***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 – February 24, 2019***

 ***THIS WEEK AT TSA:***

***In Memoriam****: The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Ronald Paddock, on his recent passing.

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

The flowers today are placed by Barbara Carriere, in loving memory of her mother, Pearl Aikenhead.

 **Wed. Feb. 27** Bible Study Marian Roffey, 12:00
 Mat Group – Stewart Hall, 1:00
 Crafty Ladies – Library, 1:00

**Thurs. Feb. 28** TSA Choir – Sanctuary, 7:00

***Volunteer Corner***:

*Lay Reader*: None this week
*Sound Board*: Geoff Roberts
*Greeters & Ushers*: Winnie Stewart & Karen Stewart
*Soloist/Guest Musician*: None this week
*Meals on Wheels*: Jeff Scott & Maggie
*Coffee after Church*: Volunteers
*Snow shoveling*: John Wilson
*Offering counters*: Leslee Gervais & Doris Handford
*Funeral Lunch Coordinators*: Faye Gagan & Noma Deshane
*Thrift Shop Volunteer Coordinators*: Faye Gagan & Cathy Morris

**World Day of Prayer**: Come and join TSA and five other community churches at the Ecumenical World Day of Prayer service at 2pm on Friday, March 1, 2019 at St. Paul’s Anglican Church. This year the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) has chosen to recognize the service prepared by the women of Slovenia. This is one of the only times every year that we have the opportunity to meet and pray together for justice, peace and reconciliation. Everyone is welcome.

**Ash Wednesday**: We will hold our Ash Wednesday service on March 6 at 7pm in the Chapel.

**Lenten Series**: This year’s Sunday evening Lenten series will take a more worshipful tone. We will follow a simple service called, “A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals” which is based on the Book of Common Prayer. Part way through the service we will hear a sermon preached by one of the following volunteers: Chuck Ross, Felicite Stairs, and Ginette Raaphorst. Following the service the preacher will reflect on why the topic they chose was important to them, what they hope the listener will take away, and what the preaching experience was like for them. Please note that there will not be an evening service on March 24 so that all can attend the Climate Justice supper.

**Lent 2019 “Give it Up for the Earth”**: Lent is traditionally a time of prayer and spiritual practices including fasting, (giving something up), and actions, (almsgiving, or committing to a positive spiritual disciplines). This Lent TSA is taking part in a postcard campaign organized by Citizens for Public Justice, an ecumenical partner of the United Church of Canada. The postcard includes a pledge to individual climate actions - what will you “give up” to care for God’s creation; and also a call for more far-reaching national climate policy. Postcards will be available in the narthex before and after worship during Lent (March 6-April 18), and in the office during the week. When you have made your pledge, please return the cards and we will take them to Citizens for Public Justice to be presented to the government along with postcards from Christians across the country.

**How can we live ethically** in a time of climate crisis? How can our Christian faith support us as we try? Are there others in the church who care about climate justice too? If these questions interest you, or if you have thoughts to share, please join us on Sunday, March 24 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel for a potluck supper and conversation. For more information, please contact Felicite Stairs or Yvonne Powell.

**TSA Photo Booth**: A copy of your photo taken by Mickey McDonald can be picked up before or after the service today in the narthex. A donation of a toonie to help cover expenses is appreciated.

**Funeral Luncheon Catering**: There is an ongoing need for volunteer helpers with the teams that provide luncheons at TSA, following a funeral service or memorial service. This is a fund-raising activity organized by the UCW. If you are interested in helping one or more of the teams, please leave your name with Debbie at the church office (613-432-2285) during regular business hours. You will then be contacted with more information about these catering events, and how you can help.



Facing the Occupation

June 5, 2017 marked the 50th year of Israel’s military occupation of Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. More than two generations of Palestinians have known no other reality than Israeli military occupation. Staff in the United Church’s Church in Mission Unit recently visited Palestine-Israel, where they were hosted by Wi’am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center.

Opening in 1994, Wi’am works to resolve disputes in the Palestinian community, support reconciliation, and address the psychological and physiological consequences of long-term conflict and occupation. Located just inside the separation walls surrounding Bethlehem, Wi’am literally faces the occupation—one quarter of its property is lost to the eight-metres-high Israeli separation wall, and an Israeli security tower overlooks its outdoor space.

In spite of the 24-hour, seven-days-a-week surveillance, Wi’am is committed to providing programs, empowering Palestinian youth, children, men, and women. One of its programs is a community garden. Even such simple projects face big challenges. At the height of summer, running water is denied to Bethlehem residents to maintain uninterrupted service to Israeli settlements. And the nearby Israeli military base directs its sewage run into the garden. In spite of these obstacles, Wi’am was proud to offer United Church staff a tour of its small garden and share a harvest of fresh pea pods, snapped off and enjoyed in the last rays of sunshine on a warm evening. Mission & Service works with our partners striving for justice and peace in Palestine-Israel.

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.