



Cochrane Street United Church

Honouring the Past ♦ Celebrating the Present ♦ Dreaming for the Future
1916 – 2022

*"I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds."
Psalm 9:1*

Warmest greetings to you and your family from your Church Council

The Thanksgiving season is now with us and there is much to be thankful for this year as we prepare for the Advent season.

We can all take delight and be thankful for our glorious summer that brought us together, welcomed visitors and travelling families. It was also a time to express our thankfulness and gratitude to Rev. Miriam Bowlby and music director, Evan Smith. Through the hard work of Council members and the dedication of our congregation, we have continued to do the work of the church and to worship as the Cochrane Street United Church family.

Paula Reynolds and the Worship and Pastoral Care Committee have put together a schedule of worship services throughout the summer and into fall with a rich array of presiders including minsters, guest lay members and congregation members. This diverse group of worship leaders have enriched our worship services and offered different perspectives on which to reflect upon as we go out into the community and the world.

Judy Kay and the Ministry and Personnel Committee worked diligently to invite a new choral director and organist to continue our music ministry. They were successful in discovering a hidden musical gem in St. John's by the name of Tristan Cleveland-Thompson who has in a very short time won the hearts of the congregation with his musical talents and demonstrated the beauty and grandeur of our Casavant Organ. Welcome Tristan!

As part of the search process for a new minister or ministry, the congregation is required to have a Mission Articulation Plan (MAP) which is a strategic planning document that provides a collective direction to the congregation for the next number of years. A MAP Team was formed immediately after the change in pastoral relations with Rev. Miriam. Team members include Blair Bradbury, Heather McMaster, David Peters, Charlie Pope, Tim Reynolds and Rev. Ian March MacCuish as United Church of Canada Representative. This Team of dedicated congregation members worked efficiently to complete the MAP report with its recommendations by early September. Council and the congregation will be reviewing the report and once a congregational decision is reached about the direction of the congregation, it will be forwarded to Regional Council for their support and approval.

Our Outreach Ministries continue to make a mark in the community. We are participating and providing contributions and support to Cochrane Centre, Bridges To Hope and the General Protestant Cemetery Committee. We have hosted and helped plan an insightful presentation and discussion about the history and on-going impacts of residential schools on Labrador Inuit titled "OUR LONG JOURNEY: THE LEGACY OF RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS IN LABRADOR" as a meaningful response on the path towards reconciliation.

Presenters Andrea Procter and Ashley Dicker along with United Church representatives Charlotte Jewczyk of Cochrane Street, Rev. Rebecca Pike of Gower Street and Rev. James Ravenscroft of St. James have worked over the summer and early fall to create this learning opportunity.

Thank you to you all for undertaking these initiatives and to those other volunteers who have continued to sustain the life of our congregation during challenging times.

Yes, there is much to be thankful about at this time of year. We look forward to what the future has to offer as the Spirit continues to move us in new and bold directions. Throughout this time of transition, our financial obligations continue and your on-going financial support is important to sustain our Ministries and our deep appreciated goes out to you for commitment to the Cochrane Street United Church Ministries.

Blessings to you all

Stephen B. Jewczyk
Church Council Chair