

Third Avenue United Church Newsletter



Fall 2025

From the desk of Rev. Jo-Ann Hills

I remember sitting around the kitchen table and listening to CJNB when I was living at home. There were two things besides the news that my parents always would listen to; the funeral announcements as well as the hospital report. In those days the radio announcer would read off the list of people in the hospital and if it was a day my parents were going into North Battleford, they would especially take note of someone they knew and try to stop in to say hello. In addition to the radio program when you arrived at the hospital there was what I called the whirly thing that went around and around and listed names in alphabetical order giving the room number information. Those days are long gone. We live in a day when privacy is a priority and mandated by the legal system; with very stiff fines if someone is caught and convicted of sharing what is considered private information. Someone's admittance to the hospital falls into that private information act. No one at the hospital should give out that information and if caught could find themselves paying a fine and the loss of employment. To most of us this is ridiculous. However, it is the confines we live with in this day and age.

Therefore, if you are in the hospital the only way the church family finds out is if someone in the family or a friend with permission lets us know.

When we know the minister or a member of the pastoral care committee would like to stop in a visit and offer support. Once again, we can only stop in to visit if we know and it is vital that you inform people to let us know; we do not want people to be breaking any privacy laws. Now sometimes information gets out and it seems that enough information is out that it appears to be public knowledge and we might get caught up in passing this information along. I encourage people to be sure that any information they pass on is either public knowledge or they have permission to share the information. It seems like a complicated way to show our church family that we care but we do live in a society that has put these measures into place because somewhere someone's private information was shared that shouldn't have been and now, we live with the consequences of a very binding privacy law. As a church we would like to offer support and appreciate any help you can give us.



PASTORAL CARE



"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

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.

WORSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP – Lorenzo Bacchetto

New Beginnings: As you know, January is the beginning of the calendar year, April is the beginning of the fiscal year, and Advent is the beginning of the church year. This year, Advent starts on Sunday, November 30. What's relevant to a lot of parents and students right now is the beginning of the school year in September. As chair of the Worship and Membership Committee, September is my beginning of the worship year. Advent is a busy time, as is Easter, so it's nice to have a slower time in the summer to reset and start the planning come September. Unfortunately, the committee hasn't had a chance to meet yet and do our planning, but I can give you some idea of what's coming up. Keep in mind that everything is subject to change.

Pulpit Supply for Sept. 28 –

Rev. Nora Borgeson

World Wide Communion

Sunday is on October 5.

Remembering the Veterans service should be on November 9.

