

SHERWOOD PARK UNITED CHURCH



April 15, 2018
Affirming Ministry Celebration



Sherwood Park United Church
April 15, 2018
AFFIRMING MINISTRY CELEBRATION

*Congregation may stand in body or spirit

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CANDLE LIGHTING & RECOGNITION OF AFFIRMING WO

*GATHERING MUSIC "Let Us Build a House"

*CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

We are part of the Church universal- faithful people of every class, sexual orientation, age, and ability, gathered to love

We are an Affirming Ministry. Together, let us worship, rejoicing in the good news which we celebrate together.

There is a place in God's heart, there is a place at Christ's table here and in every Affirming Ministry for all people.

Christ who gathers us invites us to follow in the way of justice

May our hearts be open to Christ's leading in our worship this day and always. We pray together:

*OPENING PRAYER (together)

ALL: Wondrous God, we praise You for the splendor of Your love. Thank You, that woven throughout the tapestry of earth are all threads of human diversity. Created in Your image, we are diverse and cultures, ages and classes, gender and sexual identities alike, we are Your beloved people. Free us, we pray, from the differences that divide and wound us. Move us to dismantle and systems of prejudice. Renew our commitment to our household of faith for all people – that all who worship may know the grace and challenge of faith. In our lives be our minds and hearts eager to learn, reluctant to judge, and open to the leading of your loving Spirit. We ask this in Christ's name

***HYMN** "We Have This Ministry"

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

GATHERING "Dance with the Spirit"

CHILDREN'S TIME

SOLO Marissa, Camp

SCRIPTURE Philippians 1: 3-6, 9-11 (The Message)
Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks t
Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you w
glad heart. I am so pleased that you have continued on in this with us
believing and proclaiming God's Message, from the day you heard it r
up to the present. There has never been the slightest doubt in my mir
that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and
it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears.
So this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not c
love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your
and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not
sentimental gush. Live a lover's life, circumspect and exemplary, a life
will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ
attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of C

***HYMN** "My Love Colors Outside the Lines" N

GUEST SPEAKER Carmen, Camp fYrefly

SOLO Marissa, Camp fYrefly

INVITATION TO GIVE

OFFERTORY "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" F.Maler/arr. L. Smith

***OFFERTORY HYMN** "In Loving Partnership We Come" VU 603, v.1

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy One, transform these gifts so that doubts may be t
joy, fear into proclamation, hate into love. Receive the
and our hearts, so that they will play a part in your crea
In the name of Jesus, we make this prayer and this offe

PRESENTATION OF AFFIRMING MINISTRY CERTIFICATE

Rev. Stuart Jackson, Chair of Edmonton Pres

***SHERWOOD PARK UNITED CHURCH AFFIRMING VISIOI**

ALL: **As an Affirming Ministry within the United
Sherwood Park United Church
is a spiritual community
where there is room for
EVERYONE
to grow.
We are a community
that celebrates diversity,
where everyone belongs no matter
who you are,
when you were born,
where you're from,
what you believe,
or whom you love.**

**Sherwood Park United Church
welcomes the full participation of all per
in the life and work of our Ministry
regardless of age, gender, race, appeara
gender identity, sexual orientation,
ability, family configuration,
social situation, economic circumstan**

or religious background.

A Call to Prayer *(responsive)*

God is with you.

and with the whole world.

Let us lift up our hearts.

We lift them gladly to God.

Let us give thanks to God most high.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Centering for Communion

“Spirit of Life”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION *(responsively)*

In the many silences of the heart, O God, when feeling is beyond saying, your faithful people everywhere wait upon your Spirit. In the silence of joy- when a baby is born, when a sunset blazes, when a loved one is restored to health, when peace replaces strife-

In our joy, we wait upon you, O God. We give you thanks and praise.

In the silence of sorrow- when love is lost, when pain is too constant a companion, when time brings change that is hard to bear, when death seems victorious-

In our sorrow, we wait upon you, O God. You alone are our rock and our refuge.

In the silence of anger- when justice is postponed until tomorrow, when violence shatters body and soul, when prejudice sets neighbor against neighbor, when no one will listen-

In our anger, we wait upon you, O God. Teach us the ways of justice and mercy.

Let us put our trust where it belongs, not in our positions of power or wealth, for such things are lighter than breath.

In our joy, our sorrow, our anger, we trust in God’s unflinching love and guidance. We rely upon the blessing of

being a community of faith, a Church universal. Siblings of many colors, ages, sexual orientations, and abilities, we are one in Christ! Together, let us praise God who created us in our diversity, and called him “Good!”

And so, in our goodness, in our blessed diversity, we are wonderfully made.

