



# Cochrane Street United Church

Honouring the Past ♦ Celebrating the Present ♦ Dreaming for the Future

1916 – 2016

Minister: Rev. Miriam Bowlby, BA (hons), M.Div, MBA-SEE

*"What we plant in the soil of contemplation, we shall reap in the harvest of action."  
Meister Eckhart*

Blessings to you all from your Church Council

Fall is now here. We are busy gathering up the sheaves, preparing our gardens for winter and planting seeds for next year's bounty. We are also getting ready for the thanksgiving harvest and the coming advent season.

Over the summer, we are thankful for the spiritual nourishment and reflection which our worship service has provided, both in-person and on-line. Over the course of the summer our on-line presence has extended across the country as congregations as far west as British Columbia have contacted us to join us in participating in our worship services.

We are now gearing up our programs and fundraising efforts, keeping in mind the ongoing COVID protocols. These protocols are necessary for our health and wellness but do not dampen our spirit as we continue to support our ministry, church life and outreach programs.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our summer Bridges to Hope fund and food raiser. We delivered 14 milk crates of food and raised/donated \$415.00. Well done. We have also reached our annual goal with the cemetery fund so thank you for this commitment. Our monthly support of a \$1,500.00 contribution continues to support Cochrane Centre and its community programming. Your continued support will help us meet this ministry's commitment to year end.

Please find in this package your annual Thanksgiving envelope. Donations in this envelope help fund our other ministries - worship, community connections, pastoral care, music and Christmas on Cochrane to name just a few. If you don't have a Thanksgiving envelope, just mark "thanksgiving" on your donation and we will know where to allocate the funds. Even during a pandemic we have much to be thankful for and we continue to make positive impacts and provide support to our community.

The Fall season is offering so much promise for our congregation. Over the past year Council has been in regular conversations about the journey that we have been on for the past six years and the path that we have been following. As a Community of Faith, we have taken bold action in our ministry and outreach and much has been accomplished. We are now at a stage in our journey where we need to continue to shape our path over the next number of years. The sustainability of the congregation and its important work has been a topic of many discussions at Council. Council has decided to hold a series of conversations with the congregation about what path we should follow. Council has prepared and circulated to congregation members a background document titled "A Path Forward" that begins the

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conversation. These conversations will conclude with a congregational meeting to determine the best collective path for us. Council welcomes your comments either at the meetings or via email or letters. These conversations will conclude with a decision about how we will undertake and implement our path forward.

After many years as treasurer, Tim Reynolds has stepped down due to health reasons. During those years Tim has organized our financial affairs, reduced our costs and provided sound financial advice not only to our congregation but to other churches in the region. We are in the current financial situation due to the commitment by the congregation and the stewardship of Tim. Heartfelt thanks to a faithful servant, Tim, and our thoughts and prayers go with you, Paula and the Reynolds family on their personal journey.

A special thanks to Karen Critch who has agreed to step in as interim treasurer for the remainder of the year.

In closing, the Church Council thanks you all for your continued support and contributions to the life of our church. It is a pleasure to serve on Council knowing that our church family is committed to follow in the footsteps of Christ as he leads us on our journey along which ever path that the spirit moves us to follow.

Happy Harvesting!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen B. Jewczyk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'S'.

Stephen B. Jewczyk  
Church Council Chair  
Cochrane Street United Church