Pulpit Supply for Nov. 16 –
TBD

**Advent 1 (Hope) –
November 30**

Advent 2 (Peace) –
December 7

**Advent 3 (Joy) –
December 14**

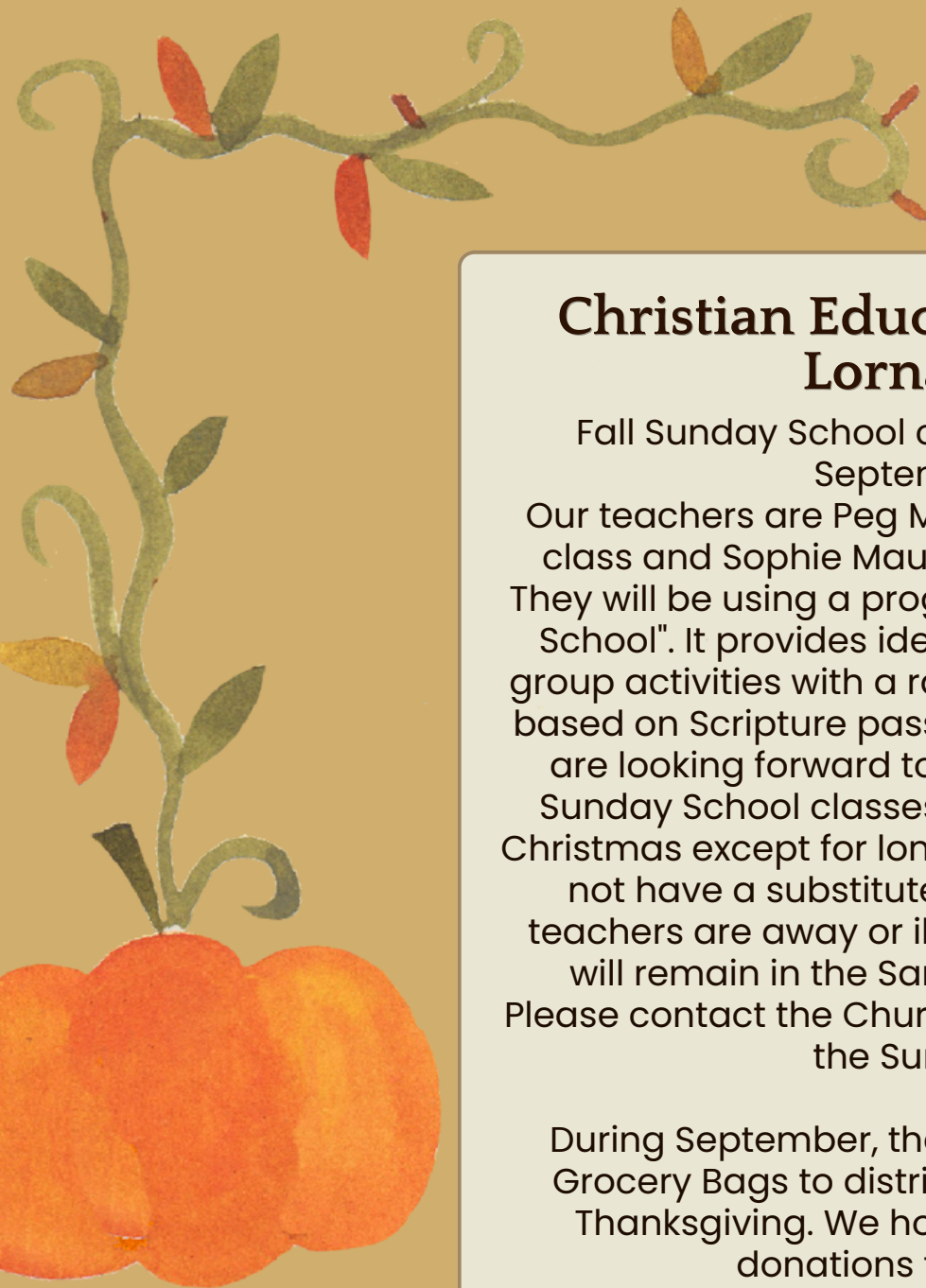
Advent 4 (Love) –
December 21

**Christmas Eve Service –
December 24**

Christmas Day –
NO SERVICE

**Agape PotLuck Service –
December 28 @ 10:45 am
downstairs in Wesley Hall.**

A new minister in a small town is invited by the local priest and Rabbi to hangout, go fishing on the lake, and talk God with them like his predecessor did before. He jumps on the invite and meets them earlier in the morning for a day of fishing. They are fishing and talking for a couple of hours when the Rabbi gets thirsty. The priest says "I have a thermos of coffee in my car, I'll go get it. God guide my feet!" He then stands up and runs across the water, grabs the coffee and runs back. The minister can't believe his eyes, but the other two carry on as if nothing happened. A couple of hours pass and the minister gets hungry. The Rabbi says "I have some sandwiches in my car, I'll go get it. God guide my feet!" He then stands up and runs across the water, grabs the sandwiches and runs back and continues fishing with out a pause. The minister now firmly believes he is in the presence of 2 mighty men of God. They fish for a few more hours and run out of bait. The minister thinks to himself I can do this too and says "I have some bait in my car, I'll go get it. God guide my feet!" and promptly sinks into the lake. The priest turns to the Rabbi and says, "Maybe we should tell him where the rocks are".



Christian Education Committee – Lorna Reimer

Fall Sunday School classes resume on Sunday,
September 7, 2025.

