Network (CPAN) and the Renfrew Food Bank to help children in need. Cheques (payable to TSA) or cash may be put in a white envelope, to keep our "white gift" tradition (or otherwise marked "White Gift") and placed in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

**Upcoming Concert**: The Renfrew Children's/Youth Chorus present "Peace on Earth" at their Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 PM at Trinity-St. Andrews United Church. Tickets $5 and are available at the door and from chorus members in advance.  Directed by Jessica Belanger and Hannah Holley.  Spend an afternoon listening to the angelic voices of 38 young people joined together in harmony, singing familiar carols and hymns on the theme of "Peace".  Raffle draw and homemade butter tarts and cookies will be sold as a fundraiser after the concert.

**Tea & Talent Sale**: Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year’s Tea & Talent Sale a success! There will be a Convenor’s meeting on Sunday, December 9 in the Library after the service.

**2019 Canadian Church Calendar**: The 2019 Canadian Church Calendar has arrived, and this year’s theme is “Faith, Hope, and Love”. Celebrate faith, hope and love with United Churches across Canada! Along with beautiful photos, this handy calendar notes special days and church season, liturgical seasons and colours, significant United Church days, and lectionary dates. It’s also bilingual. With month-by-month inspirational messages and all the important church dates, this is the perfect calendar to keep for yourself or for a Christmas gift. The calendar costs $8.00 each and are available in the church office.

**Observer Magazine**: It is time to renew your subscription, or perhaps you may wish to start a subscription for 2019. The Observer keeps us up-to-date on what is happening in our world, and in the United Church of Canada. Contact Lorraine Belanger in the Narthex, or call 613-432-5928 – she will be collecting during the month of November until today, December 2. The cost is $25.00 cash, or by cheque, payable to T.S.A. United Church. If you are unfamiliar with the Observer, Lorraine has some past issues that you could borrow to read. Also, please consider giving a gift subscription. Website – [www.ucobserver.org](http://www.ucobserver.org).

**Crafty Ladies**: Crafty Ladies will close out this season with a lunch at the Rocky Mountain House, on Wednesday December 12 at 1:00/1:15pm. We wish all a peaceful and joyous season. We will resume January 16, 2019 at 1pm in the Library. Newcomers are most welcome, so please join us.

**From The M&P Committee**: The staff at TSA does a wonderful job and are friendly and always willing to help. However, it is a job and there are lines between any job and personal time. Sunday before during and after service are examples of personal time and this time should be respected so they can enjoy worship and fellowship like everyone else. Except in cases of true emergencies, communication with staff regarding matters relating to their job responsibilities is to be conducted during work hours. Staff has developed an efficient system of communication to accommodate the part time nature of the roles. As always, concerns about staff performance are to be discussed with the M&P Committee, NEVER directly with staff.



Last week’s service and celebration of becoming an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada is now available on line at [tsarenfrew.ca](http://tsarenfrew.ca). Sadly the music is not included because we do not have rights to broadcast hymns. You can also find pictures of the day on our website. Some of the letters of support and the town’s congratulatory certificate can be found in the narthex.

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.



Bakery Blessings

Our gifts for Mission & Service enable people to flourish.

In China, the Amity Foundation offers programs for people on the margins—people like Zhou Jian, a 34-year-old baker who has been working at the Amity Bakery since it opened in 2007. As a child, Zhou Jian was placed in an institution where he stayed until 2004, when he was given the opportunity to live at Amity Foundation’s Home of Blessings for those who are developmentally challenged. When he arrived at the home at age 21, he did not understand the concept of words or numbers. Slowly, under the loving care of Amity teachers, he mastered these skills. Zhou Jian was then ready to take on another challenge by working in the bakery. He has grown in skill to become one of the main bakers.

Zhou Jian is constantly learning new techniques, proudly mastering each new challenge. He displays so much pride in the mouth-watering baked goods he produces that he has become the face of the Amity Bakery. His smiling face can now be seen on billboards and posters around China!

At the Amity Foundation’s 30th anniversary celebration in 2015, it was Zhou Jian who welcomed everyone and invited the guests to taste the cake that he and the other bakers had so lovingly prepared. We are thankful for the loving way that the Amity Foundation offers developmentally challenged individuals like him the opportunity to live out their passion for creating and learning. As we live out our faith of loving our neighbour, we do so in celebration of Mission & Service global partners like Amity Foundation.

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.