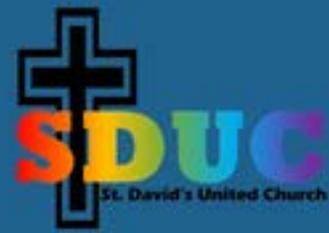


Welcoming
Celebrating
Becoming

northminster
UNITED CHURCH



Growing and Deepening our
Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and
Inclusive Community

Lent 2023 Newsletter



FROM REV. NANCY' S DESK

Marcia McFee says that when she was a senior in high school “Urban Cowboy” came out and everyone started singing along with Johnny Lee, “lookin’ for love in all the wrong places, looking for love in too many faces...” Well, as the saying goes, “story of my life!” But isn’t it the story of most of our lives, whether or not we’ve had hiccups with our relationships over the years? We’ve looked for “love”—for meaning, purpose, satisfaction, security (however you describe it) in so many things that actually haven’t given us the depth of “what we’re dreaming of,” so says the song.

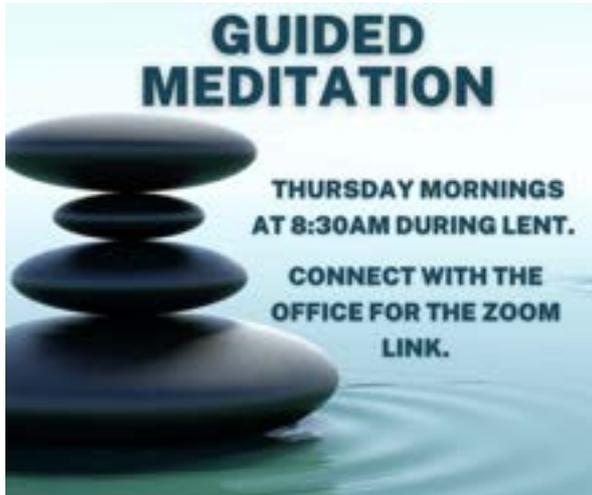
Lent is traditionally a time to revisit our priorities. I hope this worship series will give us a lens through which to do just that. Our weekly worship scriptures mention “love” and “heart” over and over. And so I went searching for what our faith narrative was saying about true love. Each week offers us a model of love based on the stories of Jesus’ life and ministry, death and resurrection. And each week we consider the opposites that show up, often valued in our culture, in those things that are distracting us: fame, money, control, possessions, power, certainty, unhealthy relationships, or addictions. When we look to these things for the love we crave, we are sorely disappointed. And yet, as another song goes, “what the world needs now is love.”

I hope you will find something to make this holy season meaningful for you. Some value the tradition of giving something up as a way of refocusing on God and what matters most to us. But perhaps it will be the Thursday morning meditation with Rev. Eva, or using the devotional journal we’re providing, or taking some intentional time for prayer that will strengthen your connection with God. Lent is also a good time to revisit the Star Word you received at Epiphany (there are more in the office if you need one): how is that word speaking to you and guiding you this year?

Blessings to you on this Lenten journey.

DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL

As a spiritual practice during Lent, we have available to you a Devotional Journal to pick up starting Ash Wednesday and throughout the season. You will find an introduction to the worship series we are using, book and music suggestions for adults and teens, as well as weekly questions and scripture for personal reflection. The scriptures and questions supplement each week of our Sunday worship themes.



GUIDED MEDITATION

Rev Eva welcomes all who might have an interest in guided meditation. This practice is shaped by listening quietly to another person's voice and to see in their minds eye the scene that is presented to the group. Meditation is an ancient tradition and as we are aware, our mind will wander when confronted with silence, and therefore many find it easier to focus and relax when listening to a story of sorts. During Lent Eva will present a guided meditation on Thursday mornings at 8:30 AM. These meditations will correspond with the previous Sunday Lenten Scripture reading.

You are not expected to be dressed, had breakfast or drive to the church, rather when you register for the zoom link, you will have access to the zoom meditation. You will be invited to have both your camera and sound off so there are no distractions for anyone during this 30 minutes. After the reading there will be a time of silence to reflect on what has been said and how you received it.

