

# The Messenger

February 15, 2023

Zion United Church  
Sunday worship — 11:00 am

St Andrews United Church  
Sunday worship — 9:30 am

Hey Thrift Shoppers & (early) "Spring Cleaners"

MacKenzie Camp is looking for Corelle dinnerware.

Please keep your eye out

for Corelle plates and bowls!

You can leave them at the church anytime

with a "for Camp" label

Many, many thanks!



If you have announcements to be included here  
please email them to: [ckooyman@shaw.ca](mailto:ckooyman@shaw.ca)

It would be helpful if announcements for The Messenger  
are sent to the above address before Wednesday.

Next Messenger will be  
February 22, 2023

## Zion IPE Meeting

There will be an IPE Meeting this  
Wednesday February 15 at 7 pm in  
the Zion Church Hall.

Results of the recent survey and  
plans for 2023 will be discussed.

Everyone with interest and input is  
welcome to attend.

Leona

## Shrove Tuesday Dinner

St. Andrew's United Church will be hosting a Shrove  
Tuesday Dinner on **Tuesday, Feb. 21st at 5pm**.

Please phone Carole Hawes at 250 838 6805 by Feb. 19th  
if you plan to attend so we know how many we are  
serving. The meal is by donation

Lorraine



**Askew's cards** are available after church or by arranging to pick them up by phoning Eleanor at 250-546-8195.

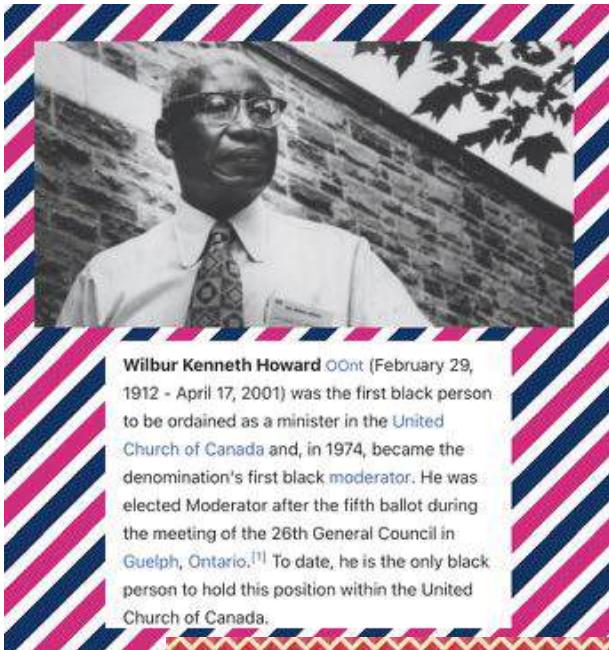
Thanks for continuing to support this fundraiser.

Eleanor

Welcome to  
**Zion United Church**  
Epiphany Fifth Sunday  
Sunday February 12 2023



Minister: Rev.Hati Mvundura  
Music Ministry: Lindsay Lundquist & Leona Harrison  
Greeter: Rod Gilmer  
Call to Worship: Greg Milne  
Scripture Reader: Greg Milne  
Benediction: Terri Nicholson  
Coffee: Hoa Huynh



Friday, February 24, 2023

**STAND WITH UKRAINE**  
**365 Days of Resistance**

# Candlelit Vigil in solidarity with Ukraine

City Hall  
Vernon, British Columbia  
5:00 pm  
Bring Ukrainian flags and Candles



## Armstrong Acoustic Coffee House.

February 25th, 3:00 PM  
Bring your acoustic instruments  
to play and jam.  
Admission and refreshments by donation.

**Zion United Church Hall**  
2315 Pleasant Valley Boulevard  
**250-546-9384**



**T**he monthly Men's Breakfast will be  
**Friday, Feb 17.**

The coffee will be ready at 8 am and breakfast  
will follow at 8:30.

We hope you will join this group of friendly  
men!