Our teachers are Peg Maunula with the Intermediate class and Sophie Maunula with the Beginner class. They will be using a program called "All in One Sunday School". It provides ideas for small group and large group activities with a range of age levels. Lessons are based on Scripture passages and seasonal ideas. We are looking forward to working with this program.

Sunday School classes will be held each week until Christmas except for long weekends. At this time, we do not have a substitute teacher to take over if our teachers are away or ill. If that happens the children will remain in the Sanctuary with their parents. Please contact the Church office if you could work with the Sunday School.

During September, the children will be decorating Grocery Bags to distribute to the Congregation at Thanksgiving. We hope you will fill the bag with donations to the Food Bank.

Sunday School children look forward to participating in Church Services whenever it is appropriate. We will also work to create Christmas cards for members of the Congregation who are not able to be with us at Sunday services due to health or mobility challenges. If you have any ideas for Sunday School projects, please contact us through the Church Office.

Community Involvement: Shannon Lindgren, Bev Anderson

Our committee was part of the planning for the United Church of Canada 100th Anniversary. On June 8, after a very inspiring church service, our committee co-ordinated a potluck lunch which included the serving of an anniversary cake cut by the oldest and youngest member of our church. It was very nice to celebrate this event with Speers and Battleford United Church.

On Tuesday June 10, we co-ordinated a wiener roast in the park. Unfortunately, that was a smoky day and we moved indoors to serve hotdogs, drinks, cookies and cupcakes. About 200 people attended. We enjoyed Roger Emberley, a clown and the balloon man as entertainment. Our committee would like to thank Discovery Co-op, No Frills and Sobeys for their donations toward the food.

Thank you to all congregation members who helped us at both events. We are presently looking for committee members. We would love to have you join us!!

100th Anniversary of the United Church

United Church congregations across the nation celebrated the Centennial of the United Church of Canada during the month of June. Sunday June 8th, saw Third Avenue United host an Anniversary Worship Service, joined by the congregations from Speers and Battleford United. It was a joyful gathering. The swell in attendance, and multitudes of voices raised in prayer and song, stirred emotions and memories galore. Following the service a traditional pot-luck luncheon was held in Wesley Hall. On Tuesday June 10, a Community Barbecue was held indoors with approximately 250 in attendance.

Norma Quinn (nee May) is seen in the photo cutting the cake. She was baptized at Third Avenue United Church in 1933 and was confirmed and married there. Her Grandmother, Anna Halterman, parents, Joe and Ethel May and husband Trevor Quinn were all buried from this church while her daughter Cathy Richardson is currently chairperson of the official board. Norma recalls the influential ministry of Rev. Clifford Elliott during her teen years. She said "Dad came to hear me read Scriptures one Sunday evening and never missed another service, so impressed was he with the dynamic, Rev. Elliott".

While honoring the national church, congregations have been reflecting on their own journeys since Union, and imagining and planning their future going forward. There are two United Church congregations in the Battlefords.

BATTLEFORD UNITED The origin of the United Church in Battleford dates back to the first Presbyterian services being held in 1878. From that time forward, through rebellions, wars, depression, and epidemics there has been a church presence in this community. The Methodist Church began its history here in 1903 with services held in various locations. In 1922, the Presbyterian and Methodist churches joined together to form the Union Church and this joint congregation existed and contributed to community involvement through Ladies Aid, CGIT, and many social gatherings. On June 10, 1925, the United Church of Canada was formed and on June 14, 1925, the Reverend Mr. Tindale from Wilkie, assumed the charge. The church was thriving with many youth groups, Sunday school, choirs, services and celebrations for all major events in the Christian calendar. Music and drama played a large role.



Photo Submitted by
Cathy Richardson

In 1953 the decision was made to build a new church at the corner of 26th St. and 1st Avenue, using some building materials from the old church along with a lot of volunteer labour and a budget of \$13,000. The first wedding celebrated was Margaret Allen and Locksley Simpson, on February 7, 1954. A new building created many opportunities for more community involvement, concerts, and theatrical presentations. In 1959 a manse was built adjacent to the new church and the first occupants were the Reverend Laurie Sealy, Mrs. Sealy, and their children Spencer and Ted.

