

MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH NEWSLETTER MARCH, 2022

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Full to the Brim

It was such a joy to have folks return to in-person worship for the season of Advent and Christmas, followed by disappointment when the rise in Omicron numbers forced us back to online only. That has been a pattern over the past two years; anticipation and hope followed by disappointment. But imagine how much worse everything would have felt if that thread of hope (no matter how small) hadn't been with us! Hope is a thread that wraps itself around the struggles, fears, worries and burdens of our lives. It is one of the more important threads in the weaving of our faith. Without hope, well, I can't even imagine what a life without hope would be like.

As we move together now into the season of Lent, hope is brought to the forefront. This is a time when we reflect on the life of Jesus. We know how the story goes. We know about the corruption that led to his death. But we also know that his death isn't the end of the story. The story of our faith ends in new life. It is hope in new life that allows us to enter into this story year after year.

This Lent we will be using another wonderful resource from <u>A Sanctified Art</u> (a collective of artists and theologians writing liturgy and creating resources). The theme for Lent this year is **Full to the Brim** and here is a beautiful description, from A Sanctified Art, of where our Lenten journey will take us:

"The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith. And so, our Lenten theme, Full to the Brim, is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path. Full to the Brim reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us."

Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us! This is our thread of hope for Lent this year. And how WONDERFUL that those who are ready will be able to come together once again for in-person worship as we begin this journey. And it is equally wonderful that we now have the technology in place to allow those who are not yet ready for in-person gatherings to join us online. I would really like to encourage you to give the livestream a try. I know it is convenient to watch worship when it is more convenient for you to do so, but I do think there is something quite beautiful in knowing that we are spread out across the city and beyond the city limits – each in their own homes – yet deeply connected by God's love and the hope of our faith as we worship together – at the same time.

Let's allow ourselves this Lent to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love.

Blessings, Rev. Laura Fouhse

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHIES

Holding you gently in prayer...

All who have experienced grief & loss in its many forms

Mary Ens and family on the death of her husband Les





McClure United Church and Holy Spirit Parish have a shared covenant in the spirit of Ecumenism. To keep in the loop with our friends and neighbours, we have exchanged website information so that we can all

keep in touch. Please keep Holy Spirit staff and parishioners in your prayers! You can check out their website at https://holyspiritsaskatoon.ca or their Facebook page at Holy Spirit Catholic Church.

Prayer Ministry

It is time to refresh our Prayer Ministry. Currently, we have several folks who offer prayer when requested, but it would be nice to add to the numbers. When a request for prayer comes to one of the ministry staff, the request is passed via email to a group who are committed to taking some time to pray as requested. Some of our snowbirds see this as a way to continue to care for their McClure family while they are away. If you feel called to the ministry of prayer, please contact Debra. debra.beshaw.ca

Welcome Claudia!



Hi, my name is Claudia Manning and I hail from Seattle Washington, where I lived most of my life, until I moved up to Canada in 2007. I love to go hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing and biking and feeding a bazzilion sparrows.

I have been married to Barbara Parr for the last going on 16 years; we have 3 rescue dogs and 7 rescue cats. When people ask how many cats we have I usually respond that we have more than 6 and less than 10.

When I moved to Saskatchewan from Seattle, I first landed in Regina. We lived there for a year while Barb finished her engineering degree. After we got married we moved to Saskatoon, where I immediately knew I was home. I have told people that I had to move to another country to find the friends that I always wished for but never had.

In the short time I have been here, I have been overwhelmed by the kindness, the humour, the cookies and the welcoming spirit of each person I have met. I feel very lucky that I was hired, and hope to be here a very long time!

WORSHIP NEWS



March 2, 7pm Worship

Lent can sometimes get a negative reputation. It is viewed as the season in our faith when we give things up, when we prepare for the worst. However, I believe that God wants more for us than just six weeks of discipline or six weeks without chocolate. I cannot help but imagine that God wants a life for us so expansive that faith, joy, and hope flow over the edges

As we begin Lent this year, we examine, consider, and ponder Jesus' Way as a map and path for living fully.

