

Welcoming
Celebrating
Becoming

northminster
UNITED CHURCH



Growing and Deepening our
Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and
Inclusive Community

Fall 2023 Newsletter



COME TO THE TABLE!

A Message from Rev. Nancy Nourse

I love a dinner party! Cooking for others is one of my favourite things to do. Looking through a few cookbooks or go-to websites, thinking about what guests enjoy eating, determining what will go in the oven, and how we'll serve the meal and set the table – all so that we can enjoy each other's company with a good glass of wine...sharing a meal around our kitchen table is something I love.

The lockdown of recent years created a deficit of that enjoyment for many of us. We lost the chance to sit around tables with old and new friends being fed in body, mind, and spirit. Whether it was the tables of our homes, or our favourite coffee shops, or the communion table at church, it's now the time to make sure we catch up on missed opportunities. This fall season at church, it is my hope that you will all be returning and connecting with each other – new faces and familiar ones – at the tables that are part of our communities of faith. St David's and Northminster are the places that highlight the table of grace that is set for the beautiful and diverse people that we are. Please gather around to share your lives. Invite others to share in this wonderful place as well. And it is my hope that our habits of gathering will also bring more peace in turbulent times.

What's on the menu at church this fall? There is something for everyone! Maybe you are hungry for spiritual nurture at one of the book clubs or bible studies. Or perhaps you are looking to live your faith in the world through continuing our connections to Affirming ministries, campus ministry, the bread giveaway, or the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good's focus on the housing crisis in Calgary. Maybe you are looking to be part of our hospitality on Sunday mornings, muffin ministry, the Christmas craft fair, or how we welcome and support the most vulnerable at our front door. And let's not forget about the Chameleon Drama Club production (actors and volunteers needed), choir, children and youth ministry, and organizing community events like Trunk or Treat!

(con't) In worship over the next few months we'll be looking at Exodus together, remembering that God provides always and all ways through the journey into the promised land. What is the message of trust, risk, and community as we vision the future and consider next steps for both St David's and Northminster.

So, come to the table this fall at church! Dine with Jesus. Dine with each other. This is an invitation that means much more than a simple eating experience. At this table, may we all be fed, challenged, and reflect God's ways with our hospitality for each other and all who we hope to welcome. Let us celebrate the depth of communion to which we are called.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM GUATEMALA

August 2023

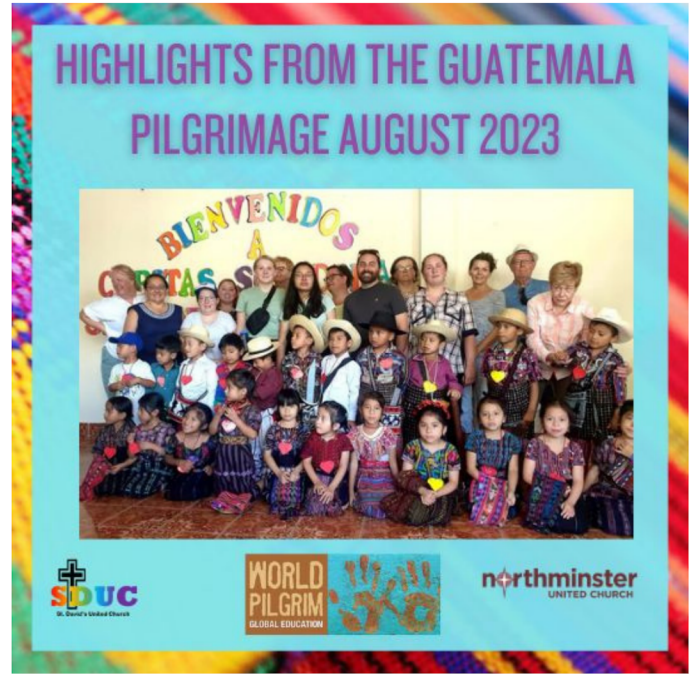
For thirteen people from Northminster, St David's, and beyond, August held 10 days of beauty, wonder, and discovery about the people, traditions, culture, and history of Guatemala. Thanks to World Pilgrim Tours with Doris and Julio as our guides and translators, the group was immersed in the Mayan culture, visiting ancient ruins, being let through a Mayan ceremony in the garden of a healing centre, learning about the impact and genocide caused by the Civil War, and experiencing the music and cultural traditions as shared by children and youth at many locations.