In 1981 the roof was no longer safe and needed to be replaced, leading to the construction of a totally new church at 36th Street and 4th Avenue. The sod turning took place on June 5, 1983, and the first service was held in the new church October 30, 1983 with the official opening in June 1984. This church was also built through many hours of volunteer labour and the dedication of many congregation members. Throughout this time of change and building, Reverend Ray Sadler and his wife were working hand in hand with the congregation. In June 2024, the 50th anniversary of this "new" building was celebrated. Current worship leader, Heather Mackinnon, and the congregation welcome all to join regular Sunday services at 11:00am.

THIRD AVENUE UNITED, NORTH BATTLEFORD In 1903 Rev. Thomas Lawson of Battleford organized Methodist services to be held “across the river” in the home of John Walker. Presbyterian services were also held there. By 1905 the Presbyterians built a church at 1191 Edward Street (102nd). The following year, the Methodists built at 1202 King Street (101st). By 1913, the Presbyterians sold their original building to the Salvation Army and proceeded to build Knox Presbyterian Church at the corner of Edward Street and 3rd Avenue(13th) for a cost of \$35,000. The building was re-named Third Avenue United Church, after the 1925 union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregationalist denominations resulted in the formation of the United Church of Canada.

Sunday services have changed over the years, fluctuating as memberships ebb and flow. There have been team ministries, interim ministries, and both on-air and on-line ministries. In 1925, Rev. W.J. Pratt (Methodist) and Rev. Dr. J.L. Nichol (Presbyterian) alternated services with Rev. I.B. Naylor taking over in 1926. With the arrival of Rev. Clifford Elliott in 1947, the “Sunday School on the Air” broadcast on CJNB was initiated on Sunday mornings, as well as a regular evening broadcast. During the 1950s and 1960s membership thrived and there were three church services each Sunday. Our longest serving minister was Rev. Jack Carr from 1972-1986, while Rev. Heathfield and Rev. Tinio were each with us for 10 years. Currently, Rev. Jo-Ann Hills provides services to both Third Avenue United and Speers United.

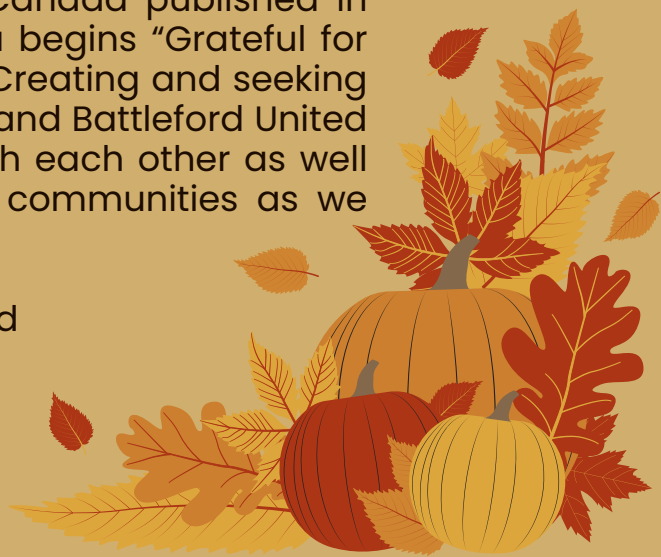
In 1958 construction began of a two-story extension, consisting of an upper gymnasium, a lower hall with a sizeable kitchen, as well as theatre stages on both floors. This extension resulted in a new entrance and a much-needed space for an expanding Sunday school, and mid-week youth activities such as: Hi-C, Young Peoples Union, Tuxis, Explorers, CGIT, Beavers and Scouts. Located in the hub of North Battleford, Third Avenue United Church has been a well-used space, serving a wide variety of community organizations over the years, including: Weight Watchers, TOPS, AA, OEA, Yoga classes, Highland Dance, Cooperative Nursery School, Quilters, Bridge Club, Gallery Singers, BCC, NBCYC, Battlefords Kiwanis Music Festival, music lessons, recitals, and concerts. The Annual Christmas Carol Festival, once three to four nights long, has been held in the church sanctuary since 1950 in partnership with the Food Bank and Empty Stocking Fund.