Join with fellow travelers on March 2 at 7 pm for a special "in person"

Ash Wednesday service.

To attend, we ask that everyone remain masked, and we encourage folks to be fully vaccinated. Imposition of ashes will be part of the worship, and we will also share in the sacrament of communion (elements will be pre-packaged). You will be encouraged to participate as you feel comfortable. If you have questions about the service, please contact Debra at 306-373-1753.

It's time to worship in person again!

We will return to in-person worship in March and journey together through Lent.

An Ash Wednesday in-person service will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, **March 2**.

We will have communion using individual disposable cups.

We will worship together on March 6, the first Sunday of Lent.

There will be a 9:15 am service and an 11:00 am service.

(The 11:00 am service will be live-streamed for our Rural Connect partners and those who are not able to attend inperson worship at this time.) Having two services should allow folks to choose seating and be spaced in a way that feels comfortable.

Please contact the office if you would like the **Van** to pick you up for the 11:00 am church service.

These guidelines will be in place:

Masks must be worn
We will stay seated to sing
No "after-church" coffee time for now.
NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

We recommend that all people be fully vaccinated

It will be good to be together for worship, and we are thankful that we can meet in our Sanctuary and via on-line formats!

Rural Connect

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Update on Rural Connect

Last year the McClure Board moved to join the Rural Connect community of The United Church of Canada. Rural Connect is a program of The UCC supporting rural congregations by partnering urban and rural churches for joint, interactive, live worship services through the use of technology.

We are now ready to welcome our partners: Radville & Carlyle United Churches and Abbey-Lancer Pastoral Charge. Radville will be joining us for the first 3 Sundays of each month, Carlyle will join us for the last 3 Sundays of each month and Abbey-Lancer will join us on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Wondering how on earth this works? Come and see for yourself as we join together on March 6th at 11 am for the first time. This service will also be livestreamed and recorded for later viewing.

It is time...

We are collecting names of those who have an interest in **serving as a Board member**. You may have questions about what it means to be a member of the McClure Church Board!!! Since serving on the Board, especially these last two years, I have felt a real sense of connection to the church and have learned so much. I'm still a little nervous chairing meetings, but the good thing about doing Board work is that there are others to ask, and we all know we are a part of a team.

Think about it Terry Clark 306-373-7518

Reflection - Congregational Meeting Feb. 27, 2022

Terry Clark, Board Chairperson

Last year, February 7, 2021 at this very meeting, Laura led a reflection, having asked the question, "what has it meant to be church during a pandemic?

I remember hearing the following: "First and foremost McClure is a community, a community of friends with a vision, who were willing to put faith into action years ago." That community saw a need in the wider community. In faith, McClure ventured into unknown territory to meet the need.

I can't help but think...what have we done this past year but venture into unknown territory? And who better to walk with us along this unknown path, but Debra and Laura. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

So where have we ventured in 2022?

Well...

- 1. Because of our online presence we have been able to connect with congregation members and young adults who no longer live in Saskatoon.
- 2. We try to be the church... we've had collection projects and raised funds for Egadz, Socks for the Homeless, and refugee support.
- 3. We connected via spring and fall phoning trees, have had "adapted" bake sales, and came *this* close to a book and puzzle sale...it might happen yet!
- 4. We prepared and distributed Advent kits, held Sunday School for the kids, and met online and in person with youth and young adults.
- 5. We were guided by the work of the Building Access Task Group who researched and helped us make decisions about how to use the building while keeping everyone safe and with respect for residents who make the McClure space their home.
- 6. In different but meaningful ways, we have celebrated life at Funerals, Baptisms, and Marriages.
- 7. We have embarked on a new way to connect with the wider church community using the Rural Connect program.
- 8. And we have been held together by our wonderful music team, Irene, our Office Manager and Finance guru, Pam, who does data entry and a whole lot of other tasks, and now Claudia, our new Administrative Assistant.
- 9. It's tricky to name names but Norm Sampson and Adam Brookman just about moved their beds in to work on set-up and tweaking of the equipment for Rural Connect and live streaming. We thank the office volunteers who, with Irene, took on the task of registering people for in-building worship. Oh yes, we also got back into our Sanctuary for Worship services and *will do so again*!
- 10. Finally, I especially want to mention Elaine Niebergall our Treasurer, who truly treats every donation as a gift!

