

## Announcements for January 23<sup>th</sup> 2022

Hello friends and welcome to the worship of God with the McClure United Church community.

Today we are going to a wedding in Cana – wont it be nice to think about people gathered to celebrate and having fun. I am looking forward to the trip to Cana and a little break from the cold, worry and quiet of these days. I hope this adventure into the stories of Jesus feeds your soul as well.

I've said it before -that I think it is critical that we take time to care for our spirits in these challenging times. Taking time to pray and worship is a important practice. I suggested another important soul practice last week – if you remember - I gave you homework - I hope you found the energy to reach out and connect with a friend or family member for a chat.

One connection I have appreciated this past week was joining with about 125 people as part of a noon hour bible study - marking the Week of prayer for Christian Unity - which began Tuesday January 18 and runs through until the 25<sup>th</sup>. There are a couple of sessions left if you would like to join in - visit our website to get more information. Remember also that the Regional Wednesday bible study is on going - so there yet another great way to connect.

I want to let you know as well that last week Megan and Tony Haddad and their family as well as a few members of McClure United Church gathered to welcome through baptism Sophie and Luke Haddad, these little ones are Jim and Marlene Kells grandchildren. We usually baptise children when the whole community is gathered but that is not possible right now but we want to share this joyous occasion with all of you so please visit the link to the baptism service that is attached to this email.

February is sneaking up on us and during February the Outreach committee will be focusing on care of refugees and they will be inviting you to plant hearts in support of sponsorship. Watch the newsletter - out next week - for details. The condensed instructions are you make a special donation to refugee sponsorship and for every 5 dollars donated we will plant a heart in the snowbank near our church sign to celebrate.

Now after February comes March and the beginning of Lent. Laura and I are sharing leadership of a Lenten study and we are using a resource from the United Church of Canada and so if you would like to join in you might like to purchase the book **Lesser Evils: Daily Reflections on Seeking Wisdom**

Or you might also like a copy of the book for your own Lenten devotions. Contact the office if you would like us to order a book for you. You save the shipping if you order through the church and the total cost of the book will be about 15.00 ish dollars.

Our announcements have taken us to the end of January, through February and into March. How about we take a breath and get ready for that wedding celebration I was talking about.

So I invite you now to quiet your self and imagine yourself at the party – the toasts are over, the buffet has been laid out and the music has begun.

Let us worship..