



THIRD AVENUE UNITED CHURCH



FROM DEXTER'S DESK

As I considered what I might say in this article this phrase went running through my mind. "May you live in interesting times." Wanting to know more I goggled the phrase on Wikipedia and this is what I found. "May you live in interesting times", is an English expression that is claimed to be a translation of a traditional Chinese curse. While seemingly a blessing, the expression is normally used ironically, life is better in 'uninteresting times' of peace and tranquility than in 'interesting ones', which are usually times of trouble."

In the COVID-19 context, to say, that we live in 'interesting' times is for many of us a gross understatement. For some of us our times are so interesting they are almost more than we can tolerate. In the media the reports of covid case counts, hospitalizations, and numbers of ICU patients rising at alarming rates and a potential impending crisis in our hospitals have been displaced in importance by reports of vaccination rates, vaccine availability and reopening plans. It has seemed there was a sort of competition among the provinces to be at the front of the line not only in putting phased reopening plans in place and in being the first to remove restrictions even before case numbers were starting to drop. All plans dependent on vaccination numbers and new cases numbers reaching certain targets. But then there are the variants which seem to be transmitted more easily.

In the midst of all this came the news of the discovery of the remains of 215 children buried in unmarked graves on the site of the Kamloops Indian Residential School, reports of a severe drought in the southwestern United States attributed to climate change and on and on. It can all be overwhelming. This past week the office received a letter from the City of North Battleford telling us that starting mid July the city will start construction on the street in front of our church building, a project that the city estimates will last eight weeks. What does this mean for access to the church building now that we can gather in larger numbers to worship?

So, in these circumstances, how do we live? How do we find and know joy? How do we have hope and know peace in our souls. My mind turns to a small verse in the thirteenth chapter of the First letter to the Corinthians. "And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." We live, find and know joy, have hope, and know peace in our faith, by trusting in the God who is love. Not that God will keep bad things from happening but rather in the words of our creed, in all that happens, "We are not alone", that, "In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us." With this as our faith we can endure, we can share our concerns with each other speaking and listening to each other as we have need and we can take our concerns and troubles to God in prayer seeking reassurance, comfort and peace.

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR Joyce Salie

We are in the midst of discovering what summer is going to be like.
Weather is unpredictable - one day hot and the next - well just so - so.

As for COVID - well - the powers that be are trying to convince those that have not been vaccinated to get it done so that they can open the doors for normal times to sneak in.

The committee leaders are working hard to set up suitable programs for our fall programs - that is if COVID goes away or we have some new directions on how to deal with it.

I would like to share with you words that I have shared before: it seems that we need reminders of how God would have us be:

ATTITUDE by Charles Swindoll

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.
ATTITUDE to me, is more important than the past, than education,
Than money, than circumstances, than failure, than success,
Than what other people think, or say or do.

It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill, it will make or break an organization, a school, a home.
The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day. Regarding the attitude, we embrace for that day.

We cannot change our past.....



We cannot change the fact that people

Will act in a certain way.


We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is

Play on the one string we have and that is our **ATTITUDE...**

I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and

90% how I react to it

May you all be convinced of the same thing...


Blessings and Best Wishes for a healthy and happy summer 


The highlight of my COVID life was in Oct. when my daughter arrived from Ottawa for my birthday! After many tears and hugs she announced we were going to the spa in Moose Jaw to celebrate!! Wow that kept me going for the rest of the time. I now have a new roommate ~ a rescue cat! Joyce Luckey

Life has continued at our house although not normally. Our family has remained untouched by COVID but feel immense sadness for our fellow citizens who have not. It was a time to reconnect with family and friends. We realize how life has change, some good some bad, and feel very blessed to have reached this point.

~ Shannon Lindgren

Even though 2020 is said to have been the worst year ever for so many people there are still many wonderful things to be grateful and happy about. And my family was fortunate enough to have one of those beautiful happenings. On December 19, 2020 we welcomed a baby Boy


Bowen Veikle  into our little family. I am now the grandmother to 4 little darlings! Rylan, Anderson, Nico and Bowen.

And because of the circumstances we decided I would take the chance with first Isolating and knowing they were isolating so I could be with them to be with the younger children while mom and dad were at the hospital. This then meant I would be there for a few weeks which meant I was able to celebrate Christmas  with part of my family! And, thanks to FaceTime, share it with my other daughter and her family. Technology is wonderful. I wish everyone could have been as lucky as me. But hopefully soon. ~ Bev Anderson



Once upon a time there was a young couple very much in love. So much that they decided to marry. They had taken time to test their plans... they would tell her parents. It was 9:30 on a Thursday night, 3 days before Valentine's Day. "We are getting married on February 28th. " "Next year?" "No, mom this year"... just about gave her a heart attack! She vowed she couldn't go to teach the next day because she had too much to do before the wedding! They both had to work that weekend but they scheduled the ceremony for Sunday, February 28th at 5:00pm.