Please send any further feedback, ideas, or questions about the budgets and financial situation of McClure to Terry Clark (Chair) or Michael Gorniak (Chair Elect). We very much value your comments.



Ministry with children, youth and young adults.

It takes a village to raise a child!

Jesus said,
"Let the children
come to me.
And he took the
children in his
arms, placed his
hands on them and
blessed them."
~Mark 10:13~

For more info about our ministry with children, youth and young adults, please contact:

Rev. Laura Fouhse
(306) 373-1753
(306) 291-5838
laura@mcclureunitedchurch.or

BACK TO CHURCH!!

phone, text or email

We are returning to in person worship on March 6th and are super excited to welcome back our families, children and youth to the 11am service.

For the time being, children will go directly to the multipurpose room for their own special faith-based programming with Eden.

SEE YOU SOON!

Lent is a great time to create a habit of spiritual practices... Why is this important? Of course, we want to bring our children up to know and experience these spiritual practices because we want to raise them to know and love God, to be disciples of Jesus Christ, to be guided and shaped by love of God and neighbor. But if we need other, perhaps more tangible reasons, we can look at the research of the Search Institute and its work on developmental assets. They have identified 40 assets that help children and youth grow into healthy adults. The more of these 40 assets a child or teen has in his/her life, the less likely he or she is to engage in high-risk behaviors and the more likely he or she is to become a happy, successful adult. Regular (weekly or more) participation in a religious community is on that list. And so are various values that are reinforced by the practice of spiritual disciplines including: service to others, caring, concern for equality and social justice, integrity, honesty, responsibility, healthy lifestyle, peaceful conflict resolution, and a sense of purpose for one's life.

So here are a 3 spiritual practices, you may want to explore with your children and/or teens.

Paying attention. Simply paying attention is about as basic as it gets. But it can also be challenging in our world today. Young children are good at noticing. They notice bugs and flowers and the way a pea rolls around on the plate. That gives us a natural way to connect the things they notice to God the Creator. "Thank you, God, for creating that cool bug." "Wow, God makes some beautiful flowers!" etc. As children grow into tweens and teens, they become more distracted by a lot of the same things that distract us. So, we can help them (and ourselves) by simply inviting them to notice, to pay attention, to look for signs of God all around them. "I see the beauty of God's creation in the sunrise." "I see God's compassion in you in the way you care for your friend."

Blessing. Henri Nouwen writes, "To give a blessing is to affirm, to say 'yes' to a person's belovedness. And more than that: to give a blessing creates the reality of which it speaks." There's great power in helping children and youth (and adults, for that matter) know that they are beloved by God. Parents can bless children and youth as they head out for the day or on particular occasions, such as a birthday or the start of a new school year. Our congregations can bless children and teenagers as they're promoted to new grades, as they participate in special activities, as they take on special roles in the church, as they begin to serve others. All of us can look for opportunities to say to one another: "You are God's beloved. God delights in you."

Sharing Gifts. This is about finding ways to be generous. We can help kids think about simple ways they can use their own money (allowance, birthday money, money they earned) to help others—buying a pair of socks or gloves to help someone who's homeless; donating to an animal shelter, helping to build a well where there is no clean water, etc. Kids understand these acts of generosity. But we can remind them that they can also be generous in other ways—with their time, with their ideas, with the way they regard others, etc.

Love, Laura

NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

Worship Committee Needs Your Help

As we get closer to returning to in-person worship, the Worship Committee is looking for volunteers for two sub-committees.