We can't talk about the United Church without talking about the United Church Women's group (UCW). Inaugurated nationally in 1962, this dedicated group of hard-working women could be found in every United Church. They fed hundreds of people at various church suppers, afternoon teas and other social events. They were responsible for raising funds and presenting all manner of things to the church - furniture, communion sets, Baptismal Font, pews, and every possible need for the kitchen. Pastoral care and visiting were a large part of their service as they looked after the various needs of the congregation and participated in Christian fellowship.

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth!” Music has always played a strong role in worship at Third Avenue United from the beautiful Casavant pipe organ installed in 1928, to the years of three choirs, to the introduction of the handbells in 1970, to the thirty years of Musical Cabarets put on by the Senior Choir, to the flashmob of six singers making an appearance at the Anniversary Celebration on June 8th. It was lovely to hear Ilene Wettergreen make the organ sing at the Anniversary Worship Service. She has been providing music leadership at Third Avenue since 1990, but actually began as the Junior Choir accompanist, under Edith Scott, in 1975. It was fitting at the Anniversary Service for Ilene to be accompanied by Karen Nichol on the grand piano. Karen was part of a well-known piano/organ team with her mother, Dorothy Stewart. Dorothy was organist at Third Avenue United for over 40 years.

The Statement of Faith of the United Church of Canada published in 2006, is called the “Song of Faith”. The final stanza begins “Grateful for God's loving action, we cannot keep from singing. Creating and seeking relationship in awe and trust...” We at Third Avenue and Battleford United look forward to continuing to build relationship with each other as well as with other believers and non-believers in our communities as we strive to share love, hope, joy, justice and peace.

Submitted by Cathy Richardson, Third Avenue United
and Sheila Johnson, Battleford United



LOOKING FOR MUSICAL GIFTS:



It has been brought to my attention that at one time there was space in the church worship service for special music. We still have that space; there are two spaces where offerings of special music could work quite well and would be greatly appreciated, at this time, we have been singing congregational hymns but musical offerings would be a nice change of pace. Those places are after the lighting of the Christ candle and the after the words of assurance following the prayer of confession. Instrumental pieces or sung solos, duets, etc. would all work in those places. If you would like to take part in the worship service and offer your gift of music to the glory of God; please contact the church office or the minister or the worship committee to let us know the date you would like to take part and if you would want to use both places and offer two pieces of music or just one of those places. If you wanted to make it a group or family participation the lighting of the Christ candle itself can be part of what you handle as you offer your musical gift for the glory of God. Please take time to think about how you can help enhance our Sunday morning worship.

SAVE THE DATE: THIRD AVENUE UNITED CHURCH

Sunday Sept. 21 – Brunch 11:30 – 1pm

Sunday Oct. 5th – World Wide Communion Day

Sunday Oct. 19th – Brunch 11:30 – 1pm

Sunday, Oct. 26th – Fall Roast Beef Supper 5–7pm

Saturday, Nov. 8th – Craft & Collections Fair 10–4pm

Sunday, Nov. 16th – Brunch 11:30 – 1pm

Sunday Nov. 30th – 1st Advent – HOPE

Sunday, Dec. 7th – 2nd Advent – PEACE – White Gift Service

Saturday, Dec. 13th – Christmas Tea & Bake Sale

Sunday, Dec. 14th – 3rd Advent – JOY

– Jubilation Handbell Ringers

Sunday, Dec. 21st – 4th Advent – LOVE – Brunch 11:30 – 1pm

Wednesday, December 24th – Christmas Eve Service

*******NO SERVICE Christmas Day*******

Sunday, December 28th – Agape Potluck

– Wesley Hall