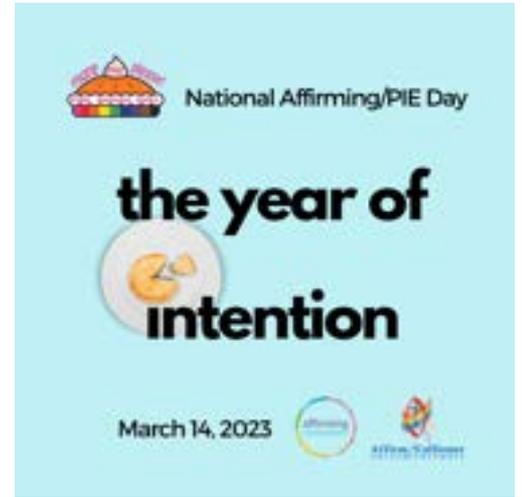
After the silence those who may wish to talk about the experience will be invited to engage their sound and also their camera if they wish.

All are welcome!



PIE DAY

National Affirming/PIE Day is every year on March 14. The PIE stands for: Public, Intentional, and Explicit - all ways in which we are invited to celebrate and affirm the beautiful diversity of the 2SLGBTQ+ community! Northminster's Affirming Ministries Team invites you to stay for pie after church on March 12th, and make a donation for your slice in support of Camp Fyrefly – a southern Alberta summer camp offering safe and inclusive summer programs for LGBTQ youth.



YOUTH GROUP SLEEPOVER

Youth in grades 7 and up are invited to attend. This weekend will include a 24 hour fast from their cell phones (being intentional to think about the role and impact of cell phones in our lives). Dinner will be provided by UCW (they will enjoy eating together that night), and Brent has offered a late night organ concert and tour of the pipe organ. For more information please reach out to our youth leader Emily Osgood.



FLOWERS FOR EASTER

We are again offering the opportunity purchase potted Easter flowers or make a donation to the flower fund in honour of or memory of loved ones. Donation envelopes and dedication forms will be available at the back of the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings and in the office during the week. Names will be listed in the worship folder on Easter Sunday.

PALM SUNDAY WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

April 2nd, 2023

Together we will be telling the story of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem, and the journey through the week toward Good Friday and Easter. Please reach out to Rev Nancy if you would like a reading part to practice ahead of time, and if you will be at church April 2nd to help participate in the story together.



HOLY THURSDAY CAMPFIRE COMMUNION

April 6, 2023
Bowness Park

Gather at 5:00 - bring your
own supper and drinks
Worship begins at 6:00

THURSDAY CAMPFIRE

April 6th

Holy Thursday is a time for us as Christians to experience the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room. This year we will share in communion and worship around a campfire at Bowness Park. Beginning at 5 PM bring your lawnchairs and even a picnic supper if you like. We'll visit and enjoy each other's company before sharing in communion at 6 PM. Watch for more details about which firepit we'll be meeting at.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 7th

St David's, Northminster, Parkdale, and Wildrose United Churches will be gathering for a shared worship at St David's. Worship begins at 10:30 but come early to enjoy a visit with hot cross buns and coffee. A joint choir from all churches will be bringing their voices together in song for this significant faith day. If you would like to assist with serving the buns and coffee please let the office know.





EASTER SUNDAY BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP
On Easter Sunday, April 9th, we will be celebrating baptism and membership for both St David's and Northminster. This is a sacrament of belonging which celebrates that you belong to God and to a community of faith. Whether it's for a wee one in your family, or for an adult who is new to the church, or for someone who wishes to recommit to their faith after a time away, or you've been here for years and want to celebrate the renewed energy you are experiencing – please reach out to Rev Nancy to discuss any questions you might have.



EASTER SUNDAY EGG HUNT

Be sure to stay after church for this fun tradition!
Watch for more details and invite your friends and family to join us!

NORTHMINSTER AGM

After worship on April 30th, Northminster will be holding its Annual General Meeting. Pizza will be served (cost by donation), and cake will be shared in recognition of Dorothy Gautreau's retirement.



DRAMA CLUB PRESENTATION

Mark the afternoon of April 30th on your calendar for the spring production from the Chameleon Drama Club! It's always a wonderful show that highlights the talents and creativity of youth and the team that supports them. Watch for more details!



EARTH DAY PROJECT

April 23rd we will be showcasing in worship and in an afternoon event ways that our faith and care of creation go hand in hand. Northminster's Youth Group will be taking the lead on this. Watch for ways you can participate and learn more about consumerism and it's impact on climate change.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Friendship Club has endorsed a new concept of Koffee Klatches to meet 10am- 12 noon on the SECOND Friday of each month(except July & August) in the Tatanga Mani room. Coffee and tea will be provided at a charge of \$1 and please bring your own snack. Meeting details will be provided monthly by the hosts/ coordinators. Upcoming meeting dates are March 10, April 14 and May 12.



HEALING PATHWAYS

This deeply spiritual practice is a ministry of St David's and is available the first Wednesday night of the month. Whether you are dealing with a health issue, stress, or you would just like to experience this practice as a faith ritual, be sure to reach out to the St David's office to schedule a appointment.