She worked night shift Saturday and slept until 4:00. He had responsibilities Sunday until 2:00. It was a beautiful sunny day. The bride was late to arrive at the church. The attendants were ready. The music was beautiful. "Praise My Soul The King Of Heaven ".

Two clergy performed the ceremony. Rings were exchanged. Married at last  The bride's mother prepared the dinner for 20 guests. It turned out as beautiful as they had hoped. The day was full of joy with family and friends. They wouldn't have had it any other way. That was our wedding day, February 28 1971.

This year is our 50th wedding anniversary! We hope to have a picnic in the summer with family. A serendipity kind of affair!

Myrna and Glenn Goodman

That's my story.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE Lorna Reimer

The Sunday School year at Third Avenue has been an unusual and rewarding experience for our Committee.

We felt it was important to keep in touch with our Sunday School families throughout the past year. We were hoping that Sunday School in the church could resume at some point.

The teachers started sending bi-weekly At-Home Sunday School lessons for parents and children to share the teachings of the Bible. This continued throughout the year with feedback from parents letting us know the lessons were useful. The hands-on activities were popular and the teachers were resourceful in choosing materials that were easy to use. Thank-you to Theresa Bacchetto, Peggy Maunula and Sarah Wood for the terrific job they did to get each lesson ready.

We delivered a Year End Certificate to each child at the end of May to recognize their participation in At-Home Sunday School 2020-2021. We are hopeful for a return to Sunday School classes at Third Avenue in the Fall.

Have a happy and relaxing summer as restrictions ease!

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM (Barb Hoover, Pat Welford and Kathleen Link)

The Stewardship team would like to express our gratitude and thanks to you for making Third Avenue United Church a regular part of your life of faith and discipleship in 2020.

When we give our money to God:
When we give our money to God:

This helps our faith grow
This is a practical statement of what we really believe.

When we give our money to God, as an act of worship:
When we share our time, treasures and talents:

This is a way of giving ourselves to God.
We are doing what God would have us do.

And a reminder based on
1 Corinthians 9

By Sister Miriam Therese Winter

God Loves a Cheerful Giver
Give it all you've got,
He loves to hear you laughing
when you're in an awkward spot.
When the odds add up against you,
It's time to stop and sing,
Praise God, to praise him is a joyous thing!

WORSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP – Lorenzo Bacchetto

Welcome friends to the latest installment of Third Avenue's Newsletter. Our committee meets, usually, on the second Tuesday of every other month at 7 pm. Our next meetings will be on September 7 (we do take a summer break). Rev. Dexter will be taking some time off this summer (he does need a break too), that will be filled by 3 services from Rev. Nora Borgeson and one by Rev. Dr. Raj Hathiramani (we just don't know which order they will be in).

Mark Your Calendar

July 4: Rev. Nora or Rev. Raj

July 11: Rev. Nora or Rev. Raj

July 18: Baptism of Emily Anne Campbell, daughter of Sean and Erin Campbell – Rev. Dexter

July 25: Rev. Nora or Rev. Raj

Aug 1: Rev. Nora or Rev. Raj

We are glad to announce that our second baptism of this pandemic era took place on April 23 – Allison Rose Tinio, daughter of Jeth and Clarose Saril.

We'd like to thank everyone for hanging in there with us. It looks as if, as more people get vaccinated, there will be more freedom to congregate. Until then, be patient, be smart, be safe. On that note:


Three friends from church were asked, "When you're in your casket, and friends and congregation members are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?"


Artie said, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man.

Eugene commented, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives."

Al said, "I'd like them to say, 'LOOK, he's moving!'"



A little boy was attending his first wedding. After the service, his cousin asked him, "How many women can a man marry?" "Sixteen" the boy responded. His cousin was amazed that he had the answer so quickly. "How do you know that?" "Easy" the little boy said. "All you have to do is add it up like the pastor said, 4 better, 4 worse, 4 richer, 4 poorer." 

After a church service on Sunday morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up." "That's okay with us, but what made you decide that?" "Well", said the little boy, " I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, I figured it will be more fun to stand up and yell, than to sit and listen!" 

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said. "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"