Wayne Kiefer

# The paradox of reducing racial prejudice

By Jim Taylor

Sunday February 5, 2023

You can't have missed the fact that February is Black History Month. Magazines feature stories of Black singers you might never have heard of, otherwise. TV networks do specials on Black leaders. Black tragedies. Black regiments. Black settlements.

A friend from New England asks, "Black American History month? Why? Isn't Black American History, American history?" I know him well enough to know that he's not prejudiced against either Black people or Black history. He's wondering why we – "we" meaning generic white society – feel a need to segregate Black History from history in general. Haven't American history and Black History been inseparable since 1619, when the first slaves were brought ashore in Virginia?

In fact, as a 2019 article in Time magazine pointed out, slavery didn't start in Virginia. Spanish explorer Ponce de Leon brought black slaves with him when he explored Florida, in search of the fabled Fountain of Youth, more than a century earlier. Spanish ships had delivered slaves to their settlements around St. Augustine since 1565. Slavery may have been officially abolished in America in 1865. But the slavery mindset still exerts a toxic presence in American life today.

## Affirmative action

"Think of Black History Month as 'affirmative action,'" I wrote back to my friend. That is, it's an attempt to correct a historic inequity in American awareness. I can only speak as an outsider here. But it seems to me that American history has been White history. White pilgrims. White explorers. White industrialists. White politicians.

With only a few exceptions, such as musicians and sports figures, Black people have been peripheral to mainstream America. Most lived in a little-known underworld, until a few individuals – Paul Robeson, Duke Ellington, Jackie Robinson, Joe Louis – broke through the race barrier.

I can object to that. But I can't be complacent. Because we Canadians have not done any better. In fact, we may well have done worse. America has Black History MONTH. Canada has Indigenous Peoples' DAY. Oh, whoopee.

Canadian history celebrates Radisson and Grossaliers discovering the Great Lakes. Alexander Mackenzie reaching the Pacific Ocean. David Thompson mapping the mighty Columbia River. Did you ever hear the names of the Indigenous people who paddled their canoes, fed them, guided them? I didn't think so. Only in the last 30 years or so, as the iniquities of the Residential School system have become too blatant to bury anymore, have Indigenous realities been taken seriously.

Indigenous history is even more invisible than Black History was.

## Short-term pain

I called Black History Month a form of "affirmative action." Affirmative action – also called "positive discrimination" – was a dirty word for many, back in the 1960s.

In an attempt to balance historic inequities, universities, businesses, and professions set up, as Wikipedia puts it, "policies and practices within a government or organization seeking to include particular groups based on their gender, race, sexuality, creed or nationality in areas in which such groups are underrepresented -- such as education and employment."

Baldly put, affirmative action took priority over competence. People were hired or promoted to fill quotas. I remember feeling like a victim of affirmative action myself during that period.

I had worked for four years training novice CBC announcers. I knew their tests up, down, and sideways. I could pronounce Respighi and Rimsky-Korsakov without stumbling. I knew Azerbaijan from Azimuth. I could have aced my audition.

Then a friend on the inside told me, “Don’t bother applying. We’re not hiring any male announcers at all until we meet our quota of female announcers.” I felt discriminated against. But have you noticed? Male or female is no longer an issue in broadcasting. Affirmative action worked.

Now the pressure is to include gays and lesbians. People with disabilities. Indigenous people. Especially among university faculty and corporate executives.

So I support Black History Month in principle. It’s not a solution to America’s history of prejudice against Blacks, but it’s a start. I also support Indigenous People’s Day, the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and World Refugee Day. Until they are unnecessary.

I’d also like to see Canada declare Diwali, Yom Kippur, and Eid, to be statutory holidays, to balance the white/Christian holidays we have now.

I dream of a time when it’s not necessary to single out any particular group for special attention, a time when future generations will ask themselves, “Why did we need a Black History Month?”

Paradoxically, it seems, the first step to achieving equal status is to gain special status.

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