Third Avenue United Church Newsletter

Fall 2026

From the desk of Rev. Jo-Ann

It seems that at least once a month as people shake my hand after the service someone will ask where have all the people gone, this church use to be full Sunday mornings. I remember as a child going to church with my family and the church being quite full but as I entered ministry some years ago, I have preached to mostly empty churches unless it is a funeral. It is a good question but a difficult question because going to church regularly really does not define a person's faith. I am about to share my own belief about faith this is not the united church's belief but my belief. Attending church for myself was about shaping and maintaining my faith. My faith is about believing there is a God who loved us so much he sent Jesus to make sure we had a way to salvation. However, Jesus does much more than save us but Jesus set in motion away of living love, justice, compassion and forgiveness. Sometimes in my day-to-day life, I forget some of these things; especially compassion when I see graffiti on the outside walls of our church once again and I certainly don't want justice if the person got caught, I want vengeance. And that right there is why I need to attend a worship service my faith needs a maintenance check just like my car might need an oil change or the tire pressure checked. Most vehicles now have built in computers that tell us when these things need to be done and we don't have to watch all this ourselves.

Just like cars have things built into them now; the internet and access to information in many forms means that there are other ways to maintain our faith, so maybe Sunday worship has lost its value. It that is true it leaves me feeling sad because being with other people who know Jesus like I do makes him more real to me. Being with other people who struggle with how to walk the line of being safe but compassionate when we walk the streets of our community helps me understand the struggles that Jesus faced in his day and the struggles we all face in our culture today. So, I really want to say being involved in our church through committees, fundraising, social events and yes even worship helps everyone, not just ourselves, understand how to walk the journey of faith that our bible teaches about along side love, justice, compassion and justice. It is not just about our selves as individuals but understanding that we are part of a faith community that needs all of us not just some of us.



A bus full of ugly people had a head on collision with a truck. When they died, God granted all of them one wish. The first person said, "I wish to be gorgeous." God snapped his fingers and it happened. The second person said the same thing and God did the same thing. This went on and on throughout the group. God noticed the last man in line was laughing hysterically. By the time God got to the last ten people, the last man was laughing and rolling on the ground. When the man's turn came, he laughed and said, "I wish they were all ugly again."

Official Board ~ Lorenzo Bacchetto

A Word from the Chair

Welcome to the fall newsletter of Third Avenue United Church North Battleford. The Official Board has indicated that they would like the distribution of two newsletters each year, one in the fall and one in the spring. It may be hard for some committees to plan that far in advance, but we'll do the best we can. Keep an eye on the bulletin and the church's website for any changes or events that spring up that don't make it into the newsletter. For major events, we will send out a text to those who we have a cell number for. All of this is an attempt to keep our community updated on what's going on.

Over the past while, we've had a few incidents at the church that should remind us to be careful around church security. Although no one is responsible for these incidents, please consider, For the safety of our staff and the church, before letting someone in you don't recognize, please find out the purpose of their visit. In fact, it would better for them to buzz the church office. It gives our staff a chance to screen individuals wanting entry and prevents strangers from showing up at the office unannounced. On a note of privacy, personal information about individuals, like phone numbers and addresses not found in a phone book, shouldn't be disclosed without permission.

A couple of things we're working on as a board:

- we would like to have conversations with the city about providing bathroom facilities for the homeless in the park 24/7,
- plan some social events for our church family just for fun and not profit.

Keep a look out for information about the Fall Supper, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

Until next time, God Bless.

Worship Committee

October 4 ~ World Communion Sunday. Hot dog lunch following service

October 11 ~ Thanksgiving Service

October 18 ~ Stewardship Service. Handbells

November 8 ~ Remembering Veterans Sunday

November 29 ~ First Sunday of Advent. Communion

December 6 ~ Second Sunday of Advent. White Gift Sunday Youth Choir

December 13 ~ Third Sunday of Advent. Handbells playing

December 20 ~ Forth Sunday of Advent

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve Service at 7pm

December 27 ~ Agape Meal – Pot Luck in Wesley Hall



Stewardship ~ Kathleen Link

"...What you say to God matters. How you share your faith matters. What you give in response to God's generosity matters - not just to you, not just to those who receive your gifts, but to God. God longs for us to be generous, as a sign of our love for God, for neighbours, and for all creation. Let us give like it matters..." (Excerpt from Called to be the church, the Journey).

The Stewardship Education committee invite the congregation to join us for worship Sunday, October 18, 2026. We also invite the congregation to continue to donate bottles and beverage containers to Sarcan and a reminder that the proceeds are shared with the Battlefords Mental Health group homes and the United Church Mission and Service.

"... We thank you Lord, that we are part of A living church striving to find New ways to reach people who need your love, To bring them hope and peace of mind..."