The markets, women's weaving cooperatives, hot springs, cafes, cobblestone streets, inns, and organic gardens / farms all added to the experience.

The time was spent in the highlands of Guatemala, which meant most of the trip was at elevations of up to 9,000 feet. Days were humid but not overly hot, evenings cooled off nicely, and bugs were a minimum. Gardens were lush and green and filled with tropical flowers, waterfalls flowed, and volcanoes were visible around Lake Atitlan. One volcano would puff ash in the distance on a regular basis. Corn is the life of Guatemala and crops were close to harvest. Farmland often climbed steep mountain slopes and looked like a patchwork quilt blanketing the sides of mountains. Farmers (mostly intergenerational families) at high elevations use no mechanical equipment in the planting and harvesting, and visible from the bus everywhere were onions, radishes, herbs, cabbage, beans, squash, and so much corn.

Part of the registration fee paid by the travelers purchased two guitars for a music school, lunch for an elders day support program, and helped provide a double bed to a family of four who were currently sharing one bed in their dirt-floor home. The group also purchased a water filter to prevent parasites from being in their drinking water. Thanks to the generosity of our churches we provided lunch, games, learning aids, school supplies, sports equipment, and a giant parachute to a small mountain school with four classrooms built with donations from three United Churches in Vancouver.

The group looks forward to sharing their experiences with you! Please watch for opportunities to hear their stories and for you to participate in a silent auction of items brought home from local artisans and cooperatives. This will enable support to continue for some initiatives in Guatemala whose stories still hold a place in the hearts of all who traveled.





Be Part of Something Making a Big Difference!

The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good is a non-partisan and non-profit alliance of congregations, unions, school and community groups in Calgary representing more than 35,000 people. These organizations came together to form the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good in order to organize the power of our communities to shape a just and compassionate city. St David's United Church is a financially supporting member of the Alliance.

Over the years, the Alliance has been successful in our city in advocating together for climate resilience, mental health awareness and support, speaking against conversion therapy, increasing income support, strengthening transit, truth and reconciliation and more.

Named as a priority this fall is the need to address the housing crisis in our city. Vacancy rates are low, rents are skyrocketing. The Alliance is being intentional to address City Hall and specific councillors. The initiative will work to make building housing easier, assist housing providers in making safe accommodations available in an expedited fashion, determine who in our city are most vulnerable and in need, as well as ensure affordable housing that meets the needs of Indigenous people living in Calgary and equity-deserving populations.

Reach out to Rev. Nancy if you would like to learn more about the Alliance and their many initiatives that help make Calgary a better place to live.

The Alliance also recognizes that many volunteers want to be part of something like this, but don't always feel confident knowing where to begin or how to connect the Alliance to their congregations. They are offering a training workshop weekend October 21 and 22. A key focus for this training is to invite new leaders, potential leaders and people within churches and organizations who can be a part of a core team. Again, reach out to Rev. Nancy for more information.

ACTS
Book Study
**"WALKING IN THE
DUST OF RABBI JESUS"**

**September 18th to
November 27th -
(Thanksgiving Day excepted)
7:00-8:30 on Zoom**

**Contact Wayne Holst, Brenda Wallace, Joan Gray
or the office for information or to sign up**

The poster features a background image of a tree in a field under a sunset sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

COFFEE AND MUFFIN DAY!

**FIRST THURSDAY MONTHLY
8:00AM-2:00PM
IN FRONT FOYER OF ST. DAVID'S.**

**COME FOR THE CONVERSATION,
A COFFEE AND TREAT
OR TAKE
IT TO GO!**

**BRING A FRIEND!
EVERYBODY IS WELCOME!**

An illustration of a white coffee cup with a brown sleeve and a muffin on a pink paper liner.

A small logo in the bottom right corner featuring a cross and the letters "SDUC".

The poster has a light blue background with a grid pattern. It includes an illustration of a coffee cup and a muffin.

Welcome Emma!

Emma Chrun is joining us as our new Youth Leader.

Please help us give her a warm welcome to St. David's & Northminster United Church.