BREAD GIVEAWAY

In partnership with the Kerby Centre, Northminster United is hosting a monthly bread giveaway at the Northminster building. This takes place on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 1:30 to 3 PM. This initiative prevents food waste by redistributing bread and baked goods from places like Cobs, Starbucks, and Safeway. Drop by to pick up yours! Upcoming dates are February 22nd, March 22nd, April 26th, and May 24th.

Prayer Shawl



The Prayer Shawl Group meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 1:00pm in St. David's TM Room

Contact Jan Clare for more information

CRAFTING SATURDAYS

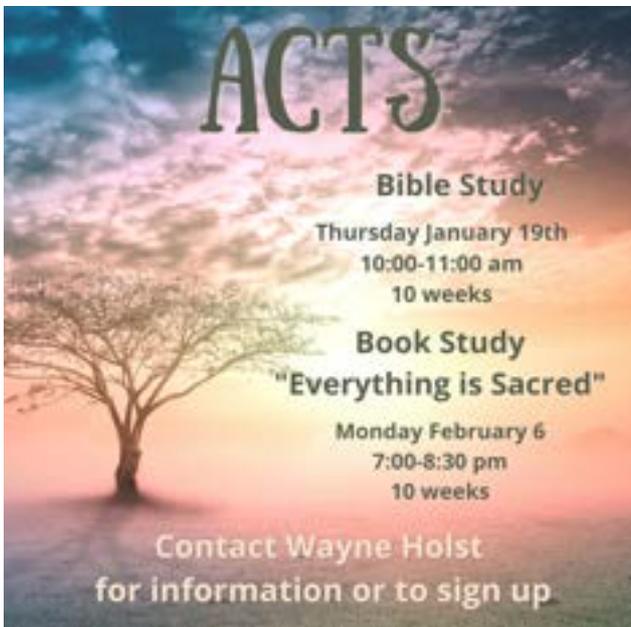


Bring your favourite craft and join us at the Northminster building for crafting and fellowship!

Mar 4 ~ Apr 1 ~ May 6
1:00 - 4:00pm
RSVP Suzanne Vandervo

northminster UNITED CHURCH

ACTS

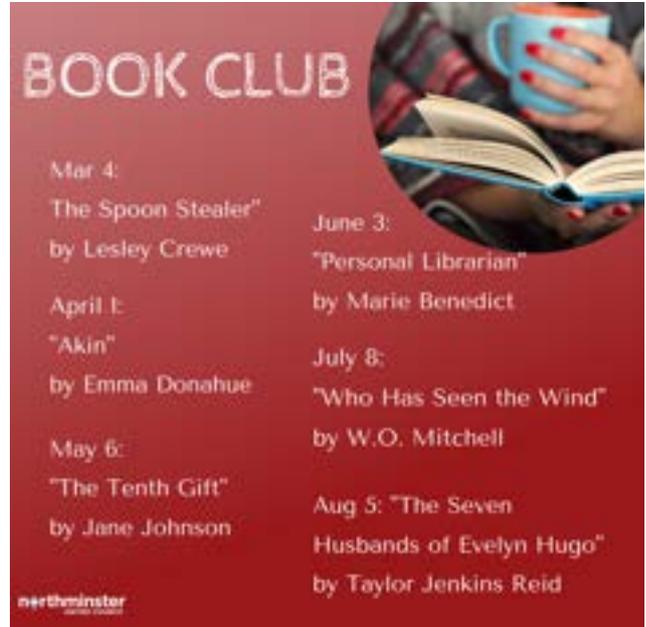


Bible Study
Thursday January 19th
10:00-11:00 am
10 weeks

Book Study
"Everything is Sacred"
Monday February 6
7:00-8:30 pm
10 weeks

Contact Wayne Holst for information or to sign up.

BOOK CLUB



Mar 4: "The Spoon Stealer" by Lesley Crewe

April 1: "Akin" by Emma Donahue

May 6: "The Tenth Gift" by Jane Johnson

June 3: "Personal Librarian" by Marie Benedict

July 8: "Who Has Seen the Wind" by W.O. Mitchell

Aug 5: "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" by Taylor Jenkins Reid

northminster UNITED CHURCH

St. David's and Northminster United Churches'

MEMBERSHIP AND BAPTISM



Celebrate that you belong to a church that loves you!
Reach out to us to discuss baptism for yourself or a little one in your life.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

northminster UNITED CHURCH

SDUC Count Team Volunteers Needed!