God has revealed to us in this community that the spectrum of human sexuality and gender identities

VU 381

We say to all who have been excluded because of skin color, mental ability, income level, marital status, gender identity, and orientation:

“Be excluded no more!” We commit to stretching ourselves to include those who have been stereotyped, stigmatized, labeled, and assigned to the margins of church and society, so

In the name of Jesus, partake of this, the bread of heaven and fruit of the vine. Let us gather around the table and remember before he died, Jesus had supper with his friends. He took the bread and broke it, and offered it all around, saying “This is my body for you.” Then, he took the cup, and poured it out, saying “This is the new covenant, poured out for you, and for many. Eat and drink of it, remember me.” And we, God’s beloved children, partake.

Holy one, may your Spirit rest upon these gifts of bread and juice, and upon us all, that touched by your Spirit may be nourished and renewed.

Invitation to the Table & Communion

Prayer after Communion

*HYMN

“Deep in Our Hearts”

***BLESSING**

One or two members of your trained and compassionate lay hands lightly on, or just above, your shoulders as you sit comfortably, and allow God’s healing love to move through with us, all will be held in strictest confidence. Come and find your quiet centre after worship on Sunday.

POSTLUDE “Alleluia” from “Exultate, Kare Jubilate”

Today's Worship Leaders

- Worship Leaders..... Rev. Terrie Jackson & Rev. Kurt Katzmar
- Guest Speaker.....Carmen, Camp Fyrefly
- Guest Soloist.....Marissa, Camp Fyrefly
- Reader Louise Rogers
- Organist Glenda Murphy
- Pianist.....Karen Ingram
- Choir DirectorHeather Rodgers
- Greeters..... Graham & Inge Hillman
- Ushers.....Bill & Dianne Graham, Janice
..... Laurel & Gordon Rees
- Communion Assistants.....Louise Rogers, Brad Rogers
.....Bonnie Robson, Gay Sangster

Minute for Mission

Radical Welcome Affirm United, United Church Outdoor/
United Church camping is working with Affirm United to m affirming. Many United Church camps already have LGBTQ summer, an important step toward inclusion. We are grate Service supports Affirm United in helping congregations, c ministries to become affirming.

Thank you

Thank you to all those who generously donated their beautiful table flower arrangements at the Alberta NC Conference banquet on May 12th. They will be filled with flowers given to a person at each table to take home as a keepsake. We now have all the teacups we need and ask that no more tea Thanks!

Today in Church

Affirming Celebration

Today we celebrate being officially named an Affirming Ministry. Members of Edmonton Presbytery, the wider community, special guests, as well as Marissa and Carmen, our guest musician and speaker for the day, from Camp Fyrefly, join us in this celebration. A special offering will be taken for Camp Fyrefly as this is the camp Sherwood Park United Church has chosen to support for Camping Sunday. A time of fellowship and refreshment will follow the service. Your presence will bless our time together as we celebrate this milestone.

Salisbury Greenhouse Gift Cards - Fundraiser

Salisbury Greenhouse gift cards are in denominations of \$25. Great for all your planting and yard decor needs. Make great gifts for Mothers’ Day too! There will be four pick-up dates:

Soaking Prayer

“Come to me, all you who are burdened and weary and I will give you rest.”
Matthew 11:28

All of us get weary in body, mind, and soul. To help your light burn brightly and not burn out, we invite you to safely and gently experience a silent prayer as you sit and rest in the all-encompassing love of God.

Pick up dates **Selling**
Sunday, April 29. **Selling dates**
in time for Mothers’ Day.

Anne Williams will be taking orders for the gift cards after service.

Outreach Spring Project

The **Outreach Spring Project** is to support the **Tools for Social Justice** of the United Way. We are asking the congregation to help

backpacks filled with new or unused school supplies. The backpacks are **16 – 7 pm Grief Share** Rev. Terrie will be hosting an opportunity for children and youth from Kindergarten to Grade 12 in need of this assistance over the Humboldt Hockey team tragedy. Join her in helping them become successful learners and participants in school.



for school supplies at a dollar store.

We will be collecting the backpacks at church on Sunday, April 15, 22, and 29. The Outreach Committee looks forward to your support for this project, as you have supported us in the past.

Vacation Bible School – August 20 - 24

SPUC will be holding a Vacation Bible School from 9:00 - Noon daily from August 20 - 24. The theme is *Shipwrecked - Rescued by Jesus*. All children between the ages of 3 - 12 years are welcome to attend this FREE fun-filled week. Each day, we will be meeting a Bible Buddy: Hope, Beacon, Rae, Guac, and Moe. There will be Bible Exploration activities, exciting (and sometimes wet) games, themed snacks, and lots of music. Registration forms are available at the church office or online at <https://vbapro.events/p/spuc>. In order to provide a great week for the children, we are looking for about 23 volunteers to help with the program. There are a variety of positions available. For more information about each position and to sign up, please visit <https://vbapro.events/p/spuc> or talk to Rev. Terrie or Cindy Camp. We will be transforming the sanctuary into a desert island August 14 - 16 and all are welcome to come!