Hello everyone, my name is Emma and I am going to be the new Youth Group Leader for this upcoming year! I am currently in my third year of university at the University of Calgary and am doing a combined degree with Finance and Law & Society. I am super excited to be coaching the Shine KidZone class on Sunday mornings and leading the Youth Group this year, as I have lots of ideas and fun activities planned. Some of our upcoming events in the next few months are the Youth Trek 2023 in Drumheller on September 29th-October 1st and Naked Faith on October 20th at St. Thomas United Church for grades 6-12. My first time leading the youth will be on Sunday, September 10th, so please feel free to come have a chat or get to know me after service as I am so excited to meet you all!

St. David's and Northminster United Churches'

Membership and Baptism Sunday September 17



Celebrate that you belong by participating in our baptism and membership Sunday on September 17th.

Please reach out to the office and Rev. Nancy will be in touch to plan with you.



Northminster
UNITED CHURCH

ST. DAVID'S & NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCHES

Paul Davis

Parent/Child Grade 3 to 6
Internet Safety In Person

Saturday Sept 16, 2023 2:00-3:00pm

This presentation is for parents and their child
IN PERSON EVENT (ONE TICKET = ONE SEAT)
BY DONATION UPON ARRIVAL FOR MY CALGARY CHARITIES.

In Person at St. David's United Church
(3303 Capitol Hill Cresc. NW, Calgary, AB)
Free Tickets through Eventbrite

CHAMELEON DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS:



THE PRINCESS AND THE BANDERSNATCH

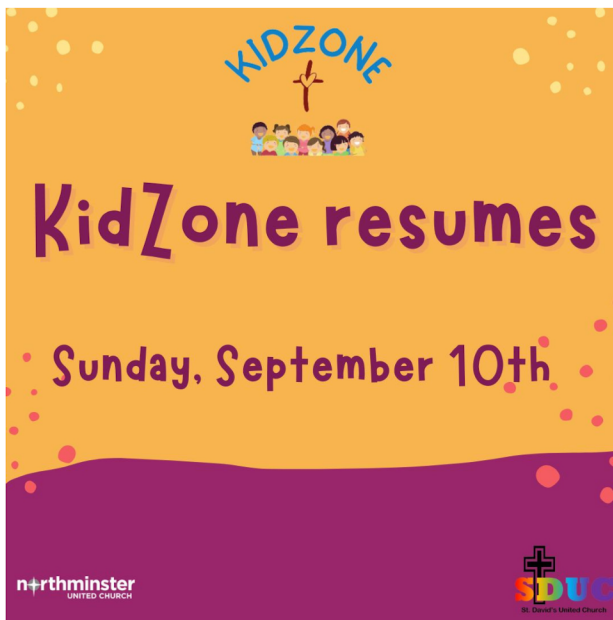
Children and Youth 8-18 are
invited to participate

**Cost to participate: \$65 per family
(if money is a barrier, please let us know)**

**Rehearsals are Saturday evenings from
6:00 - 9:00pm beginning Sept. 16 at
St. David's United Church
3303 Capitol Hill Cres. NW**

**Performance date is November 19th
Contact admin@sduc.ca for details**





Welcome back to KidZone!

Our theme for this year is Journey; our journey with God, with our families and friends, with each other as a faith community and out in the world. We are using Psalm 119:105: "Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" to help guide us. Our curriculum is called Spark Rotation. Spark Rotation focuses on a single Bible story for several weeks but children encounter the story in a different way each week through: Art, Bible skills, Games, Cooking, Music, Science and Video. This Fall we will explore journeying with Moses; Baby Moses (Exodus 2:1-10), The Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-15), and Wandering in the Wilderness (Exodus 16:1-18, 17:1-7, 20:1-17).

Julie and I look forward to Journeying with you and your children and are excited to see where the journey takes us. 🐾

Respectfully,
Tracey Abbott

A poster with a blue and green gradient background. At the top, there are three musical staves with notes. The text 'COME MAKE MUSIC WITH US!' is in large, bold, black letters. Below that, a paragraph in black text says: 'Northminster & St. David's United Churches are looking for enthusiastic musicians to join us. A small time commitment at a convenient location with a large amount of fun, we have an ensemble to suit your musical taste.' Then, four ensembles are listed: 'Sanctuary Choir – mixed voices', 'Chamber Choir – auditioned mixed voices', 'Angel Voices – auditioned women's voices', and 'Orchestra – non-auditioned'. Below the list, it says 'For More Information, please contact: Brent Tucker – music@sduc.ca or 403-284-2276 ext. 106'. There are two musical notes on the left and right sides of the contact information. At the bottom left is the 'northminster UNITED CHURCH' logo, and at the bottom right is the 'SDUC St. David's United Church' logo.