No experience necessary and time commitment is minimal.
Contact the St. David's office to sign up.

KIDZONE
 MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



SPARK
 Age 3-Grade 3

SHINE
 Grade 4-12



First Presbyterian Church of Denver

PASTORAL CONNECTION

Join Rev. Eva Stanley on Wednesday mornings at 10 am for fellowship. Connect and listen to your church friends.



We are looking for donations to hand out to those who come to our church in need of help.

- \$5.00 coffee cards
- bus tickets
- protein or granola bars
- cup of soup
- individual snacks
- juice boxes
- hats
- mitts and gloves
- socks-
- maxi-pads



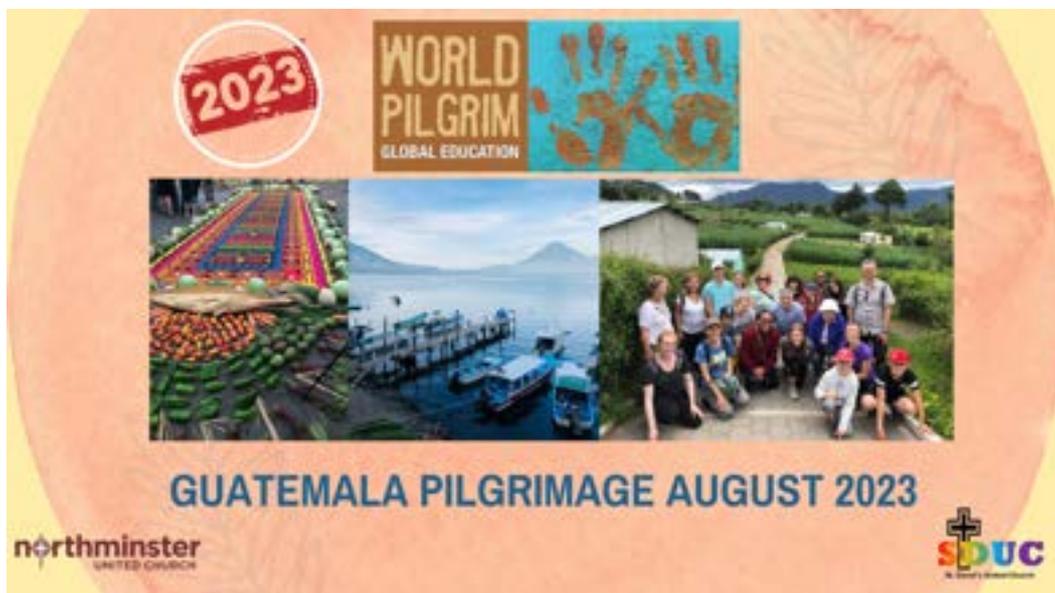
Please drop off donations at the office during office hours. We are so grateful for any help you can provide!

LUNCH WITH THE MINISTER



Join Rev. Eva for lunch. Come for food, fellowship and conversation! Contact the office to sign up.

LUNCH WITH THE MINISTER
 Rev. Eva's next lunch outing is on March 16 at 11:30am at Chianti Crowfoot. Please connect with the office to book a seat at the table.



TRAVEL TO GUATEMALA THIS SUMMER

Travel with an all ages group from Northminster and St David's United Churches to connect with one another, with spirituality, and with the people of this beautiful country. For elders, families, teens, grandparents, singles, all are welcome to come! You are about to embark on a journey to an incredible country, a mystical land full of beauty and struggle. You'll discover the Highlands of Guatemala, at 5000 feet elevation and above, where the climate will be temperate, sub-tropical areas around the lake, and mountainous regions around Quezaltenango. We'll meet inspiring people, visiting Guatemalans in their homes, and learn how culture is lived out and formed with family as the centre. You'll learn about Mayan culture, traditions and spirituality. You'll see beautiful places in nature: a nature reserve, an organic farm, rolling green hills growing corn, beans and squash. We'll spend a day with the children at the school in a small mountain Mayan community. You'll visit with weavers watching their ancient techniques form tapestries, and see the wonder of the colour in the markets. Visit an ancient Mayan City Site, drink coffee or hot chocolate under a volcano, wander the market in Chichicastenango, and soak in a volcanic hot spring. You'll meet inspiring people and visit projects working to better Guatemalan Society and address basic human needs.

Registration is open and spots are starting to fill up. Look for more information and registration links in the weekly email, or reach out to the office.

Register online here: <https://worldpilgrim.ca/application-form/>

Select Trip Choice: Guatemala: Private Group Northminster UC Aug 19-29, 2023