This week in the Church Community (April 16-20)

We suggest that your family or two or three families get together to fill a backpack for a child in one of the categories listed. Supplies appropriate for each level are indicated. Label the backpack with its grade level. For information, see ToolsforSchool.ca

You might want to look for a backpack at the *County Clothes-Line* (201 Athabasca Ave, Sherwood Park)

Monday evening to have a safe place to share and heal.

18– Sit and Be Fit - Wednesday – 11:30 am – 12:30 pm in Cost - \$20 for April or \$7 per drop in session.

18 – Healing Ministry Treatment Session

20 – A sing-along Concert with Jim and Jean Strathdee -

21 – Men’s Breakfast – 9 am

21 – 22 Private rental – Memorial Hall

Upcoming Events in April

25 – Sit and Be Fit

25 – Church Council

27 – Private Rental – Memorial Hall

27 – Private Rental – Fellowship Hall

29 – Spring Music Service - 9:45 am

Upcoming Events

GOIN’ TO BRUCE

The SPUC Seniors will be going to the steak dinner at Bruce on **Friday May 4, 2018**. The cost for the dinner (which includes gratuity and GST) is \$30.00.

There is a limit of 50 people. We will meet at the church at 3:23 pm and arrangements will be made for carpooling. You will need to pay by Sunday April 29 if you wish to attend.

We will be collecting after church for the next few Sundays. For more info contact Hazel or Wayne Flewelling.

Women’s Retreat

This is an invitation to all the women of SPUC and your friends to the 17th annual Women’s Retreat. Rev. Terrie will be leading the retreat entitled “A Spiritual Spa”. The retreat will be held at Rund



north shore of Pigeon Lake from June 1 – 3, 2018. Brochures and registration forms will be available each Sunday in April and May 6 after church, at the church office, or on the church website (www.sherwoodparkunitedchurch.ca).

Who come to our church, founded in 1957, and dedicated to the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, and doing the inner and outer work would lead to joyful awareness of the Realm of God (see Luke 12: a member of the Edmonton Presbytery of the United Church of Canada).

Come for the whole weekend, Saturday only, or Saturday and one night. We are limited to a maximum of 32 women for overnight stays. Take advantage of the early bird discount for registering and paying by May 6. If financial concern, please contact Barb Goulden as the Outreach Committee has funds available to help defer the cost.

For more information, please contact Cindy Camp, Mary Card, Deb Gibson, Barb Goulden, Lorri Jesse, Cyndy McRae, or Debbie Styles.

Opportunities to Serve

Healing Pathway Phase One Training

April 20 – 22 at Grace United Church

Healing Pathway Phase 1 is an introduction to the basic concepts of healing hands within the Christian tradition, with an emphasis on learning to be a healing presence and instrument of God’s healing power.

Fees: \$225

\$105 for people repeating

Brochures are available on the easel in the Narthex.

Registrar: Margaret Langston 780-467-6656

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 web: www.sherwoodparkunitedchurch.ca
office@sherwoodparkunitedchurch.ca
 phone: 780-467-7377

Church Leadership

- Barb Rogers Council Chair
- Rev. Terrie N. Jackson Minister
- Rev. Kurt W. Katzmar Minister
- Heather Rodgers Music Director
- Glenda Murphy Organist
- Karen Ingram Pianist
- Bill Graham Percussionist
- Brad Jansen AV Team
- Jo-Ann McIntosh Office Admin
- Z’Anne Harvey-Jansen Youth
- Terry Pettifor Children
- Susan Galloway Handbell Director
- Rev. Dr. George Rodgers Emeritus
- Rev. Ray Olsen Honorary Assoc.

Sanctuary

Families are welcome to the sanctuary. For deceased family contact the office for an acknowledgment newsletter.

Nar

Please wear your worship and at Fellowship Hall. No fill out the white card in front of you and plate. Use the card to communicate with well.

Services on the Web

You can listen to past Sundays’ sermons by logging onto our website and clicking the “Sermons” link. You can also keep track of upcoming events, news and announcements on the website, our weekly emailed newsletter, or our Facebook page.

Prayer Requests

You are welcome to write prayer requests on the bright yellow cards found in the bulletin. Place the card in the offering plate, and it will be brought to voice during the pastoral prayer.