- Worship Centre needs a few (3-4) people to work with a lovely group that keeps our worship space up 1. to date and welcoming. Our hope is that we can get one person to represent this sub-committee at Worship Committee meetings as well as help with the worship centre tasks. Volunteer hours are flexible and, as my mother used to say, "Many hands make light work"
- There is also a pressing need for a **Coordinator of Ushers and Greeters**. These people are the 2. welcoming face of our congregation and are especially important to newcomers or visitors to the church. If you are comfortable contacting people and have some scheduling skills, this might be the spot for you. This coordinator would also attend Worship Committee meetings.

Please Contact

Worship Committee Chair Maureen Sinclair at (306)-955-2373 or maureen.sinclair@sasktel.net Or leave your name at the office Attn. Worship Committee

Amy's House Volunteer Needed

We need volunteers to serve breakfast at Amy's House beginning in March. Volunteers begin at 8 am and pour coffee or juice, serve up cereal or oatmeal, and pop the toast. We need volunteers for specific mornings and some as casual back-ups.

If you are ready to volunteer and are fully vaccinated, call Debra, and she will make arrangements to get you trained and scheduled to serve. If you are a bit unsure if this job is for you, we can team you with someone so you can give it a try. Just a warning; once you start hanging out with the wise and good residents of Amy's, you will be hooked.

Also, we are looking for someone to take on the job of scheduling the workers for this important ministry. So, if you think you might be someone who can make phone calls, and maintain a roster of workers, please contact Debra asap.

Saturday Morning Women's and Men's Gatherings

Men's Gatherings

A wonderful group of faith-filled McClure men meet once a month at 8 am on a Saturday morning too.

Please forward your email to Norm, if you would like to receive the Zoom link information.

biram@shaw.ca,

Dates for the Men's Gatherings are: March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18

Women's Gathering

A wonderful group of faith-filled McClure women meet once a month

at 8 am on a Saturday morning

for conversation and connection.

You are welcome to join in via zoom. Please send a note to Debra if you would like to join in:

Our next gathering is: March 12th at 8am

Future Gatherings will be April 9 - May 14 - June 11

Leave your PJs on or get dressed up, pour yourself a cup of coffee, and turn on your computer or tablet; click on the zoom link and connect.



Broadview subscription renewals are due in March! Now is the perfect time to subscribe (or renew your subscription) to Broadview!

Here is what's coming up in the April/May issue:

1. Risen Again

At the heart of the Easter story is Christ's return. In this month's cover package, five writers reflect on what the Resurrection means to them

2. The Good Fight

Canada's national sport has a racism problem. Meet the people who are trying to create a more inclusive hockey culture

3. Wetlands vs. Developers

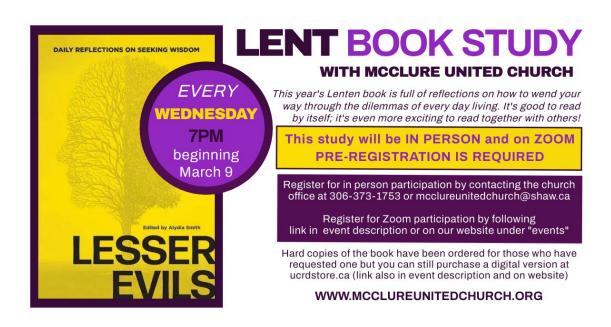
Affordable housing advocates and animal lovers have teamed up in Kingston, Ont., to thwart a building project that could displace both people and turtles

4. **Our Easter Moment**

Rt. Rev. Richard Bott on how the Resurrection invites the church to live its ministry here and now

Would you like to be a Broadview subscriber? Contact the church office, and we can make it happen! Subscriptions through McClure cost only \$25 per year for 8 issues.

Formerly known as the United Church Observer, Broadview is a Canadian magazine focused on national and international issues of spirituality, justice, and ethical living as well as United Church of Canada news and perspectives.



FOREVER IN MOTION – FIT AFTER 50

Get ready for spring with exercise classes led by

Fran Campbell and JoAnn Hyde

When: Mondays & Thursdays from 4:00-5:00 pm

Where: The Sanctuary or Multi-Purpose Room

What to wear: sturdy runners and comfortable workout clothes

What to bring: water bottle, weights, tubing or bands, a mat for floor exercises & your mask. Come and Join Us!

