

The Messenger

February 9, 2022

**Pulpit
supply**



See page 2 for Zion

Zion United Church
Sunday worship — 9:30 am

St Andrews United Church
Sunday worship — 11:00 am

If you have announcements to be included here
please email them to: 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 16, 2022**

St Andrew's Prayer shawls





Zion Sunday Worship
You are invited to join Zion Worship led by Rev. Heather Burton this **Sunday February 13 at 9:30 am on Zoom.**

Zion Council meets Tuesday February 15 and will discuss the possibility of resuming in person worship. Stay tuned.

Link to join Zoom Worship:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82460288479?pwd=eDliaExXNGJUdkZ2YUVUVVhmdTJ3QT09>

Meeting ID: 824 6028 8479
Passcode: 667657

If you are new to Zoom and need help to get started, please contact Christine Peckham ahead of time. You can phone or text her at 250-309-2057 or email 21hats@gmail.com.

Leona

Beginners quilting group going at Zion United?



St Andrew's Prayer Shawls

Some interest has been expressed in getting a beginners quilting group going at Zion United. As I gather the Zion Church hall would be available on Friday or Saturday morning - perhaps once a month.

I would be willing to help, but would need to know how many are interested, if others are able to help, and times. Myrna Robinson could be the contact person, and is really hoping this project might get started.

Lorraine

Annual Meeting – Feb 27

Dear Supporters of Zion United Church:

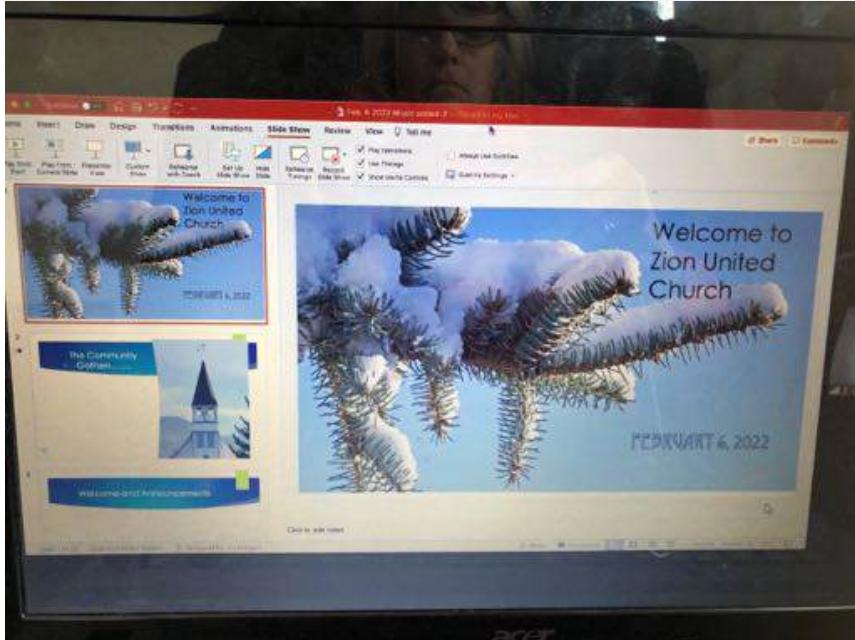
As the date for our annual meeting fast approaches we are looking to get in place the volunteers who will continue to do the work vital to the ongoing positive life of our church community .

We presently have an active council of 10 people. Virtually all of us have been serving for many years and because of our commitment we are willing to carry on.

I have recruited one new individual to serve on council. However we would certainly appreciate more people to step forward with new ideas and enthusiasm . If you or anyone you know might be a prospective candidate please get in touch with me. Volunteers are needed on Pastoral care , Property , worship , Christian education & outreach committees as well as council .

Thank you for giving this sincere consideration. Rod – current (but not forever) Chair of Council . With your suggestions or any input please contact me – 250-308-8344 or gilmer@telus.net

Feb. 6th ZOOM service



"The reflection theme of the Feb. 6th ZOOM service, led by Rev. Heather Burton, was 'Open to Something New'.

Heather, and the worship team, have certainly been leading by example, as they navigate the learning curves of preparing, and delivering, by ZOOM.

As congregants, we are grateful to their behind the scenes preparation work, and great patience in having us participants engaging at the correct level!

Wilma

UCW MEETING: FEB. 9 @ 1:30 CHURCH LOUNGE

We can spread out in the sanctuary if that works better for everyone. I am going to ask about a different day and/or time because of the fluctuating restrictions which don't appear to be going away anytime soon.

Keeping in our prayers....

I don't know how many people have kept in touch with Elsie Penner but I rec'd a letter from her and she has a new address: 1811 50th Ave., Vernon V1T 4E8

I also learned that she turns 97 on Feb 23.

On a sad note, her daughter's partner had emergency surgery Dec. 16th and passed away on the 24th....Christmas kind of lost it's shinen.

Let's keep her and her daughter in our prayers.