“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God...because God is love.” 1 John 4:7-8

The Affirming Ministries Team has been busy planning events to help us on our Affirming journey. August 27 - Citywide Pride Interfaith Gathering: representatives from both St. David's and Northminster were honoured to be part of the event held at Beth Tzedec Congregation. Edmontonian singer-songwriter Emmet Michael performed and if you haven't had a chance to check out his music I strongly encourage you to do so.

September 3rd - Calgary Pride Parade: both St. David's and Northminster have people marching in the parade with our respective church banners to show our support and solidarity with the 2SLGBTQ+ + (2Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning) community.

September 24 - Affirming Service: Please plan to join us on September 24th for this special service where we invite you to wear the colours of the rainbow or orange for Orange Shirt Day. This service is being planned by our joint Affirming Ministries team.

October 1 - NUC Workshop and Pizza lunch by donation: after church to discuss and develop the Northminster Affirming Ministry vision statement. Please mark your calendar and stay to add your voice to this important process.

November 12 - Workshop with the Centre for Sexuality: Join us for this educational workshop to deepen your understanding of the differences between sex, gender, and sexual orientation, and discuss the impacts of homophobia, biphobia, transphobia on 2SLGBTQ+ members of our community.

We hope to see you at some or all of the events listed above.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact one of the members of our Affirming team members for Northminster: Shirley Dallman, Gail Davis, Len Page, Kim Haydu or Tracey Abbott.

Respectfully,
Tracey Abbott



PRAYERS OF CELEBRATION AND CONCERN

If you would like to have a celebration or concern included in the prayers during Sunday worship, please email them to Rev. Nancy during the week or give it to her in writing on Sunday morning. For confidentiality reasons, please ask the person first before we include them in the prayers.

Prayer Shawl



The Prayer Shawl Group meets the 3rd Monday of the month at 1:00pm in St. David's TM Room

Contact Jan Clare for more information



CRAFTING FRIDAYS

Second Friday of the Month
TM Room

7:00pm - 10:00pm

RSVP to Suzanne Vandervoort
svanderv@shaw.ca

Kerby Centre, Cobs Bread and Northminster United Church

FREE POP-UP BREAD AND RESCUED GOODS MARKET

The fourth Wednesday of the month

at the Highland Park Community Association
3716 2 Street NW

Same friendly faces, delicious breads and baking!

For more information call 403 277 0322
or visit www.northminster.ca



BREAD GIVEAWAY

In partnership with the Kerby Centre, Northminster United is hosting a monthly bread giveaway the Highland Park Community Association. This takes place on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 1:30 to 3 PM. This initiative prevents food waste by redistributing bread and baked goods from places like Cobs, Starbucks, and Safeway. Drop by to pick up yours!

HEALING TOUCH

This deeply spiritual practice is a ministry of St David's and is available the first Wednesday night of the month. Whether you are dealing with a health issue, stress, or you would just like to experience this practice as a faith ritual, be sure to reach out to the St David's office to schedule a appointment.



Healing Touch

The first Wednesday of the month
at 7 PM

Self-care to maintain your health or
to compliment your health treatments.

Please call St. David's office at
403-284-2276 to book appointment.

JOB POSTING

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO APPLY PRIOR TO
OCTOBER 1ST, PLEASE EMAIL
[OFFICE@NORTHMINSTER.CA](mailto:office@northminster.ca)



JOB POSTING – Communications Coordinator

The Northminster United Church Communications Coordinator's goal is to increase engagement across the congregation and surrounding communities while reflecting the congregation's values, mission, and brand across digital platforms. The successful candidate will work with the coordinating minister and staff team and attend Sunday worship and church events as needed. They will also serve the Dream Team by attending meetings and communicating their work on a regular basis to the congregation.

This is a contract position working 40 to 50 hours per month, and qualifications include being organized, self motivated and able to work

independently with excellent communication skills, both orally and in writing. The individual should be familiar with the United Church of Canada and its theology, hold computer skills, have a good understanding of new and trending technology, and have the ability to network interpersonally, socially and online. For more information or to apply prior to October 1st, please email office@northminster.ca



COMMUNITY CONNECTOR UPDATE

Our Community Connector program is kicking off this fall. We hope you will warmly welcome our student Eliane Morcos when you meet her. She will be participating in the life of our church on occasion as part of her part-time leadership position with Campus Ministries. You can reach out to our campus liaisons Sherri Melrose and Jean Love if you have questions or would like to participate in supporting campus ministries.