No equipment will be provided, but we have some bands for sale.

Physical distancing will be in effect.



Forever...

in motion

OUTREACH & REFUGEE COMMITTEES



Donations have been coming in to help our refugee projects. At the newsletter deadline, the donations were climbing over \$3100.00, with still a week of February to go. We will be welcoming a family from Eritrea, at some point and hopefully soon. Other refugee applications are awaiting approval, so the money is well appreciated. Donations have come in from McClure folks, but also from people stopping in after seeing the hearts. Thank you for everyone's generosity and concern for refugee issues around the world. Feel free to keep donating, although our wonderful heart display and sign will have to make way for other exciting McClure news in March.



A REFUGEE'S STORY

Some of you may remember that in the spring of 2021, we were looking for donations of some household items for Daniel, a refugee from Honduras, Daniel had escaped Honduras and made his way into Canada, arriving on Christmas Eve of 2019. He was alone in the dead of winter, with only the clothes on his back. Daniel shared his story (through a translator) with our McClure youth earlier this year. His journey is a harrowing story, helping us understand the plight of refugees, but also one of hope. Daniel has agreed to share his story with the congregation through an in-person evening event, that will also be live streamed. This event will be held later in April. So watch for the details in the April newsletter. You won't want to miss it.

OUTREACH & REFUGEE COMMITTEES

A Thank you to McClure,

Outreach received this lovely thank you from Global Gathering, the local helping agency that received \$385 from the sale of the honey from Lucky Beez Apiary. We thought we would share the note.

"I am so touched by your kindness and generosity to **Global Gathering Place** and to our clients, for sharing with us the profits of the honey you sold at your church.

My Executive Director just came to me showing me the beautiful letter and the cheque that you sent us! I have no words to describe my emotion and my happiness knowing that there are people like you out in this world!

You made my day 💞

These are the things that keep us doing the work we do.

Thank you so much!!!

Gracias! A Muchas Gracias! &"



How is McClure's Outreach Money assigned?

The Outreach Committee would like to keep the congregation informed of how and where the funds in our budget are assigned.

We plan to present 2 or 3 agencies per newsletter.

We consider agencies in these categories: In the World, In the Community and In the Congregation. For each potential agency we also consider their other funding, such as government funding, major sponsors, or fundraising efforts. We also look at emerging issues and needs in society.

The agencies presented this month:

- Canadian Food Grains Bank (World): provides food to the world's most vulnerable and impoverished people
- 2. Northern Saskatchewan Hospital Chaplaincy (Community): Provides pastoral care and companionship to UCC hospital patients (note #1: Spiritual Care has been cut from our hospitals. Note#2: during the pandemic, only this chaplain has been allowed to visit. Note #3: due to decrease in Mission and Service Funds, this is position is now only half time)
- 3. Crisis Emergency (Congregation): The Ministry staff determines the use of these funds, intended to help those persons (known to the Minister) in immediate need of practical resources.

From Outreach Committee member Diane Higgins

MCCLURE PLACE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

McClure Place Happenings – February 2022

"To enrich the lives of McClure Place Residents by providing support and service"

Ellen Manton was the first resident to move into McClure Place in 1989 when the building opened. Ellen is 106 and has moved to long term care. We miss her smiling face and appreciate her contribution to life here.

Residents are grateful to the staff who have looked after our needs during this pandemic. At present we have few restrictions, and we hope to keep it that way. We can participate in group activities while wearing masks. Coffee, exercise, yoga, bingo, Writers Circle, and cards are ongoing. Rev. Debra Berg is showing the Sunday service on the new TV on Tuesdays. The movie, "Come From Away" was enjoyed one afternoon. The musical about all the planes landing in Gander during 9/11 is an excellent production.

The fire alarm system in McClure Place is being upgraded; every suite will have alarms in the living room and in each bedroom plus new smoke detectors. Our General Meeting was postponed in January due to worries re Covid. We plan to meet on February 28, 2022 when hopefully it will feel safer to have a large group together. Bouquets, concerns, and questions are discussed to inform us about what we have appreciated and if any issues that need attention.