Suzanne

Zion 2021 Charitable Donation Receipts

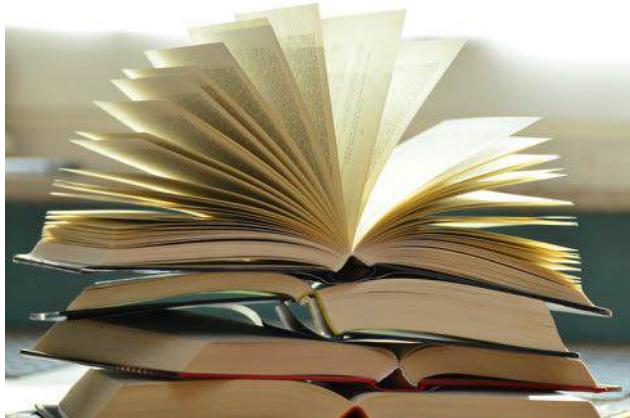
Charitable Donation Receipts will be available for pick up the following two times next week:

- **Tuesday February 15 from 10 am to Noon** at the Book Nook in the Church Hall Basement
- **Wednesday February 16 from 2-4 pm during Breakaway** upstairs in the Church Hall

Wishing you a happy tax season!

Leona

The Book Nook



Book Nook/Coffee time:

The Book Nook is open on Tuesday mornings from **10 a.m.-noon**. Why not bring your own coffee and join us in a safe environment where we can social distance & still visit with one another? If you don't need a book or a puzzle – no problem, drop in anyway it's just nice to get out of the house at times. Small donation towards church operating costs/utilities would be appreciated.

Submitted by Marj Bailey/Jean Miskiman

Annual Reports

Would you please hand in your annual reports
before Feb 10

And please, please, send **in doc file format** so it will be easy for me to copy and fit it in the publishing program that I am using. Thus it will save me loads of time.

Hanny

Askew's Cards



Please call Eleanor

at 250-546-8195 to order your Askews Cards until further notice.

I have lots available in \$20, \$50 and \$100 denominations.

You can pick them up from me at our mutual convenience or if necessary I can deliver them.

You can also leave your church contributions with me.

Thanks,
Eleanor



'Breakaway' is open again.
gathering opportunity has been running in the ZUC church hall.

Marj B, Jean M, and Wilma K have met some very engaging pre-schoolers and their grateful parents:). Colouring, building Lego structures, playing in 'table tents', stories, and snacks keep us on our toes:).

Wilma

Called to Mission, February 6, 2022

By Ref. Lorraine

Eternal God, your Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light on our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and Love. Amen.

Have you ever wondered what you were meant to do, or be in your lifetime? Have things changed as you gained more life experience or something happened that everything changed? In today's scripture readings we heard of events where people experience the presence of God, felt insignificant, were reassured...which lead to a whole new vocation, or the way they saw their relationship with God.

Today's reflection focuses on our Gospel lesson from Luke. Perhaps Jesus teaching in the synagogue had become so popular that the building was not large enough. The crowd comes to him to listen outdoors. We can imagine the sun sparkling on the Sea of Galilee early in the morning. On this beautiful day Jesus stood at the edge of the lake. So many people wanted to hear him teach, but there was no room, ...and they couldn't hear him.

Jesus turned to look at the peaceful water and noticed two boats that had not been there before. The men who had been fishing were washing their nets. Jesus recognized them! He motioned to them, and got into one of the boats. Here was a place to sit and teach. The boat belonged to Simon. "Take me out for a bit from the shore, would you?" we hear Jesus say. Simon rowed out a bit and Jesus was able to teach the crowd on the shore.

When he finished teaching the crowd finally left. "Fishers", Jesus said, "go out into the deep water. Let your nets down and you will catch a lot of fish."

"Master", said Simon, "we have been fishing all night long and never caught a single fish. Yet...if you say so, we will go out into the deep and try again."

Simon signaled to the fisherman in the other boat, and they let down their nets in a circle. They didn't have to put a worm on a hook, and drop the line. And they didn't fish just for fun. They were commercial fisherman and this was their livelihood. Fishing was big business on the Lake of Galilee, and was very important for the whole town of Bethsaida.

Did you know that Bethsaida even had a fishy name! It means “house of fish”. In modern times researchers have found 35 different species of fish in Lake Galilee. We don't know, there might even have been more in Simon Peter's time! To be a fisherman you had to have a boat, or rent one...and you had to pay for the fishing rights. And, once you caught them you had to sell them to a broker , who sold them to a processing plant, who transported them to cities and towns...and sold them to sellers, who sold them to people for their food.

Well, can you imagine what it was like to catch so many fish, that the boat almost sank? When Simon realized what was happening, he fell to his knees. “Get away from me, Jesus”, Simon cried. I am not good enough to be with you”. James and John and the other fisherman were amazed at all that was happening as well.

Jesus said to Simon. “Don't be afraid. From now on you will be catching people!”