During the first week of July, team Campus United Calgary gathered with University of British Columbia, University of Northern British Columbia, Selkirk College, University of Victoria, and Simon Fraser University for the yearly Community Connector training at Camp Pringle on Vancouver Island. Our training was based on the United Church's four core values: Community, Social Justice, Formation, and Spirituality, each of which were explored in depth for one full day with a different Minister from each team leading each topic. On the day where we discussed Social Justice, we were presented with the Poverty and Justice Bible,

which is a book that addresses and offers critical insights and interpretations of the Bible that may be hard to digest. This activity resonated the most with us, as we explored examples of ableism, such as in John 9:25, where the blind was healed by God and could now see. Although this may be understood metaphorically, we are called to question the broader system that justified such articulation of this verse, and in other parts of the Holy Scriptures.

Pictured above is our team (from left to right: Herman, Tim, Rebekah, and Eliane) posing near Shawnigan Lake, where we often spent quality time in the evening with one another reflecting on the day's lessons. For this academic year, one of the main activities we plan to implement is "Scary Bible Verses" where we invite those within our community to join us to discover the real meaning of specific verses, focused on different social justice issues. We are enthusiastic to tailor our exhaustive training to our vision for the change that we want to see on the Calgary campuses that we are involved in!



Hold the date! November 12 1:30-4:30 - Our joint Affirming committees are inviting you to a wonderful learning event! Watch for registration details coming soon.

Creating a Culture of Respect for Gender and Sexual Diversity - a workshop led by the Centre for Sexuality

Learn practical strategies for creating more inclusive church community and safer spaces for gender and sexually diverse community members.

Deepen your understanding of the differences between sex, gender, and sexual orientation, and discuss the impacts of homophobia, biphobia, transphobia on 2SLGBTQ+ individuals. Develop skills and tools to support 2SLGBTQ+ members of your community.

SAVE THE DATE

NORTHMINSTER AND
ST. DAVID'S
UNITED CHURCHES'

NEWCOMERS' LUNCH

AFTER WORSHIP ON OCTOBER 15TH

We are thankful
for you!

St. David's Orchestra

HANDEL
ORGAN CONCERTO IN G MINOR
OP. 4 NO. 1
HAYDN
SYMPHONY 104

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 7:30PM

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

3303 CAPITOL HILL CRES. NW

TICKETS: \$20 AT THE DOOR

Northminster and St. David's
United Churches invite you to
join us for...

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 29, 2023
from 2:00-4:00 PM

St. David's United Church
Parking Lot
3303 Capitol Hill Cres. NW



A FAMILY FRIENDLY
TRICK-OR-TREATING
EXPERIENCE

northminster
UNITED CHURCH

ALL is CALM:
The Christmas
Truce of 1914
By Peter Rothstein
Vocal Arrangements by
Erick Lichte & Timothy C. Takach

ROSEBUD THEATRE
Saturday
November 4, 2023

Contact the SDUC office for details

northminster
UNITED CHURCH

AGM

SDUC Annual Meeting

Sunday November 5 at Noon

Meeting will be held in the Sanctuary



STRONGER
TOGETHER

CREATING A CULTURE OF RESPECT FOR GENDER AND SEXUAL DIVERSITY

November 12 12:30-4:30pm
St. David's United Church

northminster
UNITED CHURCH



NORTHMINSTER UNITED CHURCH'S ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 2023
9:00AM - 3:00PM

FREE ADMISSION

northminster
UNITED CHURCH

CHAMELEON DRAMA CLUB PRESENTS:

THE PRINCESS AND THE BANDERSNATCH

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19
12:00PM



Evening Compline Service

Sunday, November 12th
7:30 PM

PLEASE JOIN US FOR MEDITATIVE
SCRIPTURE AND CHORAL MUSIC IN
THE SERENE AND ANCIENT
WORSHIP SERVICE OF PLAINCHANT
AND CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER.
PRE-SERVICE RECITAL AT 7:00PM

ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH
3303 CAPITOL HILL CRESCENT NW
CALGARY



Worship with us
Sundays at 10:30am
Online and In Person
www.northminster.ca www.sduc.ca