Valentine cookies made by the kitchen staff were enjoyed at coffee time. We look forward to a "Back to the Homestead" event., A time to wear an apron, bonnet and farmer's dress! Our Globe Walkers from the tower and Amy McClure did 2883 km in January.

Residents knitted or crocheted 121 toques, mitts, neck warmers and scarves which were donated to King George School. McClure Place for several years has been the first step in cutting out the pillows for CARG,(Coronary Artery Rehabilitation Group.). This program provides individuals with a heart pillow following cardiac surgery.

As restrictions of the pandemic lessen, each of us will have to find our level of comfort in managing our lives. Hopefully all residents can stay safe and enjoy the days as we approach spring. We will say goodbye to Mel Hitchings, our Maintenance Manager. Mel was so helpful to our residents, and we wish him well. Our thoughts are with those who have been in hospital or have lost a friend or loved one.

Elaine Tall

BACK PAGE

Newsletter Format Options:

Our monthly newsletter is available at the church website & it's also e-mailed directly to everyone on the e-mail list.

But, if you prefer to receive a paper copy or you need to update your e-mail/contact info, please contact the office at:

306-373-1753 or mcclureunitedchurch@shaw.ca

Passionate about the work, ministry & mission of the wider **United Church** of Canada?

Please check out these links for news & updat UCC National Newsletters: https://unitedchurch.ca/e-newsletters

UCC Mission & Service: https://unitedchurch.ca/community-and-faith/get-

involved/generosity-through-mission-and-service

Got important info for the McClure UC Newsletter? Feedback? Ideas? Please e-mail any newsletter submissions,

Sheila Krueger - Editor

newsletter@mcclureunitedchurch.org April Newsletter Deadline: Sunday, March 20, 2022



Did you know?

All Worship services & Theme Conversations are available at McClure's YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCTKNODhUdi bWig5etzkMv8w

Printed copies of sermons are available at: http://mcclureunitedchurch.org/sermons

MCCLURE UNITED CHURCH

www.mcclureunitedchurch.org www.facebook.com/McClureUnitedChurchSktn/



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Phone: (306) 373-1753

Ministry Personnel

Rev. Laura Fouhse

Rev. Debra Berg

Office Administrator

Irene Lacoursiere

Administrative Assistant

Claudia Manning

Music Coordinator

Shirley Blackburn



March 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Ma	rch	1 7:00PM Outreach Committee	2 Ash Wednesday 1:00 Regional Bible Study*** 3:00 Stewardship Committee 6:30 Zoom Young Adult Gathering*** 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	3 10:00AM Congregational Care 4:30 Fit After Fifty	4	5
6 1st Sunday in Lent 10:00 Worship Live-stream Video Series: Learning Together**	7 4:30 Fit After Fifty	8 10:30 Joint Facilities Committee 7:00 Property Committee	9 1:00 Regional Bible Study*** 7:00 PM Lenten Book Study*	10 4:30 Fit After Fifty	11	12 8:00AM Women's Gathering*
13 2 nd Sunday in Lent 10:00 Worship Live-stream Video Series: Learning Together**	14 4:30 Fit After Fifty	15 7:00 Worship Committee	16 1:00 Regional Bible Study*** 6:30 Zoom Young Adult Gathering*** 7:00 PM Lenten Book Study*	17 4:30 Fit After Fifty	18	19 8:00AM Men's Gathering*
20 3 rd Sunday in Lent 10:00 Worship Live-stream Video Series: Learning Together** ~Newsletter~ ~Deadline~	21 4:30 Fit After Fifty	22 7:00 Board Meeting	23 1:00 Regional Bible Study*** 7:00 PM Lenten Book Study*	24 4:30 Fit After Fifty	25	26
27 4 th Sunday in Lent 10:00 Worship Live-stream Video Series: Learning Together**	28 4:30 Fit After Fifty	29	30 1:00 Regional Bible Study*** 7:00 PM Lenten Book Study*	31 4:30 Fit After Fifty	** on Faceboo	s formats ok or YouTube or Zoom