We hear, “when the boats were finally up on shore again the fisherman left everything and followed Jesus.” This small group of fisherman became Jesus first disciples – sharing the good news of being accepted and included.

Have you noticed that fishing and shepherding became lasting images of ministry? The mission of the church has always involved evangelism. The word “Evangelism” itself comes from a Greek word meaning to share the “Good News”. “All were accepted, included and were to live to help and love others.” It is the center of Jesus teaching. We hear in Jesus final words to the disciples, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you”. This is called the great Commission.

There was a time when the church was the center of the community, and people came to worship as a part of being a “good citizen”. Sharing the “good news” was a part of worship, Sunday School and fellowship.

Today many live in a very secular community, suspicious of religion. People are cautious of the church, given its painful past. We need only listen to the news of the Residential schools, racism, especially with this being Black History month, the many people living in poverty, or refugee camps and longing for peace around the world. Evangelism is no longer seen as sharing the good news to

an open and accepting community.

One writer reflects that there are three reasons that evangelizing is more complicated than ever. The first is hostility of the audience. Many people feel that Christians care less about them than the number of people on the membership list.

The second is people's agenda and lives are very different. The complexity of family life, social and ethical issues, political dilemmas, and coping with life pressures are secondary to being a leader or taking an interest in congregations.

The third is the church language. The way we talk about salvation, eternal life, the person and work of Jesus, and the being of God reflects a pre-scientific view.

So how do we respond? Rev. Don Price, a retired minister writes, that “the most critical issue for people interested in exploring faith is **belonging**. Long before people think about the “Good News” and faith, they ask the question, “Can I belong here?” This involves safety, unconditional acceptance, open community, and hospitality. “If I cannot belong, I will not engage with you about life, faith, or anything else.....Does my story have a place within the story of this community? If so, I might take the next step to explore how my story connects.

If I feel that I can belong, then the next step is **believing**. What do Christians believe? Being able to say readily what we believe about God, Christ, and what it means to be a Christian is important. The first Christians shared what they knew about Jesus and how they experienced him as the Christ.

Today, we might add to that, where we can find **hope** in troubled times, and the utter dependence of God's love. The key is “where do you find God in your life?” One thing for certain, God is there and is reaching out in grace to every one of us.

The third is “**How then shall I live?**” What are the principles that will allow me to live justly, lovingly, and faithfully? Where is the community willing to engage in a discipleship process that explores the meaning of life, and seeks to work together and identify the future with hope? One of the scripture passages suggested for today comes from 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. Here we encounter Paul, who like others recognizes his faults, and where he has not followed God's path. In deep reflection, he knows and admits his mistakes, especially persecuting the church. He also is aware that God has helped him see in a new way. And he is determined to both accept his call and engage in the work. Called,

invited, accepted, forgiven and reassured, he encourages others to follow. To what are we called , and how can we make a difference? How then should we live?

The fourth is **becoming**. All of us are concerned to know that we are building a life that counts. The “becoming” aspect of life involves spiritual formation and development, character building, coping with life transitions, and developing the gifts to offer in service.

A metaphor that might be useful for God's work in our midst might be fishing – casting God's saving word of justice, peace, and mercy into the deep social waters of hatred, oppression, and freed to draw all people into abundant life. Faith, hope and love, these three, but the greatest of these is

Love.

Creator God, you have drawn us from deep within ourselves into your love net of grace. Strengthen us to cast such a net of justice and mercy into the depths of this community and world that all might feel enfolded into your realm. Amen.



The picture is a small display recognizing prayers needed for this coming year: The blue and yellow are prayers for the Ukraine, the Tiger represents hope for the new year and the dolls represent prayers for people of all nationalities, as well as the beginning of Black History Month.

Lorraine



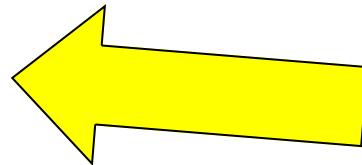
Slow no Tempo Concert!

A cappella quartet. Slow No Tempo is four guys making music with just our voices, based in Kamloops, British Columbia.
<https://slownotempo.ca/>

Slow No Tempo was formed in the fall of 2018. We sing a wide variety of music; from rock to sea shanties to jazz to barbershop and everything in between, all with our beautiful blend of voices and unique brand of humour.

Everyone is Welcome!!

Sat April 2nd at 2 pm!!



(Doors open at 1:30)

Tickets: \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door
 3335 Patterson Ave, St Joseph's Hall, Armstrong

Tickets available at Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce,
 Mon – Fri, 10 am – 2 pm – **CASH only please** or phone Carol at 250 546 6215.
 **Vaccine passport and ID must be shown at the door. Masks are mandatory. Thank
 you for your cooperation**

Thank you to the Armstrong Spallumcheen Chamber of Commerce who secured funding through the Artbeat Heartbeat Grant which makes this concert possible. Proceeds from this concert will go to St. Joseph's Parish to help offset the lost income from our IPE booth.

Carol Hill-Lonergan

250 546 6215