(Excerpt from We're Marching Lord - by Laura Logie)

Pastoral Care ~ Diane Cawood
Pastoral Care Team: Minister, Pastoral Care Committee, Congregation

Are YOU in need of: a home visit, a hospital visit, a ride to appointments or church, support through grief or loss, guidance on spiritual questions or life decisions, connection to community resources and support services?
If so, contact our minister at 306-445-8144, the church office at 306-445-8171 or by email: thirdaveunited@sasktel.net
If looking for these pastoral services for a family member, friend or acquaintance make sure you have their consent prior to contacting the church office.
"Life is simply better when we are with others and worse when we are isolated. God designed us to be connected, and life breaks down when we are not." John Townsend
The Pastoral Care Committee wishes to extend our gratitude to all the members of the congregation who continue to reach out to, give a hand or a shoulder to our members in their time of joys and sorrows. One seemingly small act of kindness and support is more valuable than you might realize until the day when you might be walking in the shoes of a wounded healer.

Christian Education Committee - Lorna Reimer

The Christian Education Committee welcomed the children back to Sunday School on September 13, 2026. We have a Beginner class taught by Sophie Maunula and an Intermediate Class taught by Peg Maunula. Sunday School is scheduled every weekend between now and Christmas except for long weekends.

The children will be decorating Food Bags and handing them out to the Congregation before Thanksgiving. We are hoping you will fill the bags with non-perishabe items and return them before World Food Sunday, October 18, 2026

Sunday School will be helping to decorate the Sancuary on Thanksgiving Sunday with a display of garden vegetables. Please bring any items you might have to Church that morning. Items can be taken home at the end of the service.
We will be taking part in Advent services doing Greeting and Canlelighting. The children also create Christmas cards to send to members of the Congregation who cannot attend Christmas services do to health or mobility issues

Please contact us through the Church office if you have any questions or ideas for Sunday School Projects.

Community Involvement ~ Shannon Lindgren, Bev Anderson

Our small Committee has been mainly assisting other groups in the church by co-ordinating with the following events:

June 2026
A Free Community BBQ where we served Hotdogs along with a drink and a treat. It was well attended once again. Everyone enjoyed being entertained by Roger Emberley and his band as well as entertainment by a Lovely Clown and the Balloon Man who got people up for an Airband and some dancing. All good fun.

August
Our second Spaghetti Supper where the numbers doubled. A great success and the only complaint I heard was from a lady as she was leaving saying "A delicious meal like this shouldn't be served unless the recipe is included". Compliments to the cooks.

October 4
Our group will be serving Hot Dogs once again following the World Wide Communion Service. We welcome Battleford United Church as well as Speers United Church.

And our next event is:
Sunday October 25
Roast Beef Fall Supper
Welcome everyone. Such a great way to meet up with others and enjoy some good camaraderie.

Handbells Report ~ Kathleen Link

"...Throughout scripture, music is part of how people express joy, grief and praise. From the Psalms to songs of celebration and courage, music has long helped people connect with God, one another and themselves..." (Excerpt from "Making Joyful Noise, Mission and Service Stories). The Jubilation Handbell Ringers invite the congregation to join us for the following worship services: October 18, December 13, February 28, 2027, and April 18, 2027.

Fundraising Committee ~ Ina McQuat

The fundraising committee is having a busy year.

We are starting of with the Fall Supper on Oct 25 doors will open at 4:30PM – 7:00PM. $22.00 per person.
We will have take outs.
The Craft Sale and soup and bun is November 7.
The Christmas Tea and Bake Sale will be held November 28.

Administrative Support ~ Raymond Humenny

The Administrative Support Committee welcomes Barb Truemner and Kevin Phillips. Thank you for joining our team and offering your support to this committee.

Our committee continues to work at managing the north emergency exit in Wesley Hall. We have tried several ways of changing the door on the outside cage to maintain an emergency exit from the inside, while keeping individuals from gaining access from the outside. Some solutions have been more successful than others.

A number of lower windows on the back of the church have been boarded over. Two of these were damaged beyond repair during the break-in in May. This is a preventative measure to deter further break-ins.

Lisa Hornung's junior choir will be painting and decorating the boarded windows. We look forward to seeing their creativity!

Several other windows have been broken also with their panes being replaced. The direct exit door and frame from the furnace room have been replaced due to a break-in that left the unit un-repairable.

The North Battleford Community Safety Officers and the RCMP have been asked to make more frequent patrols around the church.

Our church is a frequent target for graffiti. We are working with the programs that are offered through the city and Mental Health to cover over the graffiti.

We are in the process of refurbishing the church's main entrance. The canopy will have a facelift and lighting will be repaired.

As you can see our building requires considerable repair and maintenance. Your efforts with fundraising events and financial support are greatly appreciated.



Save The Date

Bible Study starts Sept. 22.

Return nonperishable food bags Oct. 4 or 11.

Annual Silent Auction starts Sunday Oct. 25

Fall Supper - Sunday Oct 25- 4:30 to 7:00. $22.00. Eat in or take out.

Craft Sale with lunch available Saturday November 7.

Christmas Tea and Bake Sale – November 28.

White Gift Sunday – December 6.

Agape Meal – December 27. Share your favourite Potluck dish!