



MINNEDOSA UNITED CHURCH



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2019 EASTER SERVICES AND OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Community Lenten Service & Lunch Tuesday April 2nd, 12:10 pm
- Annual Meat Pie Fundraiser April 4 & 5
(Call Lorna to order: 204-210-2111)
- AOTS Pancake Supper Friday April 5th, 5 pm
- Community Good Friday Service April 19th, 11:00 am
(at Minnedosa Community Conference Centre)
- Easter Sunday Service and Communion April 21st, 11:00 am
- Spring Smorg Supper April 28

KATHY PLATT'S ARRIVAL (Our new minister!)

Starting Date	May 1 st , 2019
First Worship Service	Sunday May 12, 11:00 am
Covenanting Service	June 9 th , 7:00 pm

Upcoming Church Sunday School activities:

- No Sunday School March 24 and March 31 (Spring Break)
- YAK (Youth Activity Korner) April 12, 6-9 pm
- Last day of Sunday School classes will be May 12

March 21, 2019:

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

April 22, 2019:

Earth Day

May 17, 2019:

International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

June 21, 2019:

National Indigenous People Day

The Season of Lent

A Greeting from Kathy Platt

Jan Richardson has a book of blessings, and as I contemplate this next phase of ministry, the words from this blessing ring true for me:

**If you could see the journey whole, you might never undertake it.
Might never dare the first step that propels you
from the place you have known toward the place you know not.
Call it one of the mercies of the road: that we see it only by stages
as it opens before us – as it comes into our keeping.
Step, by single step. There is nothing for it but to go,
and by our going take the vows the pilgrim takes:
To be faithful to the next step; To rely on more than the map;
To heed the signposts of intuition and dream;
To follow the star that only you will recognize.**

(Circle of Grace; ©2015, Jan Richardson)

We have all been on quite the journey since I moved away from ministry with Minnedosa United in 2001. Since leaving you, I have had diverse and enriching ministry with Kelwood, McCreary, Alonsa, Sunset (Regina), and now McKenzie (Portage La Prairie). I could never have predicted any of those moves, and yet I can't imagine my life without the blessings and the challenges that each of those places offered along the way. Similarly – who could have predicted that I would now be coming home to Minnedosa?!? I am filled with gratitude, both that you were willing to take the risk of calling me back, and that you were willing to wait long enough for me to give McKenzie a bit more time to adjust to once again being without a minister. Thank you for your patience and for the welcome that has already been extended in many ways. As I write this, I have 8 Sundays left where I am – time is going to fly by!

I am so looking forward to arriving in early May – surely the snow will be long gone by then! In the meantime, we carry on – faithful to each step we take on this Lenten journey. May we hold each other in prayer as we move ever closer to beginning on a whole new adventure with each other. God is with us – we are not alone – thanks be to God!

Blessed be, Kathy

THE SEASON OF LENT AT MINNEDOSA UNITED CHURCH

During Lent, people are often introspective, working toward becoming a better version of themselves. Lent is thought of as a time for reflection and prayer, a time to let go of some things through confession and repentance, and a time to receive something like forgiveness, love, grace, or new life! Whatever tasks we engage in, what is being asked of us is to open ourselves to a liberating and creative God, known to us through relationship.

In short, to grow in grace, both in grace received and grace given. Here at Minnedosa United Church we are offering these activities to help you to grow in that grace.

1. **A Season to Read our Bibles and to Engage in Acts of Kindness and Service.** We are providing you with a bookmark that gives you the Lent liturgy to follow week by week throughout the Season of Lent. We will also be following this liturgy in our worship services during the Sundays in Lent. To engage yourself in acts of kindness and service why not actively participate in random acts of kindness, read a book that offers an alternative way of thinking, or about a topic which you hold strong opinions. Let your imagination go to work to show that attitude and gratitude go hand in hand during the Season of Lent.
2. **A Season to Pray for One Another – Lent Prayer Basket.** Remember, Lent is a time for reflection and prayer. If you wish to participate any time during Lent we ask you to pray for one another following these easy steps:
(See over...)

- a. On your way into church on Sunday, put your name on a piece of paper, fold it and put it into the basket on the back table in front of the sound booth. (Slips of paper and pens are ready for you beside our Lent Prayer Basket).
- b. On your way out of church, reach into the basket and select one name.
- c. Think about and pray for this person all week long.
Starting Sunday March 10th to Sunday April 14th

3. **Annual Lenten Lunches.** The local Ministerial committee has agreed to offer the Lenten Lunch Series again this year. Please participate as you are able on the following Tuesdays, at 12:10 pm.

March 12	St. Mark's Anglican Church
March 19	St. Alphonsus Catholic Church
March 26	Evangelical Covenant Church
April 2	Minnedosa United Church
April 9	Calvary Church

20 minutes of spiritual enlightenment, followed by a free lunch!

4. Visit the United Church of Canada's website and listen to the **Moderator's Lenten Message – 'How is it with your soul?'** www.united-church.ca While you are there check out some suggestions for Lenten Books to read.

A Children's Prayer for Lent

Lord, please show me,
what I should give up for Lent.
And when I've given it up
remind me to pray to You instead...
to thank You, to love You, to hear from You,
each and every day in Lent. Amen

(A modern children's prayer for seeking God
from www.lords-prayer-words.com)